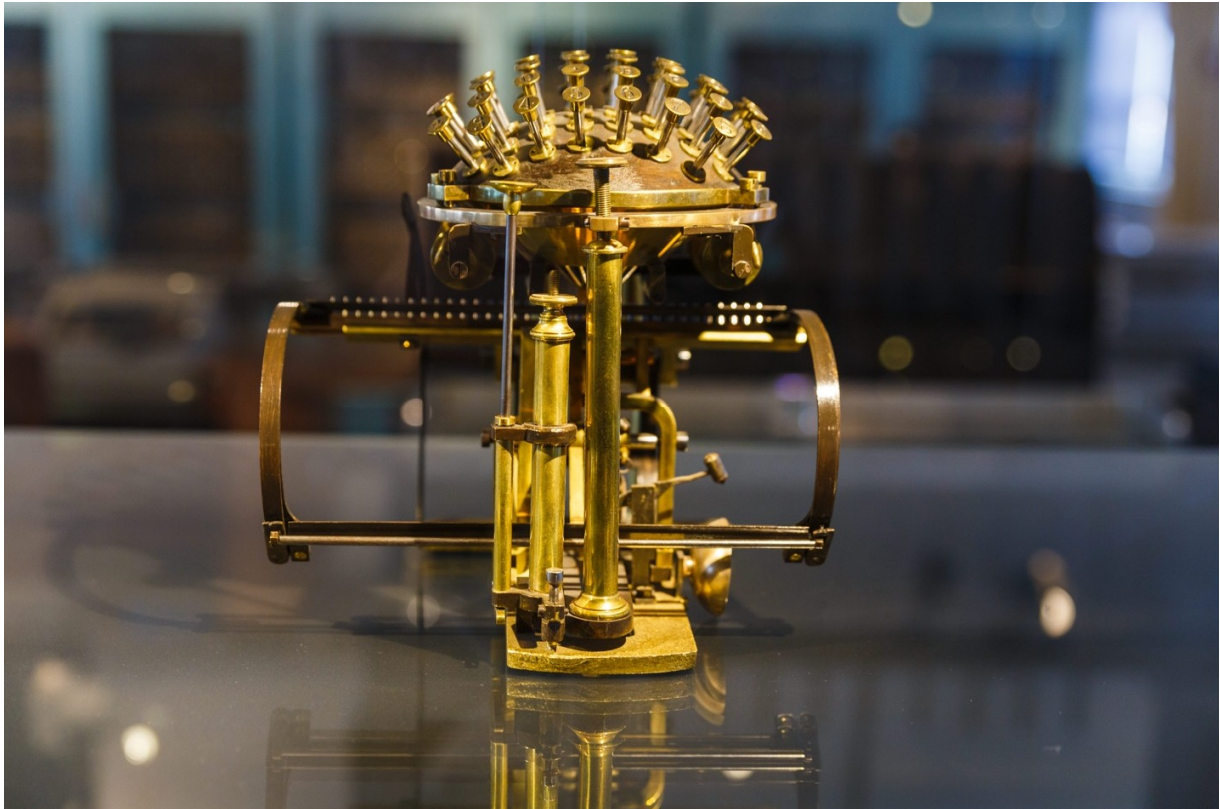


## Nietzsche's Technologies

CfP for the 35th Annual Nietzsche Conference of the Nietzsche Society (October 16.-19. 2025, Nietzsche-Documentation Centre (NDZ) in Naumburg (Saale), Germany)



Scholars have paid relatively little attention to Nietzsche's thoughts on and uses of technology. This is surprising, considering Friedrich Kittler's discussion of the significance of Nietzsche's typewriter – the Malling-Hansen Writing Ball – and Nietzsche's own far-reaching comments on it. Nietzsche also lived in a time that saw comprehensive advances in the development and implementation of technologies. He used the railroads and traveled on steamboats; he participated as a volunteer in the German-French war of 1870/71; he relied as much on the postal service as on his glasses; he was interested in the natural sciences and briefly considered studying physics. The lack of scholarship in this area is in part due to scholars applying a modern, rather narrow concept of technology that lacks historical contextualization. If one broadens the perspective and includes simple tools and artefacts as well as communication media, language, and more broadly cultivation technologies (*Kulturtechniken*), one will find numerous instances where Nietzsche raises questions of technology in crucial places. Merely consider the leaf that flutters from the scroll of time with which Nietzsche defines the structure of human consciousness in the *Second Untimely Meditation*, or his reflections on the culturally ruinous effects of the printing press in the same text. If you also add to Nietzsche's technologies his reflections on language and its cultivation and hominization effects (as defined by Bernard Stiegler), prominent texts like *On the Genealogy of Morals* and Nietzsche's own linguistic and rhetorical techniques will appear in a new light.

Additional topics addressing „Nietzsche’s Technologies“ include:

- Nietzsche’s thoughts on technologies of his times such as the railroads, telegraphs, scientific instruments
- Nietzsche’s technologies in the context of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, e.g. with reference to Ernst Kapp’s philosophy of technology or Karl Marx’s reflections on the revolutionary significance of technology
- Nietzsche’s practical uses of his time’s technologies
- Nietzsche’s linguistic and rhetorical techniques and their philosophical reflection
- Anthro- and media-technologies in Nietzsche’s writings
- Technological metaphors, e.g. in the neurophysiological discourses of Nietzsche’s time and today
- Nietzsche’s technologies and Nietzsche’s natures
- Nietzsche’s cultural and bodily techniques (Dietetics, playing music, composing, dance, writing, reading, etc.)
- Technologies of power in Nietzsche
- Nietzsche’s and Heidegger’s questions concerning technology
- Disciplinary and subjectivation technologies in Nietzsche and Foucault
- Nietzsche’s ethics in the context of 21<sup>st</sup> century technology debates
- Nietzsche and artificial intelligence

Please email abstracts (300-500 words) with a short CV by May 5, 2025 to [info@nietzsche-gesellschaft.de](mailto:info@nietzsche-gesellschaft.de).

Program organizers: Prof. Dr. Edgar Landgraf, Dr. Catarina Caetano da Rosa, Dr. Johann Szews