

# UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS

## Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies

presents

A Lecture By

### Dr. Tom Powers

## “TOWARDS AN ACCOUNT OF THE MORAL AGENCY OF TECHNOLOGY”

Work in science and technology studies (STS) has drawn attention to the agency of many types of technological artifacts and systems. These studies indicate that technology is not value neutral, but they do not connect to traditional philosophical theories of intentional agency. Moreover, STS does not offer what an ethics of technology needs most: a framework for the non-consequentialist moral evaluation of technology.



Dr. Powers will describe a research program that extends traditional philosophical theories of action and ethics in order to give an account of the moral agency of technology. This account has significant implications for areas such as engineering ethics, universal design, computer ethics, and environmental ethics.

Thomas M. Powers received his PhD in philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin (1994). He finished writing his dissertation on Kant while a DAAD-Fulbright fellow at the University of Munich. His primary research interests are in Kant's ethical theory, computer ethics, and the philosophy of technology. Currently he is National Science Foundation Research Fellow in the School of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Virginia.

### Tuesday, February 8, 3:30 pm in EESAT 110

**This lecture is free and open to the public.**

**For special accommodation, contact us at 565-2266 or**

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