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From cybercrime to cyborg crime

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PROPOSITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE PHD THESIS

From Cybercrime to Cyborg Crime: An exploration of high-tech cybercrime, offenders and victims through the lens of Actor-Network Theory

By Wytske van der Wagen

1. The novelty debate in cybercriminology has not resulted in significant theoretical renewal yet.
2. The theoretical repertoire of criminology is too anthropocentric, dualistic and substantivistic for grasping the real nature of high-tech cybercrime and victimization.
3. Botnets cannot merely be considered as human-controlled networks.
4. Hackers can be regarded as 'cyborgian deviants' since they believe to have an extended body and mind.
5. High-tech cybercrime offending and victimization are hybrid products of human, technical and/or virtual (inter)actions.
6. Human and non-human agents are analytically equally important, yet in essence they are still distinct.
7. Actor-network theory is 'not a theory of everything' but can counter various conceptual problems and blind spots of existing criminological frameworks.
8. No science of criminology can be done without staying committed to phenomena and their nature.
9. Criminologists should watch more science fiction movies, since they can serve as 'future travel machines', enabling us to (pre-)adapt our theoretical frameworks for what is still to come.
10. Criminologists need to extend their bodies and minds with new theoretical and methodological tools. Only as cyborgs they will be able to explore the new frontiers of the increasing and expanding digital, more than a human universe.
11. "Men moat net alles sizze wat men wit, mar wol alles witte wat men seit"
[translation: one should not say everything one knows, but should know everything one says]