

Reading Notes - ENGR392

Adrien Tremblay

Reading - Do objects have politics?

- Can an object be inherently good or bad?
- *Politics* - arrangements of power and authority in human associations.
- Can be used to enhance power of some people.
- Objects can exert political will on people and have politics in them* Though objects are neutral what if some are designed for some specific purpose?.
- Technology create inequality?
- View1: The adoption of a technology requires the creating of a specific set of social conditions
- Nuclear power plants require techno-scientific elite
- View 2: Technologies are strongly compatible with certain social and political relationships but are not absolutely necessary.
- Solar energy does not *require* democracy.
- There are both internal and external views on artifact politics.
- Inside the system or outside it.
- Democracy stops at the factory gate
- Should we redistribute wealth, have broader public participation or stronger centralized public and private management.
- Centralized systems and dangerous tech (like plutonium) motivate the government to invade privacy.
- When adopting a new technology:
- Are there alternatives?
- Will social groups change the tech's political implications?
- Author says we should focus on both the technical object itself and the context the object is situated.
- It is harder to justify changes in society politically

Reading - How Technology is Destroying Jobs

- Graph of Productivity vs Total jobs converged during the 2000's.
- Productivity rising but income is the same.
- Job market shifting
- What is the true cause of the lackluster job market?
- You need more education.
- *Will the job market work out?*
- Some tasks need humans
- Automation can help young companies.

Reading - The Automation Charade

- Does new tech really improve the lives of housewives?
- Or bring more work?
- Tech is not destroying jobs but shifting the job market.
- Robots must work with humans.

- The power of robots has been exaggerated.
- And used to fearmonger by corporations.

Reading May 25 - How We Treat Women by Kyle Edwards

- Man camps increase accounts of sexual assaults.
- Hyper masculine rigger mentality.
- Often women don't report their assaults.
- This sexual harassment has been going on for a long time.
- Reporting to the company doesn't do anything.

Reading May 25 - Doing Domestic Time by Wajcman

- Is work simply shifting?
- Wife expected to do all household work.
- Wives still spending a fuck ton of time.
- Why are we doing things independently in each household?
 - Communal thing failed.
- Certain tasks are manly and others womanly.
 - The womanly ones are more regular.
- Time spent remains constant due to rising expectations.
- Domestic energy use risen dramatically.
- Use of technology changing too.
 - Bathtubs.
 - People bath too much and power shower.
- Tech is transferred from industry to the home?
 - Not well attuned.
 - Washing machine, Fridge, Gas, Electricity, etc...
 - No one to measure efficiency?
- Parents invest more time in children.
- Dads do the fun stuff with their kids.
- Activities happen simultaneously.
- Domestic work is harder to automate and more emotional.
- Robots can take care of us. But do not care about us.
- People misuse the time saved with other gadgets.

Reading May 27 - United Nations Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples.

- Must have consent of indigenous people for things that affect them.
- Reparations.
- No discrimination.
- Cultural practice.
- *Free* means no coercion or manipulation.
- Indigenous peoples to be informed of everything.
- Local leaders must be consulted.
- This consent must be verified.

Reading May 27 - Injunctions have only served to prove the point: Canada is a smash-and-grab country for industry

- Injunctions allow companies (Like Coastal Gaslink) to have cops come and break blockades/protests.
- Too much power.
- Political weapon.
- Preemptive.

Reading May 27 - Code Is Law

- Each age has a threat to liberty and a regulator.
- Age of cyberspace, regulator is code?
- Internet will go from place of freedom to oppression.