

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

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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.*