

Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
1.1	The Experience of Risk and Vulnerability.....	1
1.2	The Struggle Against Risk and Vulnerability	2
1.3	Technological Risk and the Ethical Evaluation of New Technologies	5
1.4	Risk, Vulnerability, and Technology.....	7
1.5	Transhumanism.....	9
1.6	Outline of the Book.....	10
	References.....	15
 Part I Descriptive Anthropology of Vulnerability		
2	The Transhumanist Challenge.....	19
2.1	The Ethical Discussion About Human Enhancement and Its Assumptions About Human Being and Vulnerability.....	19
2.1.1	Transhumanists Versus Bioconservatives and Infoconservatives: The Anthropological Issue.....	20
2.1.2	Fighting the Dragon or Accepting What Is Given by Nature or God? The Question Concerning Human Vulnerability and Technology	21
2.2	First Response to the Anthropological Issue	23
2.2.1	Human Nature Has Always Changed	23
2.2.2	Technology Has Always Changed Who We Are	27
2.2.3	Philosophical Anthropology Has Always Been Normative	28
2.2.4	From Human Nature to Human Being: From Essence to Existence	31
	References.....	35

3 Anthropology of Vulnerability	37
3.1 Standard Dualist Views of Risk and Vulnerability	37
3.1.1 Objectivist Views: Risk Science, Medicine, and the Psychology of Risk.....	37
3.1.2 The Social Construction of Risk and Cultural Theory of Risk	39
3.2 An Existential-Phenomenological Alternative: A Relational Anthropology of Vulnerability	42
3.2.1 Existential Vulnerability: Preliminary Phenomenology of Risk and Vulnerability	43
3.2.2 Existential Vulnerability: Being-at-Risk, Fear, and Care (Using Heidegger 1)	54
3.2.3 Existential Versus Existentialist (Not Using Heidegger 2).....	56
3.2.4 The Tradition of Philosophical Anthropology: Plessner.....	59
References.....	61
4 Cultures and Transformations of Vulnerability	63
4.1 Culture(s) of Vulnerability	63
4.1.1 Experience: Imaginations of Vulnerability	63
4.1.2 Praxis and Habitus: Imagination as Representation Versus Imagination in Action.....	66
4.2 Vulnerability Transformations	69
4.2.1 Spiritual Technologies and Religious Culture	70
4.2.2 Material Technologies and Technological, Financial, and Economic Culture.....	72
4.2.3 Social Technologies and Political Culture	75
4.2.4 Technologies of the Self and Self-Culture	79
4.3 Conclusion: Vulnerability Transformations as Transformations of a Form of Life	81
References.....	82

Part II Normative Anthropology of Vulnerability

5 Ethics of Vulnerability (i): Implications for Ethics of Technology	87
5.1 Vulnerability and Ethics.....	87
5.1.1 The Value of Vulnerability and the Vulnerability of Value	87
5.1.2 Evaluating Vulnerability Transformations	93
5.2 Ethics of Technology as an Ethics of Vulnerability	96
5.2.1 Standard View: Human Values Versus Technological Means	96

5.2.2	Alternative: Learning to Be-at-Risk.....	97
5.3	The Design and Growth of Human Vulnerability.....	98
	References.....	99
6	Ethics of Vulnerability (ii): Imagining the Posthuman Future.....	101
6.1	The Possibility of a 'Posthuman' Ethics.....	101
6.1.1	Dependent Values: A Proposal for a Modest Ethics.....	101
6.1.2	Imagining Future Vulnerability Transformations Under Conditions of Epistemic Opacity.....	102
6.1.3	Visions of Extensions and Enhancements: Mysticism, Violence, and Science Fiction.....	106
6.1.4	Conclusions for the Discussion About Human Enhancement and Transhumanism.....	115
6.2	Exploring Posthuman Vulnerabilities.....	118
6.2.1	Physical Vulnerabilities.....	119
6.2.2	Material and Immaterial Vulnerabilities.....	120
6.2.3	Bodily Vulnerabilities.....	120
6.2.4	Metaphysical Vulnerabilities.....	121
6.2.5	Existential and Psychological Vulnerabilities.....	122
6.2.6	Social and Emotional Vulnerabilities.....	122
6.2.7	Ethical-Axiological Vulnerabilities.....	123
6.2.8	Conclusion.....	124
	References.....	125
7	Ethics of Vulnerability (iii): Vulnerability in the Information Age.....	127
7.1	Bodies, Others, and Reality in the Information Age: Is the Internet an Anti-vulnerability Tool?.....	127
7.1.1	Disembodiment, Disengagement, De-socialisation, Virtualisation, and Transcendence.....	127
7.1.2	Being Online: Why ICT Fails as an Anti-vulnerability Project.....	129
7.2	Beyond Cyber Security.....	135
7.2.1	Dualist Views of Cyber Security: Autonomous Castles and Their Firewalls.....	136
7.2.2	A Non-dualist View of Informational Vulnerability: Ubiquitous Vulnerability in Cyber Ecologies.....	139
7.3	New Vulnerabilities in Medicine and Health Care.....	141
7.3.1	Wired Patients: Cyborgs in the Intensive Care Ward and Robots for the Elderly.....	141
7.3.2	New Vulnerabilities: Objectified by Technology, Disabled by Nature.....	142
	References.....	145

8 Politics of Vulnerability: Freedom, Justice, and the Public/Private Distinction	147
8.1 The Idea of a Politics of Vulnerability	147
8.2 Freedom and Vulnerability.....	152
8.2.1 The Hobbesian Problem of Social Order: Neo-feudal Power Structures in Cyberspace	152
8.2.2 Alternative: Why Cyberspace Is Already Social	154
8.3 Justice and Vulnerability: The Case of Human Enhancement.....	157
8.3.1 Towards a Fair Distribution of Genes or Vulnerability?	158
8.3.2 Capabilities and Vulnerability Transformations: Human Enhancement and Human Development.....	168
8.3.3 Ecologies of Vulnerability and Ecological Justice.....	174
8.4 Transformations of the Political in the Information Age: Public and Private	177
8.4.1 Standard View: The Public Sphere as a Sphere of Invulnerability	177
8.4.2 Alternative: Bio-politics and Info-politics. Bloody Democracy and Silicon Voices.....	179
References.....	181
9 Normative Aesthetics of Vulnerability: The Art of Coping with Vulnerability	183
9.1 Introduction.....	183
9.2 The Idea of a Normative Aesthetics of Vulnerability: From Representations of Vulnerability to the Art of Coping with Vulnerability	184
9.2.1 Fate, Technology, and Modernity: From Greek Tragedy to Cyberpunk	190
9.2.2 Space and Vulnerability: Anti-vulnerability Architectures and Designs	192
9.2.3 Uncanny Mirrors: Animals, Cyborgs, and Robots.....	195
9.3 Beyond the Human: Environmental and Ecological Vulnerability.....	197
References.....	199
Part III Conclusion	
10 Conclusion: The Heel and the Arrow	203
Reference	205
Author Index	207
Subject Index	209

Human Being @ Risk
Enhancement, Technology, and the Evaluation of
Vulnerability Transformations
Coeckelbergh, M.
2013, XIV, 218 p., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-94-007-6024-0