

# **Critical Studies**

## **Computation Thinking and Critical Practice**

### **Week 2**

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***“We have all been injured, profoundly. We require regeneration, not rebirth, and the possibilities for our reconstitution include the utopian dream of the hope for a monstrous world without gender.”***

Despite the beauty of Haraway's phrases, their obscurity is confusing. The author's unique perspective in this book is a joy to read, but a confusing one to finish. Although the book is controversial and has some limitations, it is an enlightening development for people's minds then and now.

In the world constructed by the author, human beings are gradually completing a cybernetic process after removing socialization. Is this an intellectualization or a degeneration? It remains to be seen.

New technologies can transform us beyond our imagination, and with such a premise, the original context of the two possibilities of gender can become a completely new and blurred concept, a new direction of reflection on technology. How does one define one's gender or oneself, assuming one is born genderless? The point of the book is to address many of the traditional concepts of a whole new possibility, not simply to rebel against them. Our original vision of cyberpunk may have been a resistance movement, like 0 and 1, black and white. Instead of just resistance and antagonism, what this book presents is the opportunity to add and envision a myriad of possibilities to all of our traditional concepts. It is a way of thinking about the relationship between man and technology in a holistic form.

The Cyborg manifesto is more concerned with forming an interactive relationship for yourself or around you, for example, technology can help you to amplify your desires and influence the consequences you bring about. As we are part of an automated feedback system, some actions can bring about a cascade of feedback and impact that feeds back into the user and the system. From a systemic point of view, we redefine the human being as an integral part of the world.

## **Insights on reading**

Reading in childhood was more like passive acceptance of knowledge, that is, whatever was in the book would be taken as truth. Yet, as I grew up, it became necessary to ponder the author's motivation, background, and ideas. The process of reading Cyborg is more about thinking and understanding the worldview. It exercises my ability to accept different worlds and ideas, and the world it describes makes me wonder more about the logic within that worldview. Meanwhile, it requires me to read more people's reading notes and consult materials to enhance my understanding and perception of the world.

## **Insights on writing**

Writing requires breadth and depth of thought, and to think outside of the existing worldview. By which I mean that one's thinking will be influenced by the environment and education one is in, thus being unafraid to have a sense of discernment. Let's always keep a clear head to see the world—just like Haraway.