



The Digital Revolution and the Hackers Culture.

Elective course
3rd module (Feb-Mar) 2019

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Lecture 5/6

summary

- The Machine Stops
- Impact of technology on society
 - relationship between science and society
 - the myth of Daedalus
- Aaron Swartz on Wikipedia

I think that I will develop in parallel those themes all along the course

Daedalus

Science, technology
and society



Daedalus and Icarus

- The most famous part of the myth
 - the labyrinth
 - the escape
 - the wings
 - the fall



Charles Paul Landon, 1799, Alençon, Musée des Beaux-Arts et de la Dentelle.

Daedalus, a sculptor and engineer so skillful that was able to create statues that were able to walk [Bio97]. However, Daedalus symbolized the creative genius who is as much foolish as skillful, because he lacked the wisdom to see the consequences of his creations. As an example, the Minotaur, the terrible monster half man half bull, was the direct consequence of one of his inventions.

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Daedalus and Icarus, Frederic Leighton, ca 1869.

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Pasiphaë

Pasiphae was the daughter of Helios, the Sun, and Perse, of the Oceanids. Like her doublet Europa, her origins were in the East, in her case at Colchis; she was the sister of Circe, Aeëtes and Perses, and she was given in marriage to King Minos of Crete.



Pasiphae sits on a throne, mosaic from Zeugma, Gaziantep Museum, Turkey

Minos

- Minos mythical first King of Crete
- Was later depicted in Dante's Inferno as sitting at its gate



Gustave Doré's illustration of King Minos
for Dante Alighieri's Inferno

Minos

In Greek mythology, Minos (/ˈmaɪnɒs, -nəs/; Greek: Μίνωϝ, Minōs) was the first King of Crete

The wooden cow

- After a curse from **Poseidon**, Pasiphae experienced **lust** for and mated with a **white bull** sent by Poseidon.
- In Ovid's *Ars Amatoria* Pasiphaë is reduced to unflattering human terms:
Pasiphae fieri gaudebat adultera tauri— "Pasiphaë took pleasure in becoming an adulteress with a bull."



The Minotaur

- In Greek mythology, the Minotaur is a mythical creature portrayed in Classical times with the head and tail of a bull and the body of a man
- Described by Roman poet Ovid, a being "part man and part bull".



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The labyrinth

- Daedalus was given the task to build the labyrinth, to contain the minotaur
- In greek mythology, Daedalus represents the **intellect** with no **balance**, the **ingenuity** without **wisdom**.



Aaron Swartz

Digital activist



Aaron Swartz

- Aaron Hillel Swartz (November 8, 1986 – January 11, 2013) was an American computer programmer, entrepreneur, writer, political organizer, and Internet hacktivist. He was involved in [...] the organization **Creative Commons** [...] and was a co-founder of the social news site **Reddit**.
- Swartz's work also focused on civic awareness and activism. He founded the online group Demand Progress, known for its campaign against the Stop Online Piracy Act.
- In 2011, Swartz was arrested by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) police on state breaking-and-entering charges, after connecting a computer to the MIT network in an unmarked and unlocked closet, and setting it to download academic journal articles systematically from JSTOR using a guest user account issued to him by MIT. Federal prosecutors later charged him with two counts of wire fraud and eleven violations of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, carrying a cumulative maximum penalty of \$1 million in fines, 35 years in prison [...]
- Swartz declined a plea bargain under which he would have served six months in federal prison. Two days after the prosecution rejected a counter-offer by Swartz, he was found dead in his Brooklyn apartment, where he had hanged himself.

(from Wikipedia)



Wikimedia foundation

- The Wikimedia Foundation, Inc. (WMF, or simply Wikimedia) is an American non-profit and charitable organization headquartered in San Francisco, California.
- It is mostly known for participating in the Wikimedia movement.
- It owns the internet domain names of most movement projects and hosts sites like Wikipedia.
- The foundation was founded in 2003 by Jimmy Wales as a way to fund Wikipedia and its sibling projects through non-profit means.

