Technological mediation as a social ontology problem

In my presentation I would like to show a way of providing a social ontology of technology. I will try to achieve this task by mixing together critical constructivist and postphenomenological approaches to human-technology relations. My starting point is Don Ihde's analysis of technological mediations where he identifies four kinds of relations to technology. The claim is that the background relations have potential to serve as an inspiration to social ontological account of technology since they are not anthropomorphic – technology is not only a way of revealing the world, but is something more, that is what shapes the world as it is for lived experience. This opens a question of how technology creates a social world. In what way can we think of technology as a social actor? What does technology reveal about the structure of society? With these question in mind I would like to recall Andrew Feenberg's notion of ontological finitude. Technology often makes us unwary of its own consequences which makes technologically mediated actions feel as if they do not evoke any reaction. We should not interpret it as technology withdrawn from our conscious experience just as object oriented ontologists want to. Contrary to their socially indifferent understanding of ontology I will attempt to demonstrate that this tacit process of technological mediation is fundamental to understanding of the social ontology. Similarly to Heidegger's readiness-to-hand I will claim that forgetting of technology reveals the true social character of artifacts.