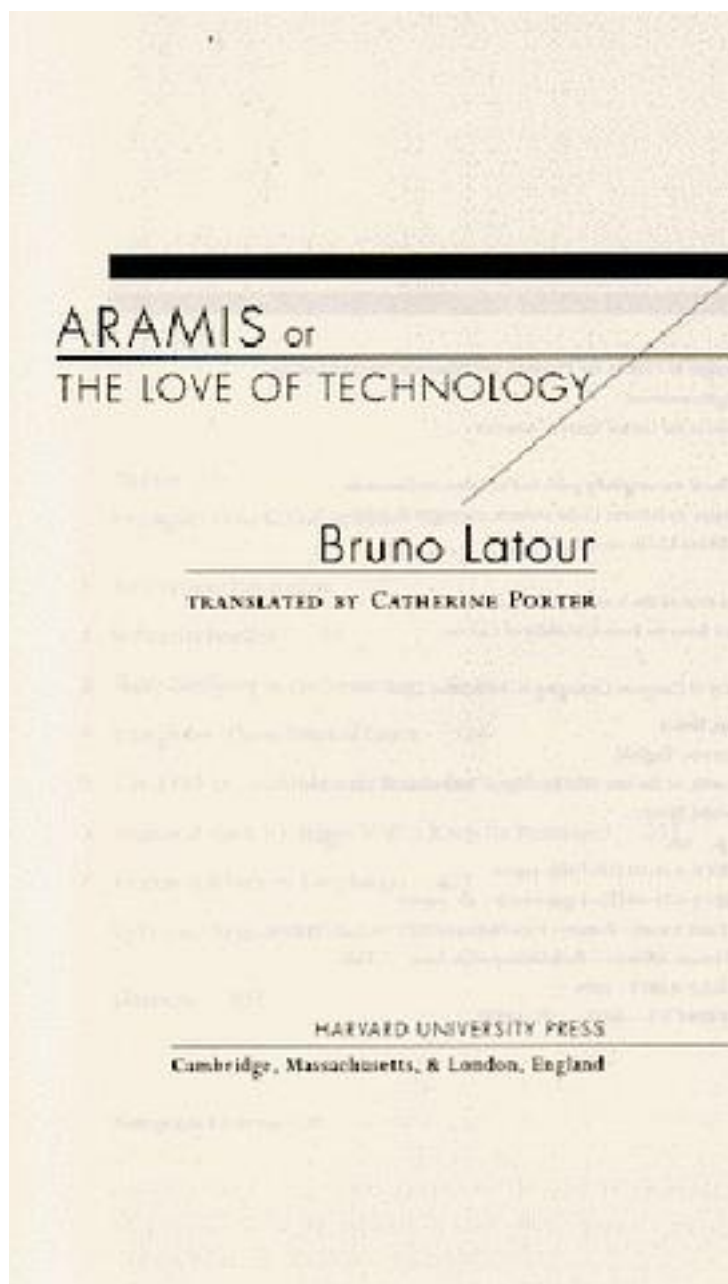


# Aramis, or the Love of Technology



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Frankenstein's monster was born of human endeavour and 19th-century ignominious end but provided many lessons during his 24 years of plans and prototypes. Aramis, the guided-transportation system intended for Paris, represented a major advance in "personal rapid transit" - a system that combined the efficiency of a subway with the flexibility of the private automobile. But in the end, the system of electronic couplings proved too complex and expensive, the political will failed, and the plans were jettisoned in 1987. The story of Aramis, of its birth and death, is told here by several different parties, none of which is given precedence over any other: an engineer and his professor, who together act as "detectives" to ferret out the reasons for the project's failure; company executives and elected officials; a sociologist; and finally Aramis itself, who delivers a passionate plea on behalf of technological innovations that risk being abandoned by their makers. Technology has needs and desires, especially a desire to be born, but cannot function without the sustained commitment of those who have created it. Part novel and part sociological study, Bruno Latour has written a tale of a technological dream gone wrong. As the young engineer and professor follow Aramis's trail - conducting interviews, analyzing documents, assessing the evidence - perspectives keep shifting: the truth is revealed as multilayered, unascertainable, comprising an array of possibilities worthy of "Rasbomon". The reader is eventually led to see the project from the point of view of Aramis, and along the way gains insight into the relationship between human beings and their technological creations.

作者介绍:

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标签

Latour

STS

技术

社会学

社会

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technology

设计

## 评论

主要描述了Aramis（一种设想中的交通系统）在巴黎为什么失败。这奇怪的民族志由几个部分组成：相关人员访谈、ANT理论描述、作为一个专业工程师的

“我”和研究科学社会学的Norbert教授之间的对话。Latour强调不能根据最终的果来判定之前发生的事情是否是一个项目能否做成的因，因为那些被人说成是原因的东西只是人们在知道结果后的定论。所以即使是研究一个从来都没发生的事情，也不能轻下结论，认为是技术上的不成熟、民众的不支持，或者所谓的政府决策原因导致了它最终的流产，而要绕到历史里面去分析这个项目最初想法的来源，以及这些想法如何在不同的行动者的合作网络中不断被转换的过程。书中的“我”是个很好玩的角色，Latour似乎故意安排了这样一个鄙视科学社会学研究的科学家来和社会学家吵架。总之，这书很神棍。

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在“真相”大白之际，这个从未存在过就因被抛弃而死亡的机器对着一桌人类“嫌疑犯”悲愤地说：你们从未爱过我，你们爱的只是我这个概念。  
因为我存在之前不够完美，我就不配存在吗？

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一些朋友恨到死的书，我爱到流泪。以创意文学的形式，利用ANT理论，做了一个failed innovation的case study，frankenstein不断地出现，昭示着作者后续对于love your monster/technology的坚持。一个关于公共交通迭代的侦探故事，一个不断重复没有终点只有contingency的历史研究。

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行动者网络理论的延伸，从“物体”本身出发去探讨现代科学与技术中关于理性、效率、生产力等观念的建构。从中也可以看到关于“网络”和“政治相关性”的启示，还不错。

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书评

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