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Information Society

Course Description

During the lectures and class debates of the course we will first of all attempt to explain what an information society is, and provide the technological, economic, occupational, spatial, and cultural definitions of the latter. We will discuss the problem of qualitative and quantitative measures, and learn about the following essential theories of the information society: post-industrial society and one of its key theorists - Daniel Bell, Regulation School theory, network society and its proponent - Manuel Castells, correlations between information and the market system and the pivotal thinker in this regards - Herbert Schiller, relationship between information and democracy on one hand through the theory of Jürgen Habermas concerning the public sphere and public service institutions, and on the other, through the thoughts of Friedrich Hayek and the neo-Hayekians, Anthony Giddens' arguments on information, reflexivity and surveillance, and connections between information and postmodernity. One of the main components within the entire mobilities paradigm will also be covered, and significantly reasonable debate on the applicability of the information society discourse will be explored. Finally, Critical Theory updates addressing platform power, data colonialism, and AI governance concludes the course.