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Exercise 9: Read "Informationalism, Networks, And the Network Society: A Theoretical Blueprint" by Manuel Castells and compose 3 questions you want to ask: 1 from author, 1 from lecturer and 1 from fellow students.

I'm, honestly, not sure if I got the question correctly. Why should I ask a question "from a fellow student" if I can ask one by myself? Or is the "from" related to the answer... anyway, I just composed super cool questions for interesting settings ;-)

Dear Castells. From student.

Already on the first page you state "[...] However, all nodes of a network are necessary for the network's performance. When nodes become redundant or useless, networks tend to reconfigure themselves, deleting some nodes, and adding new ones. [...]" (I allowed me to correct your English, I hope you don't mind). The first sentence makes a strong statement about the consistence of a network: It will never contain useless nodes. I doubt that! The next sentence already qualifies your statement by using the term "tend to", which literally means that they usually, but not necessarily will remove unused nodes. In fact communities may exist, which contain "useless" (that is not a proper term for my following example, but I try to stick with your terminology) components, such as families with disabled members or generally communities, which are not aligned at capitalistic mechanisms. I am aware of the fact that those may not be sociologic network societies as you define them in the first place. That is why my question is: What is your argumentation for substantiating your statement from above? What proves my doubts wrong?

The question could also be asked another way: Do network societies (or solitarily the concept of a network) which you propose necessarily have to follow capitalistic ideals?

Dear student. From lecturer.

Do today's networks really have no "center of gravity" anymore? Are they really rather horizontally aligned nowadays then in the past? Why?

Dear readers. From author.

Why is the conceptual framework which sees societies as information or knowledge societies wrong? What is the alternative?