

Mid-Semester Examination
HSS465: Technology and Social Movements

Max Marks: 45

23 September 2019

Instructions:

Answer ANY THREE of the following questions (in 700-800 words).

- Mass society theory*
- 1) Choose any social movement in contemporary India, and analyse it using the theories of social movements discussed in class.
 - 2) "Science and Technology are social activities". Discuss this assertion using the example of any regional or ethnic movement in India.
 - 3) Describe the Strong Programme in STS. What are its founding ideas and influences and how is it used?
 - 4) What is David Harvey's approach to the question of determinisms (either social or technological)? Explain, using examples.
 - 5) What are the core tasks of a "framing process"? Discuss, using the frameworks employed in any one debate around technology.
 - 6) Thomas Rochon speaks of "critical communities" and their role in technological debates and dissemination. Choose any debate around technology and discuss the nature of involvement of these "critical communities".

End Semester Examination

HSS465: Technology and Social Movements

Max Marks: 75

23 November 2019

Instructions:

Answer ANY FIVE questions in 700-800 words each. Each question is worth 15 marks.

- 1) What is the Resource Mobilization theory in social movements? Can science be a 'resource' in social movements? Discuss with examples.
- 2) What are the issues raised by regional, linguistic and tribal movements? Identify the role of technology in these movements.
- 3) When Langdon Winner speaks of the relationship between politics and technology, what does he mean when he says that technical engineering can lead to social engineering? What are the implications of this argument?
- 4) How is scientific credibility established and who constitutes "counter expertise"? Discuss this using the trajectory of the AIDS movement.
- 5) What are the three schools of thought amongst scientists who are 'activists'? Discuss all three schools, with examples.
- 6) Discuss dissent within the scientific establishment. How and why does contrarian science, impedance in science, agnostic and dissident science get practiced?
- 7) Can the internet facilitate Habermas' concept of a "public sphere"? Discuss, using examples.
- 8) Is it possible to relate changes in environmental science to environmental movements? Discuss using appropriate examples.
- 9) How and in what form does scientific activism get practiced in 'conventional' institutions? When radical agendas are pursued, does this always require an association with 'social movements'?
- 10) Using the trajectory of at least two technology and product-oriented movements, discuss the characteristics of these movements and their outcomes.

↳ power transfer from one person to another -

agnostic

↳ dissident science.