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Living in Technical Legality

Science Fiction and Law as Technology

[Kieran Tranter](#)

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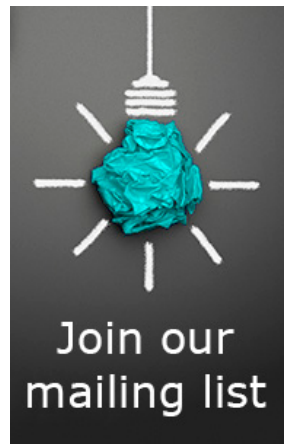
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A user's guide to living within a technological culture and its technologised law

Through detailed readings of popular science fiction, including the novels of Frank Herbert and Octavia E. Butler and television's *Battlestar Galactica* and *Doctor Who*, this is the first sustained examination of legality in science fiction. Kieran Tranter includes substantive worked examples of the law and legal concepts projected by these science fiction texts, such as Australian car culture, legal responses to cloning and the relationship between legal theory and science fiction.

Successive transformations have resulted in the emergence of a total technological world where old separations about 'nature' and 'culture' have declined. With this, the tendency towards technicity within modern law has flourished – there has often been identified a mechanistic essence to modern law in its domination of human life. Usually this has been considered an 'end' and a loss, the human swallowed by the machine. However this innovative book sets out to re-address this tendency.

By examining science fiction as the culture of our total technological world, it journeys with the partially-consumed human into the belly of the machine. What it finds is unexpected. Rather than a cold uniformity of exchangeable productive units, there is warmth, diversity



and 'life' for the nodes in the networks. Through its science fiction focus, it argues that this life generates a very different law of responsibility that can guide living well in technical legality.

Key Features

- Moves law and technology beyond law needing to catch-up with technology to a more embedded account of technical legality
- Provides a framework for thinking law and technology as similar, not opposites
- Connects legal theory to recent theorising about life and living in technological culture by showing the intersections between them
- Demonstrates the strength of law and the humanities for thinking about law and the world

[Show less](#)

Contents



List of Figures

Preface

Introduction: Living in Technical Legality

Science Fiction and Law
The Chapters to Come

Part I: Technical Legality

1. From Law and Technology to Law as Technology

Cloning Law
Frankenstein Myth
Law as Technology

2. *Dune*, Modern Law and the Alchemy of Death and Time

Sand, Spice and Empire
The Illusion of Control
Sovereignty as the Alchemy of Death and Time

3. *Battlestar Galactica*, Technology and Life

Battlestar Galactica Redux
Sovereigns and Subjects in *Battlestar Galactica*
The Metaphysics of Technology

Part II: Living in Technical Legality

4. Xenogenesis and the Technical Legal Subject

Biopower and Natureculture on an Alien
Rehabilitated Earth
The Technical Legal Subject of Xenogenesis
Living Well as a Technical Legal Subject

5. The Doctor and Technical Lawyering

Time and a Blue Box
Death and the Doctor
The Doctor as the Paradigm Technical Lawyer

6. *Mad Max* and Mapping the Monsters in the Networks

Identity, Myth and Biopower in *Mad Max 2*
The Australian Human-automobile
Cartographies of Technical Legality

7. Deserts and Technical Legality

Bibliography

Notes

Index

About the Author



Reviews



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Law (22) | Life (2) | Science Fiction (6) | technology (5) |
Humanities (1)

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