

Critical Continental Legal Thought II

"Reinventing the body"

The Centre for Critical Thought is delighted to announce a lecture by the distinguished Italian legal scholar and politician

Prof. Stefano Rodotà

Università di Roma "La Sapienza"

Institute for Human Sciences, Firenze

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stefano_Rodotà

Tuesday 2nd February 2016

5.00 – 7.00 PM

Darwin Lecture Theatre 2

Abstract

Who owns our body? Ourselves? Other subjects? Is the body still the product of biology or it is more and more the result of multiple interventions made possible by techno-science?

During the last few decades the body has been reinvented. With the convergence of various technologies is increasingly seen as a nano-bio-info-neuro machine, whilst at the same time undergoing a multiplication as: *physical or electronic, natural or augmented*. As such it now must be accounted for as an object continuously connected, so that we are transformed into networked persons.

These changes inevitably impact on the legal system. They raise questions of equality, the limits of the self-determination and of the commodification of the body. Since our cultural and legal traditions exclude the idea of ownership of the physical body by third parties, can we accept the opposite for the electronic body, thereby legitimizing a form of slavery? If so, might the owning of the others' electronic body be considered compatible with the freedom and dignity principles, deeply embodied in our democratic systems?