

haneul bak (Hanul Park)  
Advanced Research Seminar:  
Constructed Environments  
Fall 2020

Making of a Cyborg: a Case Study of  
Motoko Kusanagi in *Ghost in the Shell*



Motoko Kusanagi is an iconic protagonist of *Ghost in the Shell*, a Japanese cyberpunk media franchise. Major Motoko Kusanagi is fictional, and a public-security agent and the field commander of Public Security Section 9, a fictional anti-cybercrime law-enforcement division of the Japanese National Public Safety Commission. She is a cyborg who was born as a human and has increasingly augmented her organic body parts with mechanical parts with extraordinary capacities, or "a synthetic 'full-body prosthesis' augmented-cybernetic human."<sup>1</sup>

#### AUTHORSHIP / CONTRIBUTORS / PARTICIPANTS

*Ghost in the Shell* was originally a Japanese manga series written and illustrated by Masamune Shirow.<sup>2</sup> A Japanese manga artist, Masamune Shirow's legal name is Masanori Ota, and his best known work is *Ghost in the Shell* currently in discussion.<sup>3</sup> Production I.G, a Japanese animation studio, produced several anime adaptations of the series. Filmmaker Mamoru Oshii directed the first anime film *Ghost in the Shell* and its sequel *Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence*. There are also television series of the same

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia. "Motoko Kusanagi" [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motoko\\_Kusanagi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motoko_Kusanagi)

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia. "Ghost in the Shell" [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghost\\_in\\_the\\_Shell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghost_in_the_Shell)

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia. "Masamune Shirow" [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masamune\\_Shirow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masamune_Shirow)

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franchised series produced by the same animation studio. There is an American live-action adaptation of the film as well, and it was produced by Paramount Pictures.

#### DATE / PERIOD FROM CONCEPTION TO PRODUCTION

The original manga piece was serialized initially in 1989. The first *Ghost in the Shell* anime film was released in 1995. The sequel anime film was released in 2004. The American live-action film was released in 2017.