

# In the Cyborg City: Utopias of Connectivity, Fictions of Erasure

Teresa Botelho

Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, NOVA University of Lisbon, Lisbon  
Portugal

---

## Abstract

Understanding that the relation between urban spaces and human corporality is governed by processes of interdependence invites a meditation on the protocols of utopian projections of the “good city” when both space and body are being reconfigured by the emergence of the trope of the cyborg. This metaphor, applied to both the deterritorialized spaciality of the city and to the enhanced and hyper-connected human body, points towards a replacement of the organicist concept of the city that emerged in early utopias by the idea of the urban space as a network of diffused interfaces so that imagining the future urban space posits it increasingly as a prosthetic extension of the human body. This new relationship has been met both with enthusiasm and anxiety, generating a range of literary and filmic techno-utopias and dystopias that interrogate visions of the enhanced body in the city. This paper will discuss how tropes of human connectivity with urban spaces have emerged in recent post-singularity filmic and narrative texts examining in particular their constructions of possible future socialized spaces.

**Keywords:** Enhanced bodies, cyborg cities, techno-utopias