

Technological Singularity by Culture

The concept of technological singularity is very popular both in science and culture; there are uncountable books, movies, series like, for example, Westworld where this phenomenon is represented in depth. The normal preconception is that scientific ideas find their way into popular culture and that they are popular in scientific circles because they are scientifically and philosophically sound. However, the cultural representation of these ideas such as Westworld are quite telling and show that science is, actually, deeply rooted in culture.

In my talk, on the one hand, I will argue, based on a Polanyian emergentist approach, that the concept of technological singularity can be strongly questioned; its popularity in scientific circles is rather a cultural phenomenon. On the other hand, I will argue, using the analysis of Westworld as a telling example, that this concept has deep cultural roots in Western tradition, in myths and religion, which determine both popular culture and science. In the philosophical sense, this means that there are severe contradictions behind the scientific concept, which is thus not sound and can be strongly questioned; but this is not really matter, because of the overwhelming influence of culture and tradition on science.