



Alfred NORDMANN

After receiving his Ph.D. in Hamburg (1986) and serving on the faculty of the Philosophy Department at the University of South Carolina (1988-2002), Alfred Nordmann became Professor of Philosophy and History of Science at Darmstadt Technical University. His historical interests concern the negotiation of contested fields of scientific knowledge such as theories of electricity and chemistry in the 18th century, mechanics, evolutionary biology, and sociology in the 19th century, nursing science and nanoscale research in the 20th century. In particular, he studied the scientific contributions of Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, Antoine Lavoisier, Joseph Priestley, Charles Darwin, William Bateson, Heinrich Hertz, and Herbert Gleiter. His epistemological interests concern the trajectory that leads from Immanuel Kant via Heinrich Hertz and Ludwig Wittgenstein to contemporary analyses of models, simulations, and visualizations. He is president of the Lichtenberg Society.

Since 2000 Nordmann has been studying philosophical and societal dimensions of nanoscience and converging technologies. With Davis Baird he initiated the first NSF-sponsored research team on this subject. Nordmann's focus is on the development of a comprehensive philosophy of technoscience that reflects recent changes in the culture of science and the changing relationship of science, technology, nature and society. He served as rapporteur for the EU expert group *Converging Technologies – Shaping the Future of European Societies* (2004). Recent publications include *Wittgenstein's Tractatus: An Introduction* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), "Noumenal Technology: Reflections on the Incredible Tininess of Nano" (*Techné* 8:3, 2005), "Philosophy of Nanotechnoscience" (in G. Schmid, ed., *Nanotechnology: Principles and Fundamentals*, Weinheim: Wiley, 2008, pp. 217-244), and *Technikphilosophie zur Einführung* (Hamburg: Junius, 2008) With Davis Baird and Joachim Schummer he edited *Discovering the Nanoscale* (Amsterdam: IOS Press, 2004), with Joachim Schummer and Astrid Schwarz *Nanotechnologien im Kontext* (Berlin: Akademische Verlagsanstalt, 2006) and with Michael Friedman *The Kantian Legacy in Nineteenth-Century Science* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2006). Forthcoming is a volume edited with Stefan Gammel and Andreas Lösch *Beyond Regulation: On the Political Governance of Nanotechnology* (Berlin: Akademische Verlagsanstalt).

During the 2006/07 academic year, Nordmann was one of the coordinators of the research group *Science in the Context of Application* at the ZiF of Bielefeld University. Since August 2008 he is Visiting Centenary Professor at the University of South Carolina.