

Posthumanist Challenges to Human Rights:
Gendering the Posthuman

The theoretical and methodological insights of posthumanism, such as its critique of the gendered, heteronormative and racialised narratives of the human and of the anthropocentric privileging of humans over animals, as well as the prospect of a technologically 'enhanced' humanity, invite us to rethink our understanding of what makes us human. However, posthumanist displacements of the human raise profound ethical and political questions, which challenge us to consider existing conceptions of human rights. My project examines the relationship between posthumanism, human rights and gendered conceptions of the human. I will pursue two aims: first, by reading human rights through a posthumanist lens, I will explore how human rights theory and practice should respond to the challenge of posthumanism and I will examine if posthumanism facilitates novel ways of conceiving of human rights. Second, I will analyse the treatment of posthumanist ideas within selected feminist literatures and I will assess the significance of posthumanist thought for feminist understandings of the body.