# Article information:

The Consilience Project | Technology is Not Values Neutral: Ending the Reign of Nihilistic Design - The Consilience Project  
<https://consilienceproject.org/technology-is-not-values-neutral-ending-the-reign-of-nihilistic-design-2/>

# Article summary:

1. Technologies have unintended consequences on both the human mind and society as a whole, and their impact is often unpredictable and complex.

2. Axiological design, which applies principled judgment about value to technology design, is necessary to account for how technology affects the way people think and behave.

3. Technologies are not values neutral, as they encode practices and values into societies that adopt them, shaping human behavior, values, and thought in ways that may have unforeseen outcomes.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article argues that technology is not values-neutral and that the design of technology must account for its impact on human behavior and society. It highlights the unintended consequences of technologies, such as the impact of cars on cities and the environment, and the impact of smartphones on human communication and values. The article proposes axiological design, which applies principled judgment about value to the design of technology.

The article provides a compelling argument for the need to consider the values embedded in technology design. However, it could be criticized for presenting a one-sided view that focuses only on negative impacts without acknowledging potential benefits. For example, while it notes that smartphones have changed human behavior and psychology, it does not explore how they have also enabled new forms of communication and access to information.

The article also makes some unsupported claims, such as stating that changes to human behavior and value systems resulting from technology are intrinsic to its possibilities from the start. While it is true that technologies create potential for new forms of behavior and thought, it is not necessarily true that these changes are inevitable or predetermined.

Additionally, while the article acknowledges externalities related to physical consequences of technology, such as environmental impacts, it does not provide sufficient evidence for psychosocial externalities. For example, while it notes a correlation between bathroom scales and anorexia cases, it does not explore other factors that may contribute to eating disorders.

Overall, while the article raises important points about considering values in technology design, it could benefit from exploring both positive and negative impacts of technology more thoroughly and providing more evidence for its claims.

# Topics for further research:

* Positive impacts of technology on society and human behavior
* Benefits of smartphones in communication and information access
* Critiques of the concept of technological determinism
* Psychosocial externalities of technology and their impact on mental health
* Ethical considerations in technology design and development
* Examples of axiological design in practice

# Report location:

<https://www.fullpicture.app/item/85e0cded2a348971dcbe3f91b25d0eb9>