

# The Palgrave Handbook of Posthumanism in Film and Television

Edited by

Michael Hauskeller

*University of Exeter, UK*

Thomas D. Philbeck

*World Economic Forum, Switzerland*

Curtis D. Carbonell

*Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research, UAE*

palgrave  
macmillan

# Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>Preface</i>  | ix |
| <i>Notes on Contributors</i>  | xv |
| 1 Posthumanism in Film and Television<br><i>Michael Hauskeller, Thomas D. Philbeck and Curtis D. Carbonell</i>        | 1  |
| <b>Part I Paving the Way to Posthumanism: The Precursors</b>  |    |
| 2 From DelGuat to ScarJo<br><i>William Brown</i>  | 11 |
| 3 'Self-Immolation by Technology': Jean Baudrillard and the<br>Posthuman in Film and Television<br><i>Jon Baldwin</i> | 19 |
| 4 Derrida on Screen<br><i>Stefan Herbrechter</i>  | 28 |
| 5 Bruno Latour: From the Non-Modern to the Posthuman<br><i>T. Hugh Crawford</i>                                       | 37 |
| 6 Friedrich Nietzsche and the Posthuman/Transhuman in Film and<br>Television<br><i>Babette Babich</i>                 | 45 |
| <b>Part II Varieties of People-to-Come: Posthuman Becomings</b>   |    |
| 7 Terminated: The Life and Death of the Cyborg in Film and Television<br><i>Rhys Owain Thomas</i>                     | 57 |
| 8 Of Iron Men and Green Monsters: Superheroes and Posthumanism<br><i>Dan Hassler-Forest</i>                           | 66 |
| 9 Growing Your Own: Monsters from the Lab and Molecular Ethics in<br>Posthumanist Film<br><i>Anna Powell</i>          | 77 |
| 10 Post-Singularity Entities in Film and TV<br><i>David Roden</i>   | 88 |
| 11 Chimeras and Hybrids: The Digital Swarms of the Posthuman Image<br><i>Drew Ayers</i>                               | 99 |

**Part III Rise of the Machines: Posthuman Intellects**

- 12 Androids and the Posthuman in Television and Film 111  
*Kevin LaGrandeur*
- 13 'Change for the Machines'? Posthumanism as Digital Sentience 120  
*Sherryl Vint*
- 14 Alive in the Net 130  
*Jeff Menne and Jay Clayton*
- 15 Autonomous Fighting Machines: Narratives and Ethics 141  
*Dónal P. O'Mathúna*

**Part IV Body and Soul: Posthuman Subjectivities**

- 16 A Contest of Tropes: Screened Posthuman Subjectivities 153  
*Curtis D. Carbonell*
- 17 Desire and Uncertainty: Representations of Cybersex in Film and Television 163  
*Hilary Wheaton*
- 18 At Home In and Beyond Our Skin: Posthuman Embodiment in Film and Television 172  
*Joel Krueger*
- 19 Constructed Worlds: Posthumanism in Film, Television and Other Cosmopoietic Media 182  
*Ivan Callus*
- 20 Games, Gamers and Posthumanism 192  
*Tanya Krzywinska and Douglas Brown*

**Part V Better Humans: Posthuman Capacities**

- 21 'Life's a bitch, and then you *don't* die': Postmortality in Film and Television 205  
*Michael Hauskeller*
- 22 A New Lease on Life: A Lacanian Analysis of Cognitive Enhancement Cinema 214  
*Hub Zwart*
- 23 *Limitless?* There's a Pill for That: Filmic Representation as Equipment for Living 225  
*Kyle McNease*
- 24 Posthumans and Democracy in Popular Culture 235  
*James J. Hughes*

- 25 Negative Feelings as Emotional Enhancement in Cinema: The Case of Ulrich Seidl's *Paradise* Trilogy 246  
*Tarja Laine*

## **Part VI Creating Difference and Identity: Posthuman Communities**

- 26 Biopleasures: Posthumanism and the Technological Imaginary in Utopian and Dystopian Film 259  
*Ralph Pordzik*
- 27 Of Posthuman Born: Gender, Utopia and the Posthuman in Films and TV 269  
*Francesca Ferrando*
- 28 Sharing Social Context: Is Community with the Posthuman Possible? 279  
*David Meeler and Eric Hill*
- 29 Our Posthuman Skin Condition 289  
*Teodora Manea*
- 30 Muddy Worlds: Re-Viewing Environmental Narratives 299  
*John Bruni*

## **Part VII Us and Them: Posthuman Relationships**

- 31 Executing Species: Animal Attractions in Thomas Edison and Douglas Gordon 311  
*Anat Pick*
- 32 The Sun Never Set on the Human Empire: Haunts of Humanism in the *Planet of the Apes* Films 321  
*Phil Henderson*
- 33 Uncanny Intimacies: Humans and Machines in Film 330  
*Alexander Darius Ornella*
- 34 Posthumanous Subjects 339  
*Steen Christiansen*
- 35 Identity: Difficulties, Discontinuities and Pluralities of Personhood 349  
*James DiGiovanna*

## **Part VIII More Human than Human: Posthuman Ontologies**

- 36 The Final Frontier? Religion and Posthumanism in Film and Television 361  
*Elaine Graham*

|    |  |     |
|----|--|-----|
| 37 | The Ghost in the Machine: Humanity and the Problem of Self-Aware Information<br><i>Brett Lunceford</i> | 371 |
| 38 | 'Trust a Few, Fear the Rest': The Anxiety and Fantasy of Human Evolution<br><i>Pramod K. Nayar</i>     | 380 |
| 39 | Onscreen Ontology: Stages in the Posthumanist Paradigm Shift<br><i>Thomas D. Philbeck</i>              | 391 |
| 40 | Object-Oriented Ontology<br><i>Graham Harman</i>   | 401 |
|    | <i>Bibliography</i>  | 410 |
|    | <i>Index of Films and TV Shows</i>   | 436 |
|    | <i>General Index</i>   | 443 |