

# Critical Studies:

## Computational Thinking and Creative Practice

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### Week02

#### Cyborg, final fantasy of human society

*Personal understanding of the Cyborg world*

When I read this article for the first time, MY heart was filled with two feelings of difficulty and shock, and full of questions of many concepts in the article. Later, I reread the article and tried to answer these questions. At the beginning of the article, a sentence from the author caught my attention:

incompatible things together because both or all are necessary and true. Irony is about humour and serious play. It is also a rhetorical strategy and a political method, one I would like to see more honoured within socialist-feminism. At the centre of my ironic faith, my blasphemy, is the image of the cyborg.

A new cognitive perspective was born in my mind - was the author really talking about cyborg world? Or it is just rhetorical strategy and political method, like author's statement?

The followed reading indeed confirmed my point. In my opinion, Cyborg society itself is a perfectly ideal reflection of reality social relations. I had a question here: will oppression and inequality, which already exist, get worse as Cyborg develops? Does this development lead to the total enslavement of an already oppressed group, as in the eco-feminist book "Death of Nature"? But the author's statement immediately answered my doubts:

out genesis, but maybe also a world without end. The cyborg incarnation is outside salvation history. Nor does it mark time on an oedipal calendar, attempting to heal the terrible cleavages of gender in an oral symbiotic utopia or post-oedipal apocalypse. As Zoe Sofoulis argues in her

Cyborg social relations require a break with old scientific and political traditions. As the authors say, there's no need to wait for an oral symbiotic utopia and a post-pedipal apocalypse. It is a world that applies only to the physical environment of the human world, despite cultural and social Settings. In other words, think of Cyborg as us in a parallel universe. Only in this way can we get rid of the racist, patriarchal capitalist tradition, and avoid being influenced by the origin stories in western mythology and religion, and thus achieve the true idealization of Cyborg society.

Such a highly idealized Cyborg society is a metaphor for the author's feminist vision of the future. Chaotic and loose social relations; Diverse, ambiguous and flexible identities is my vague impression of this world. This feeling can also be seen in Lu Yang's works of art, she combines a male character with

the shape of a uterus, and this ambivalence across gender boundaries also reflects the imagination of Cyborg



Lu Yan. (2013). Gigantic Uterusman

### Three breakdown crucial boundary

*My favorite setting in the Cyborg manifesto. Here the author showed me ideas that took my breath away. Here are a few parts I have some thoughts on:*

meanings of the breached boundary.<sup>3</sup> The cyborg appears in myth precisely where the boundary between human and animal is transgressed. Far from signaling a walling off of people from other living beings, cyborgs signal disturbingly and pleasurably tight coupling. Bestiality has a new status in this cycle of marriage exchange.

As for the boundary between human and animal, the author concludes that there is no boundary. So should the behavior of animals be treated as human's criteria? If there is no boundary of to this question, what about the division of labor and male-dominated behavior in animals that has been fixed by evolution? This is a very confusing problem. So, what kind of attitude should we adopt to gender inequality within animal species, which is formatted by hundreds of millions of years of evolution? This is a very confusing problem.

of domination that ground the 'play' of arbitrary reading.<sup>5</sup> It is certainly true that postmodernist strategies, like my cyborg myth, subvert myriad organic wholes (for example, the poem, the primitive culture, the biological organism). In short, the certainty of what counts as nature—a source of insight and promise of innocence—is undermined, probably fatally. The transcendent

In this section, author admitted that postmodernist strategies subvert organic wholes, the interesting thing is that should language be count in this category? Maybe there will have a Cyborg way of communicating vague ideas that have no boundaries? Very suitable for my further artwork themes.

## Reflection and some changing

I think the best thing about Haraway is that she takes the study of women's rights into new territory by metaphorically creating an idealized model of blurred gender boundaries in a Cyborg sci-fi and sadistic way. The whole society is also changing dramatically in accordance with some of the Ideas of Haraway. Some boundaries are indeed blurring, as the mechanization and automation of appliances have allowed more female to work. Cyborg also broke the traditional social division of labor and changed the role of women in many fields.

But from another point of view, this degree of transformation does not change the fundamental reason why women are oppressed. After all, the vast differences between male and female anatomy symbolize the visible boundaries between the sexes. Perhaps we should reflect more on whether existing science and technology are designed to accommodate gender differences. It is a very real issue to ensure that different groups can benefit equally in the process of scientific development.

## Insights on reading and writing

After a deeper trip of reading Cyborg Manifesto, I realize Haraway's writing is not as difficult as it looks like. It seems difficult because she uses a lot of examples from other fields and uses a lot of literary rhetorical skills in her argument.

The first thing I learned from her is that when describing a huge and difficult concept, I can use examples and rhetorical devices to express my ideas, just like the mood board of artwork. But as a victim of reading this article, I feel that when choosing examples, it's best to choose ones that are supposed to be clear to the reader, and not too deep in metaphors.

(814words)

## Reference

Donna Haraway. (1991). The Cyborg Manifesto from Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature, pp.149–181.

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