

**Nigel Thrift**

School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, UK

### **Abstract**

This paper provides a description and preliminary analysis of the current 'technological unconscious'. I use this term to signify the basic forms of positioning and juxtapositioning which make up the basic 'atomic structure' of contemporary Euro-American space and time. Because of the potential vastness of the topic, the paper concentrates on just one form of positioning and juxtapositioning, namely the construction of repetition. The paper is in three parts. The first part provides a capsule history of how a very few templates of position and juxtaposition have become powered up into a capacious and effective background. The second part of the paper argues that in recent years the practice of these templates has been changing as a full-blown standardisation of space has taken hold. This standardisation is gradually leading to the crystallisation of a new kind of technological unconscious. The third part of the paper argues that the traces of this new kind of unconscious are taking hold in social theory as well, leading to the assumption of a quite different event horizon which can be thought of as a different kind of materiality.

N.J.Thrift@bristol.ac.uk