**ON (NOT) WANTING TO BE HUMAN: MAN AND ROBOT**

Miglena Nikolchina

St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia

**Abstract:** *In the wake of the Cartesian equation between animal and automaton the romantics (Kleist, Hoffmann, Mary Shelley) launched the autonomization of the automaton, which from that point on has accrued a formidable fictional and philosophical dossier. The essay explores contemporary imaginative recreations of the “quadrilateral” of the human – the human vis-à-vis the animal, the robot, and the divine – focusing on the shifting perspectives in the* Alien *film series. The coincidence of wanting and not wanting to be human is thus argued to be the definitive characteristic of the human which, hence, is necessarily transhuman.*

**Key words:** *animal, robot, human, transhumanization, Ridley Scott*