

Seminar on the Network Society

Professor Manuel Castells

Fall 2005

Annenberg School for Communication

Comm 647 Room ASC 228
Monday 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(213) 740-6180

Office Hours by Appointment
Tuesday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Description of the Seminar

This is an advanced research seminar that aims at exploring and analyzing the interaction between communication technology, society, economy, politics, and culture in an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective. The focus of the seminar will be the generation of new knowledge, however modest, on these issues, in the span of one semester. Students will be encouraged to develop research and original thinking, and to engage in empirical, analytical work leading eventually to their theses and dissertations. The seminar will be organized around three elements:

- a) A series of presentations by the instructor on selected themes, followed by in-depth discussion in the seminar
- b) Supporting readings for every theme treated in the seminar, and specifically recommended readings for students engaged in a given research topic
- c) An original, empirical study conducted by the students participating in the seminar, leading to the writing of a research paper by the end of the semester. Research topics will be selected in agreement with the instructor. The paper should constitute a small contribution to knowledge in the field, in the form of a potentially publishable article. Students can cooperate in groups of 2 or 3 (but no more) in the research and writing of the study. Students must present their work in progress in at least one full session of the seminar during the semester.

The seminar will meet once a week, in a 3 hours session. Topics for the research paper will be selected within the first 2 weeks of the seminar. All presentations by the instructor will take place in a pre-determined sequence in the first half of the semester. Students should engage in their research early on, and make their own presentations in the second half of the semester. Presentations should be brief, leaving at least two hours for full discussion in the seminar. Special attention will be given to the methodology of research.

Pre-Requisites

Graduate standing, no exceptions. Social science background is advisable, but students from other fields may be admitted in the seminar on the condition of having experience in some form of social science study.

Enrollment is limited to 12 students. Priority by disciplines:

- a) Communication
- b) Journalism
- c) Sociology
- d) Planning
- e) Others.

No auditing students will be allowed.

Requirements and Grading

Active participation in every session. Engagement in a research project defined in the seminar. Presentation(s) of the project in the seminar. Writing of a research paper. Overall work for this paper is evaluated in about 50 hours of library research, calculations and/or field work.

Final paper accounts for 50% of the grade. Research work for 20%. Participation in the seminar for 30%.

Themes of Presentations by the Instructor (chronological sequence, one theme per week)

1. Theories of the Network Society. The interplay between information/communication technology and society: postindustrialism, informationalism, network theory. The cultural and institutional diversity of the network society.
2. The New Economy and the Network Enterprise
3. Flexible Work, the Transformation of Labor, and Migration Networks.
4. Space of Flows, Space of Places: The Geography of Networks
5. Digital Media: the Culture of Real Virtuality.
6. Open Source Software, the Culture of Cooperation for Innovation, and Intellectual Property Rights in the Age of the Internet.
7. The Mobile Communication Society: the Social Uses of Wireless Communication
8. Networked Politics: Communication Technology, Social Movements, and the Political Process.

Suggested research topics for students in the seminar (this is only indicative, other topics are possible).

- a. The uses of the internet in health services.
 - b. E-Government and E-Governance.
 - c. Media politics: the media as the space of politics.
 - d. Restructuring of media business: the interplay between technology, business, and politics.
 - e. Mobile communications and social networks in the formation of a new youth culture.
 - f. Social movements and communication technology.
 - g. Women in the internet: Is there a cultural specificity?
 - h. Democracy, communication, and political control in the Internet.
 - i. Open source as technological innovation and as social organization.
 - j. Intellectual property rights in the digital world.
 - k. Privacy, liberty and surveillance in the internet in the aftermath of 9/11.
 - l. The global digital divide and the new model of development.
 - m. Ethnicity and inequality in the information economy.
 - n. Flexible labor markets and immigrant labor.
 - o. The interaction between telecommunications infrastructure and the spatial structure of metropolitan regions.
 - p. Managed deregulation in wireless telecommunications.
 - q. The politics of ICANN.
 - r. Digital art and cultural change.
- ETC.

(Note: All topics may be located in a variety of societies, not necessarily the American context, although only when and if there are accessible sources of information to treat the subject).

Supporting Readings for the Themes Presented by the Instructor

Numbers correspond to the numbers of the themes. These readings are advised, not required, as the notion of required reading does not belong in a research seminar that assumes a great deal of intellectual autonomy among the students enrolled in the seminar. When the reference is a whole book, it is not expected that the entire book will be read. Instead, the student must find in the book the chapter or chapters that best fit into the issues discussed in the seminar. If any seminar participant needs more specific indications about the reading the instructor will provide it. Books are expected to be in the library and/or the Annenberg Resource Center, not in the bookstore. Any book that is not available on campus is not expected to be read during this semester).

1. Theories of the Network Society

Daniel Bell "The Coming of Postindustrial Society", Basic Books, 1973, 1976, 1999. Focus on the prefaces to the 1976 and to the 1999 editions.

Frank Webster “Theories of the Information Society”, London: Routledge, 2002.

Peter R. Monge and Noshir S. Contractor “Theories of Communication Networks”, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Manuel Castells (editor) “The Network Society: A Cross-Cultural Perspective”, London: Edward Elgar, 2004, specially Chapter 1 by Manuel Castells “Informationalism, Networks, and the Network Society: A Theoretical Blueprint”, and Chapter 2: Pekka Himanen and Manuel Castells “Institutional Models of the Network Society: Finland and Silicon Valley.”

Frijof Capra “Hidden Connections”, New York: Doubleday, 2002.

Albert-Laszlo Barabasi “Linked. The New Science of Networks”, Cambridge, MA: Perseus Publishing, 2002.

Manuel Castells and Pekka Himanen “The Information Society and the Welfare State: The Finnish Model”, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

2. New Economy and the Network Enterprise

Manuel Castells “The Internet Galaxy”, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001, Chapter 3.

Brian Arthur “Increasing Returns and Path Dependence in the Economy”, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1994.

Eric Brynjolfsson and B. Kahin “Understanding the Digital Economy”, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2000.

Don Tapscott, David Ticoll, Alex Lowy, “Digital Capital. Harnessing the Power of Business Webs”, London, 2001.

Marshall Van Alstyne et al. “Productivity and Information Technology”, in Manuel Castells (editor) “The Network Society: A Cross-Cultural Perspective”, London: Edward Elgar, 2004.

National Research Council of the National Academies
“Beyond Productivity. Information Technology, Innovation, and Creativity”
Washington DC: The National Academies. 2003, pages 61-150.

Carlota Perez “Revoluciones Tecnológicas y Capital Financiero”, Mexico: Siglo XXI, 2004.

3. Flexible Work, Labor, Migrant Networks

Martin Carnoy "Sustaining the New Economy. Work, Family and Community in the Information Age", Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000.

Frank Levy and Richard Murnane "The New Division of Labor: How Computers are Creating the Next Job Market", Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2004.

Vicki Smith "Crossing the Great Divide. Worker Risk and Opportunity in the New Economy", Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 2001.

Chris Benner "Work in the New Economy. Flexible Labor Markets in Silicon Valley", Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.

Ken Ducatel et al (eds) "The Information Society in Europe. Work and Life in an Age of Globalization", Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2000.

Roger Waldinger and Michael Lichter "How the Other Half Works. Immigrants and the Social Organization of Labor", Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

Douglas Massey, Jorge Durand and Nolan Malone "Beyond Smoke and Mirrors. Mexican Immigration in an Era of Economic Integration", New York; Russell Sage, 2003.

4. Space of Flows, Space of Places

Manuel Castells "Space of Flows, Space of Places. Materials for a Theory of Urbanism in the Information Age", in Stephen Graham (editor), "The Cybercities Reader", London: Routledge, 2003, pages 82-93.

William Mitchell "E-topia", Cambridge: MIT Press, 1999.

William Mitchell "Me ++", Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2003.

Stephen Graham and Marvin Simon "Splintering Urbanism", London: Routledge, 2001.

Stephen Graham (editor) "The Cybercities Reader", London: Routledge, 2003, pages 149-238.

Michael Dear (editor) "From Chicago to L.A, London: Sage, 2002.

David Halle (editor) "New York & Los Angeles. Politics, Society, and Culture. A Comparative View", Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Anthony M. Townsend "Mobile Communications in the Twenty-First Century City" in Barry Brown et al. (eds) "Wireless World. Social and Interactional Aspects of the Mobile Age", London: Springer 2001: 62-78.

Matthew Zook "The Geography of the Internet Industry", Oxford: Blackwell, 2004.

Mark Abrahamson "Global Cities", New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Jonathan Rutherford "A Tale of Two Global Cities. Comparing the Territorialities of Telecommunications Developments in Paris and London", Burlington, Vermont: Ashgate Publishing Co., 2004.

Ananya Roy and Nezar Alsayyad (eds) "Urban Informality. Transnational Perspectives from the Middle East, Latin America, and South Asia", New York: Lexington Books.

Lisa Servon "Bridging the Digital Divide. Technology, Community and Public Policy", Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.

5. Digital Media and the Culture of Real Virtuality

Manuel Castells "The Internet Galaxy", Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001, Chapter 7.

Hernan Galperin "New Television, Old Politics. The Transition to Digital Television in Britain and in the United States", Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bruce M. Owen "The Internet Challenge to Television", Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999.

Neuman W. Russell "The Future of the Mass Audience", Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991.

David Hesmondhalgh "The Cultural Industries", London: Sage, 2002.

Pablo J. Boczkowski "Digitizing the News. Innovation in Online Newspapers", Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2004.

Lev Manovich "The Language of New Media", Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2001.

Marita Sturken, Douglas Thomas and Sanda J. Ball-Rokeach "Technological Visions. The Hopes and Fears that Shape New Technologies", Philadelphia, Temple University Press, 2004.

Imma Tubella "Internet, Television, and the Construction of Identity",

In Manuel Castells (editor) "The Network Society: A Cross-Cultural Perspective", London: Edward Elgar, 2004.

Janet Wasko "Understanding Disney. The Manufacture of Fantasy", Cambridge: Polity Press, 2001.

Jonathan Taplin "The IP TV Revolution", paper delivered at the Presidential Conference on the Network Society, Presidency of Portugal, Lisbon, March 2005, unpublished (it can be downloaded from the Annenberg Research Network on International Communication, USC, Annenberg School for Communication).

6. Open Source and Intellectual Property Rights in the Age of the Internet

Steven Weber "The Success of Open Source", Cambridge; MA: Harvard University Press, 2004.

Pekka Himanen "The Hacker Ethic and the Business Environment", New York: Random House, 2001.

Lawrence Lessig "Free Culture. How Big Media Uses Technology and the Law to Lock Down Culture and Control Creativity", New York: The Penguin Press, 2004.

Richard Stallman "Free Software, Free Society. Selected Essays", Boston: GNU Press, 2002 (edited by Joshua Gay).

Douglas Thomas "Hacker Culture", Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2002.

Manuel Castells, "The Internet Galaxy", Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001, Chapter 2.

7. Mobile Communication Society

Manuel Castells, Mireia Fernandez-Ardevol, Jack Linchuan Qiu and Araba Sey "The Mobile Communication Society: A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Available Evidence on the Social Uses of Wireless Communication Technology", Los Angeles: USC, Annenberg School for Communication, Annenberg Research Network on International Communication, Research Report, October 2004 (it can be downloaded from the web site of the Annenberg Research Network on International Communication").

J.E. Katz and A. Aakhus (eds) "Perpetual Contact. Mobile Communications, Private Talk, Public Performance", Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Barry Brown, Nicola Green, and Richard Harper (eds) "Wireless World. Social and Interactional Aspects of the Mobile Age", London: Springer, 2001.

8. Networked Politics

Bruce Bimber "Information and American Democracy. Technology and the Evolution of Political Power", New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Araba Sey and Manuel Castells "Networked Politics: Internet and the Political Process" in Manuel Castells (editor) "The Network Society: a Cross-Cultural Perspective", Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, 2004.

Elaine Kamarck and Joseph Nye, "Governance.com: Democracy in the Information Age", Washington DC: Brookings Institution, 2002.

Helen McCarthy, Paul Miller, and Paul Skidmore "Network Logic. Who Governs in an Interconnected World", London: Demos 2004.

Pippa Norris, "A Virtuous Circle: Political Communications in Postindustrial Societies", Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

John B. Thompson "Political Scandal. Power and Visibility in the Media Age", Cambridge: Polity Press, 2000.

Manuel Castells "The Power of Identity", Oxford: Blackwell, 2nd edition, 2003, chapter 5 "Globalization, Identification, and the State: a Powerless State or a Network State?", and Chapter 6 "Informational Politics and the Crisis of Democracy."

Jeff Juris "Networked Social Movements: the Movement Against Corporate Globalization" in Manuel Castells (editor) "The Network Society. A Cross-Cultural Perspective", Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar, 2004.

John Arquilla and David Rondfeldt "Swarming and the Future of Conflict", Santa Monica, CA: RAND National Defense Research Institute, 2000.