Alain-Marc Rieu
Professor, Department of philosophy, University de Lyon - Jean Moulin
Senior Researcher, Institute of East-Asian Studies (CNRS), ENS de Lyon
*T*echnology *Th*eory *N*etwork (Tokyo, Sendai, Vancouver, Santa Barbara, Philadelphia, Seattle
Lyon) & Research Cluster 14 of the Region Rhône-Alpes, France
amrieu@gmail.com / http://w7.ens-lsh.fr/amrieu/

Philosophy of technology today

Tokyo University
Center for Philosophy
9-10 March 2010

Summary

A discourse on Digital method

In the early 17th century, the French philosopher René Descartes understood that in the emerging Copernican world, the recent development of Analytic Geometry and other branches of Mathematics was introducing a different conception and practice of thought (of conceiving, explaining, justifying and communicating) a different way of formulating problems and arguments, of communicating these arguments and establishing "truth".

From this point of view, thinking develops by extracting, transferring and reinterpreting cognitive patterns from other disciplines and by transforming some of these patterns into new models of thought, of Reason and rationality.

The purpose of this communication is to try to formulate a discourse on digital method. The objectives are first to explain that digital technology has been slowly introducing in our societies and cultures a new practice of thought, secondly to define the four basic rules of this method and thirdly to show the strength of this method and some its consequences.

The goal is to show that this digital method or digital thought cannot be reduced to the use of computers, software or the Internet. Finally, the case of digital technology shows the scope and pertinence of a philosophy of technology.