

What Technologies Stabilize: The First Person, the Bearer Problem, and Artificial Subjectivity

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A technology is not merely a tool that amplifies an already existing capacity. It is also a structure that stabilizes a psychological or social practice, making it repeatable, shareable, and durable across time. Writing stabilizes memory, money stabilizes exchange, and law stabilizes responsibility. In a similar way, self-consciousness can be understood as a social technology that stabilizes social practices of mental attribution. It provides a relatively durable first-person position from which agents can monitor their states, connect episodes into a history, and remain answerable for commitments. AI enters precisely these practices of stabilization, while distributing memory, agency, and responsibility across models, users, interfaces, and institutions. This distributed arrangement sustains the social and temporal organization required for “someone” to emerge, no matter whether artificial or natural.