IS291C: Political Economy of Information; "**Participation**"

Spring Quarter, 2012
Lecturer: Christopher M. Kelty
Tuesdays 1:30-5:00pm
GSEIS 121

Introduction: This class approaches the political economy of information both theoretically and empirically. The theoretical portion focuses on concepts (other than that of information itself) which are necessary for, built into, or transformed by the vicissitudes of information and the technologies used to create, manipulate or manage it. Such concepts can include: freedom, responsibility, justice, equality, efficiency, participation, quality, productivity, growth and so on.

The empirical portion asks students to look at (and produce) case studies of contemporary activities related to information and the technologies used to create, manipulate or manage it. These empirical cases should focus on the details of practice: structure and organization, behavior and interests, aesthetics and branding, associations of patronage and funding, the resources produced and their formal and informal circulation, goals and tasks and how they are assigned or understood, labor and employment issues etc. Legal issues include intellectual property, labor and contract law; economic issues include theories of value, circulation and structure of venture capital, state and federal funding, entrepreneurialism etc.

Spring Quarter 2012: The spring quarter class is organized primarily around the concept of *participation*. Participation is a very commonly used notion, but one that has seen very little rigorous explication. The course approaches the concept from a (very) wide range of sources in order to understand the structure of the concept and its uses in diverse domains (from theology to fan fiction). At the core of the course is a concern with how participation relates to democracy under capitalism and especially how it is being transformed by the current generation of internet-based technologies and 'platforms.' During the quarter students will be expected to read and understand a diverse array of philosophical, political, and economic texts related to participation; students will also be expected to contribute to case studies of participation, and to pursue case studies of their own.

Course Structure

Each course will be divided roughly in half.
Part 1 (1 hr 30min) will be devoted to lecture and discussion of readings and concepts for the given class.
Break (20 min)
Part 2 (1 hr 30min) will be devoted to discussion of case studies, research questions, presentation of findings, strategies for research, and the relationship of theory to empirical inquiry.

Grading Structure

Participation in discussion, collaboration and group work: 25%
Assignment 1: 25%
Assignment 2: 25%
Assignment 3: 25%
(See Case Study research project instructions for details on the assignments)

Required Readings

Readings will be available as required, via the CCLE site for the class.

Schedule and Readings

NOTE: This schedule subject to capricious change. Readings will be uploaded and finalized on the CCLE website.

Date	Title	Concepts	Readings	Cases
4.3	Introduction. Why political economy, and of what sort.	Variations on the theme of political economy of information. Orientations to Participation as a problem. Definitions, usage; relations to other key concepts.	Fish et.al. "Birds of the Internet" Selections from contemporary hype about social media and the internet.	Case Study assignment Concept Mapping exercise.
4.10	Theory, Genealogy, History of the present	Inquiry. Problematization, genealogy, history of political economy; figures and figuration; concept work; reconstruction. Relations of philosophy and empirical study. The problem of technology	Friedrich Nietzsche *The Genealogy of Morality*, preface; Michel Foucault *Nietzsche, Geneaology, History*; John Dewey, "The relation of thought and its subject matter" in *Essays in Experimental Logic*.	Linux, Wikipedia
4.17	Participatory *Culture*™ and Participatory Science®	Cultural studies, participatory culture, fandom and audience participation; strategy/tactics; transmedia, spreadable media, media reform; pleasure Engagement vs. Participation; materiality of participation; conceptual distinction The role of political theory	John Fiske; Henry Jenkins; Steve Epstein, "The Construction of Lay Expertise"; Sheila Jasanoff "Technologies of Humility"; Lezaun and Marres; Bryan Wynn "Public Participation in Science and Technology"	Harry Potter Alliance, CurrentTV, Threadless Miro; Miku; youtube; PatientsLikeMe, 23andMe, Fold.it, Zooniverse
4.24	The problem of Industrial Democracy and Workplace Participation 1860-1960	The history of industrial democracy; works councils; worker control, profit sharing and worker ownership; the experiments of the 1920s; the rise of scientific management and the response of "human relations"; experimental approaches to participation. Unions and the triumph of collective bargaining; the genealogy of "organizational behavior" and HR.	Milton Derber; Nelson Lichtenstein; Paul Blumberg, Carole Pateman; Human Relations, Mayo and Roethlisberger; FW Taylor and Scientific Management; Coch and French, Kurt Lewin	Ford Motor Co., Hawthorne experiments, Lewin experiments, Mondragon in spain; plywood collectives in US; Kibbutzim; the "Ahmedebad experiment" in Indian weavers.
5.1	The arrival of (the theory of) Participatory Democracy	Democratic elitism; pluralism; developmental and possessive individuals; the functions of participation; educative participation; SDS and the Port Huron	Port Huron, Tom Hayden, Carole Pateman, Erik Olin Wright, Archon Fung ; Kaufman, "Human nature and participatory democracy"; C.B.	Yugoslavia; the SDS; Occupy, Anonymous, Apache, Global voices

			Statement; co-determination, self-determination; the New Left and the new communalists	Macpherson. Fred Turner	
5.8		The individualization of participation: quality control and worker participation 1970-1990	Quality control and E. Demings; Job enrichment, quality of worklife, work/job restructuring, teams, semi-autonomous teams, and Total quality management, re-engineering, quality circles, participation in management vs. production (tasks vs goals)	Dachler and Wilpert ASQ Lash and Urry; Beck and Giddens; Sabel and Piore; Zuboff; Malaby; Nicolas Rose, Colin Gordon etc.	NUMMI, Rath Packing Plant; Amazon Mechanical Turk; Second Life; World of Warcraft
5.15		Participatory Design, participatory art, and participatory architecture 1960s-1990s	Engineered participation; self-actualization; the gallery and the theatre;	Pelle Ehn; CPSR; *the Art of Participation* catalog; Alex Wilkie, Guggenheim "Change of Use"; Nicolas Bourriaud *Relational Aesthetics*	Felix Gonzales-Torres; Learning to Love you more; Found Magazine; Clark and Oiticia, etc.
5.22		Participation and Development, participatory budgeting, participatory communication	Participatory budgeting; liberation theology; the pedagogy and theatre of the oppressed, enforced and engineered participation in development; participatory communication.	Freire *Pedagogy of the Opressed*, Agusto Boal, *Theatre of the Oppressed*; Gumucio-Dagron and Tufte reader; Cook et. al. *Tyranny of Participation*	Porto Allegro, World Bank participatory projects; Kiva, Kickstarter, Samasource.
5.29		Participation as a philosophical, religious and theoretical problem	Methexis, mystical participation, collective representations, religion and philosophy.	Durkheim, Levy-Bruhl, Tarde; Plato, Cornford	LDS.net, naseeb.com, ikhwanbook.com, The Church ad New Media; The Vatican website
6.5		Conclusion			