Time plan

- 9.15 - 10.00 Discussion 1
  - 9.20-9.50 Groups
  - 9.50-10.00 Class

- 10.15 - 11.00 Discussion 2
  - 10.20-10.50 Groups
  - 10.50-11.00 Class

- 11.15 - 12.00 Discussion 3
  - 11.20-11.50 Groups
  - 11.50-12.00 Class

"People become enmeshed in a web of technical choices made for them by their ancestors. This is not determinism, though it does suggest why people may come to feel trapped by choices others have made." p. 20-21, *Technology Matters*

- Amborg described this phenomenon as "soft determinism", where choices made by our ancestors directly affect our baseline for what we expect in our surroundings. Are there any differences between your baseline, and the baseline of your grandparents? What are some technical choices their generation made that affect our surroundings today?

Nye also talks about technological selection based on cultural preferences or socio-political reasons rather than technological efficiency, using the example of Japanese samurais' rejection of gunpowder weapons to illustrate his point.

- How do embedded social values or biases influence choices of technology?
- To what extent could this influence be characterized as social constructivism?

"'Nature' is conventionally understood as the material and inexorable causality of the physical universe 'Society' is a domain of constructed and negotiable social relations" Alf Hornborg

- How does the classification of technology as natural or social impact our approach towards technology?

"Human activities now play a major, integral and ever-increasing role in the functioning of the Earth System. This fact lies at the heart of the notion of the Anthropocene." *The Anthropocene review*

- When/how do we define the start of the Anthropocene? Does it matter?
- Amborg mentioned alternative descriptors of the Anthropocene; for example, Capitalocene or Technocene. How do these terms challenge the prevailing narrative around the Anthropocene, and why could that be important?

"Technologies designed to solve specific problems are routinely revealed to generate other problems, often for other categories of people". *Global Magic*

- How do technologies conceal the redistribution of time and space? Can you come up with an example?

"Philosophers have [...] only interpreted the world, the point is to change it." *Karl Marx*

Reflect on a system of unequal exchange you have come across that it is connected to technology and its use.

- Can technologies be used to challenge this power imbalance, and if so, how?
- What role can different actors (developers, consumers, citizens, companies, organizations, states) play in bringing about this change? What role can the individual (you) play?
- To what extent are changes are actionable, and by whom? What timespan are these changes made on? Do different actors have different agency for change?
- What opposition will these changes likely face? Why could there be opposition?