



An Anthropology of Robots and AI: Annihilation Anxiety and Machines (Routledge Studies in Anthropology)

By Kathleen Richardson

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This book explores the making of robots in labs at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). It examines the cultural ideas that go into the making of robots, and the role of fiction in co-constructing the technological practices of the robotic scientists. The book engages with debates in anthropological theorizing regarding the way that robots are reimagined as intelligent, autonomous and social and weaved into lived social realities. Richardson charts the move away from the “worker” robot of the 1920s to the “social” one of the 2000s, as robots are reimagined as companions, friends and therapeutic agents.

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An Anthropology of Robots and AI: Annihilation Anxiety and Machines (Routledge Studies in Anthropology) By Kathleen Richardson Bibliography

- Rank: #5076591 in Books
- Brand: Kathleen Richardson
- Published on: 2015-02-12
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .38" w x 5.98" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 148 pages

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About the Author

Kathleen Richardson is Senior Research Fellow in the Ethics of Robotics in the School for Computer Science and Informatics, Faculty of Technology, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK.

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