Essential readings on digital criticism

Panel C2- Lausanne
21.10.2021, 15h00 - 15h45
Panel suggested by Enrico Natale
Reporter: Jérémie Garrigues

Presentation and general issue:
Enrico Natale is the managing director of infoclio.ch, he proposed that all the participants talk about two references that they feel are essential for the critique of the digital. It was proposed that the references could be inscribed, if the participants so wished, in a very general space, which would be that of the critique of technologies in the most general sense, thus joining a whole tradition since Marx, Ellul, Simondon and, more recently, Latour. Natale insists on the very vast space covered by the critique of the digital, to which philosophy, history, sociology, anthropology and all the humanities, globally, have contributed. The goal was therefore to widen the space of strong references for the critique of the digital, both by searching on the side of the critique of technologies, in a more general way, and on the side of each discipline and sub-discipline, which have produced their own pearls.

Issues raised by the proposed literature:
Many references were discussed by the participants. For example: a text by Vilem Flusser whose virtue would be to achieve a very large rise in generality on the evolution of code systems, and the way code systems deeply influence culture; a text by Günther Anders, that re-evaluate the way in which humans are very much self-invented, and the way in which technologies help them in this self-invention; a text by Lara Putnam, that discusses how digital infrastructures have changed the work of the historian, and point out the way historians work has not changed much with digital infrastructures, but rather their results; a text by Giovanna Mascheroni, which points out the participation of parents in the datafication of their children; or a text by Matteo Pasquinelli, that shows how neooperaism can help to understand the business logic of the digital economy.

Proposed literature: standardize


The complexity and difficult scrutability, and multidisciplinary dimensions of fMRI images:


A not quite random walk: Experimenting with the ethnomethods of the algorithm --- by Malte Ziewitz. https://journals.sagepub.com/eprint/UTR8bucsqqrNZdKmkP5f/full

Thinking critically about and researching algorithms --- by Rob Kitchin
https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1369118X.2016.1154087
