Ghost in the shell

Above all, I found the title of the animation the most interesting as it offers the official author’s answer to the questions he proposed in the animation.

In Innocence, the director posed a lot of questions above the definitions of all kinds of “human-like” creatures, constantly pushing the boundary and expanding it to an extent that some of the creatures can be defined as one. Infant, puppet, mannequin, adults, adults with cyber-brain, adults with cyber-brain and prosthetic body parts, adults with full prosthetic body, and cyborg. How do you define each one? How do you distinguish one entirely from another? What are the differences between them and what we perceive as human?

Everybody has their own answer; the author gives us his too. Ghost means the part of human that is unreplaceable by machine, the kind of thing that is like the idea of a soul. Even though human brain in the anime can be replaced by artificial brain, ghost cannot be made. It is what, in this setting, ultimately separates a human from an artificial being.

Everybody in the piece seems to be at some level confused about their own identity. At this level of prosthesis, it’s hard to distinguish one identity from another without specifically asking what he/she/it is.

We have not, and probably will not ever evolve to this point in the anime, but human beings in reality also have identification problems. People with gender identification, phantom limb identification, etc. are sharing the same question as people in the anime. Who are they? I guess that’s the question we have to keep finding an answer for all eternity.