

Reconfiguring the Natural: How Technoscientific Interventions Transform Ontological Categories

NELSON SHANG

Department of Philosophy, University of Bamenda and Catholic University of Cameroon (CATUC) –
Bamenda nelson.shang@catuc.org

Abstract

Contemporary technoscience increasingly blurs the boundaries between the natural and the artificial, challenging foundational ontological categories that have structured Western thought. This paper examines how technological interventions (from synthetic biology and biomimetic design to digital ecologies) transform our understanding of what nature means and where its boundaries lie. I argue that technoscience does not simply instrumentalize a pre-given nature but actively participates in the ontological reconfiguration of the natural itself. This transformation demands that we move beyond both the nature-culture dualism characteristic of Western modernity and the uncritical embrace of technological solutionism. Instead, I propose that understanding technoscientific objects as possessing hybrid or third ontological statuses opens new possibilities for ethical and political engagement with our technologically mediated world.

Keywords: technoscience, ontology, nature, cosmotechnics, hybridity, postnaturalism



Nelson Shang is an Associate Professor of Metaphysics and Epistemology at The University of Bamenda & The Catholic University of Cameroon (CATUC), Bamenda. He holds a PhD in Philosophy (Specialty: Metaphysics and Epistemology) from the University of Dschang. He is President of the Philosophy of Education Society of Cameroon (PESCAM), Member of CERCAPHI, URPHISSA, Laboratoire “Philosophe et Savant”, Global Forum: Human Education in the Third Millennium, Assistant editor in chief of *Kheper: Revue Africaine de Metaphysique et de Morale* - the African Society of Metaphysics Journal, Member of the HTTC Internal Audit and Control (2023 -). His books include: Nelson Shang, *Metaphysics: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Relevance*, Generis Publishing, Chisinau: 2025; *Studying Philosophy: A Bright Idea*, Generis Publishing, Chisinau: 2023; *Critical Thinking in Education: Introduction to the Philosophy of Education*, Faculty Print – Bambili, 2023 (with Valentine B. Ngalim); *EDUCATION, DIALOGUE AND CHARACTER FORMATION: Reflections on Martin Buber’s Philosophy of Education*, Scholars Press, Chisinau: 2022 (with Valentine B. Ngalim, & Raymond T. Tanwie); *African Metaphysics: An Introduction*, Lambert Academic Publishing, Meldrum Street: 2021 (with Fomutar Stanislaus).