“The Human”

Liberal Humanist Subject

C. P. Macpherson, *The Philosophy of Possessive Individualism: From Hobbes to Locke*

Qualities of Liberal Humanist Subject

- autonomy
- rationality
- free will
- agency
- consciousness seat of identity

“The Posthuman”

- **Distributed Cognition**
  Marvin Minsky***,Society of Mind***

- **Agency an Effect of Multiple Modules**
  Tooby, Cosmides, et al
  The Adapted Mind

- **Consciousness Emergent**
  Daniel Dennett, ***Consciousness Explained***

- **Information Coding through all Levels of Cognition**
  Hans Moravec, *Mind Children, Transcendence through Robots*

- **In-Corporation of Individual into Market Relations**
  Chris Gray*, Cyborg Handbook*

Dismantling of the Liberal Humanist Subject

First Wave of Cybernetics 1945-60

Norbert Wiener: How to constitute boundaries of the subject?

Second Wave of Cybernetics, 1960-1980

Maturana and Varela:

- Autopoietic processes define living systems;
- Living systems are informationally closed;
- Time, causality, information flow are observer's "punctuations"

Virtuality, 1980-present

Sandy Stone: Multiple "warranted by" body

Howard Rheingold: Intelligence augmentation

Marcus Novak: Mutation of space and of subjectivity

Jed Rasula: Computer as prosthesis

Merlin Donald: External memory storage as supplement to human

Significant Split: How Important is Embodiment to Posthuman?

Hans Moravec: Human is essentially a pattern of information

Gerald Edelman: Embodiment is crucial to modeling neural complexity

Anthony Damasio: Embodiment is part of consciousness

Varela, Thompson, Rosch: Embodiment is linked with awareness

Images of the Posthuman in Contemporary Literature

Presence <----------> Absence

disruption

replication

Randomness <----------> Pattern

Materiality

Presence <----------> Absence

Mutation Hyperreality

Randomness <----------> Pattern

Information

Materiality
Galatea 2.2

Mutation
Blood Music

Hyperreality
Terminal Games

Information
Snow Crash

Materiality
Galatea 2.2

Mutation
Blood Music

Hyperreality
Terminal Games

Information
Snow Crash