



Unconference Critique Digitale Report- Oct. 21-22, 2021

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

Flusser, Vilém. *Krise Der Linearität*. Bern: Benteli Verlag, 1988.

Pasquinelli, Matteo. « Google's PageRank Algorithm: A Diagram of Cognitive Capitalism and the Rentier of the Common Intellect ». In *Deep Search*, édité par Konrad Becker et Felix Stalder. London: Transaction Publishers, 2009. <http://matteopasquinelli.com/society-of-the-query>.

Pasquinelli, M. « Italian Operaismo and the Information Machine ». *Theory, Culture & Society* 32, no 3 (2015): 49-68.



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Pasquinelli, Matteo. « On the Origins of Marx's General Intellect ». *Radical Philosophy* 2.06. Consulté le 11 janvier 2020.

https://www.academia.edu/39905170/On_the_Origins_of_Marx_s_General_Intellect.

Edwards, Paul N. *The Closed World: Computers and the Politics of Discourse in Cold War America*. MIT Press, 1997.

Simondon, Gilbert. *Du mode d'existence des objets techniques*. Paris: Aubier, 2012.

Shuhei Hosokawa, *Der Walkman-Effekt*. <https://docplayer.org/36059651-Shuhei-hosokawa-der-walkman-effekt-aus-aisthesis-wahrnehmung-heute-oder-perspektiven-einer-anderen-aesthetik-reklam-leipzig.html>

Günther Anders, *Die Antiquiertheit des Menschen*.

<https://www.getabstract.com/de/zusammenfassung/die-antiquiertheit-des-menschen/33816>

Burrell, J. (2012). *Invisible users: Youth in the Internet cafés of urban Ghana*. MIT Press.

Mascheroni, G. (2020). *Datafied childhoods: Contextualising datafication in everyday life*. *Current Sociology*, 68(6), 798–813. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011392118807534>

Zuboff, S. (2015). *Big other: surveillance capitalism and the prospects of an information civilization*. *Journal of information technology*, 30(1), 75-89.

Lara Putnam: *The transnational and the text-searchable: Digitized sources and the shadows they cast*, in: *American Historical Review*, 121/2, p. 377-402.

Wolfgang Ernst: *Signale aus der Vergangenheit: Eine kleine Geschichtskritik*, Paderborn: Fink 2013.

Shannon, C. E. "A Mathematical Theory of Communication." *Bell System Technical Journal* 27, no. 3 (July 1948): 379–423. <https://doi.org/10.1002/j.1538-7305.1948.tb01338.x>.

(Read Turing, read Von Neumann...)

"Mr. Robot." In Wikipedia, October 10, 2021.

https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mr._Robot&oldid=1049139698.

Hitchcock, Tim. "Confronting the Digital: Or How Academic History Writing Lost the Plot." *Cultural and Social History* 10, no. 1 (March 2013): 9–23.

<https://doi.org/10.2752/147800413X13515292098070>.



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

Joseph Dumit / Picturing Personhood - Brain Scans and Biomedical: Brain Scans and Biomedical Identity, 2003. <https://www.amazon.de/-/en/Joseph-Dumit/dp/069111398X/>

Drucker 2016: Johanna Drucker, "Graphical Approaches to the Digital Humanities", in: A New Companion to Digital Humanities, ed. Susan Schreibman, Ray Siemens and John Unsworth (Chichester/Malden: John Wiley & Sons, 2016), p. 238–250.

Rottenburg, Richard, Oulimata Gueye, Julien McHardy, and Philipp Ziegler (eds.), Digital Imaginaries: African Positions Beyond Binaries. Dakar/Johannesburg/Karlsruhe: Kër Thiossane/Wits Art Museum/ZKM, 2021. <https://zkm.de/en/publication/digital-imaginaries-african-positions-beyond-the-binary>

Premesh Lalu, "The Virtual Stampede for Africa: Digitization, Postcoloniality and Archives of the Liberation Struggles in Southern Africa", in Divya Dwivedi and Sanil V, The Public Sphere from Outside the West (London, New York: Bloomsbury Publishing 2015), 225-239.

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>

Ryan Cordell, « "Q i-jtb the Raven": Taking Dirty OCR Seriously », Book History 20 (1), 25.10.2017, p. 188-225. <<https://doi.org/10.1353/bh.2017.0006>>.

Nathan Ensmenger, « The Environmental History of Computing », Technology and Culture 59 (4), 2018, p. S7-S33. <<https://doi.org/10.1353/tech.2018.0148>>.