

Cryptoanarchy has opened debates in two directions: whether it will inevitably result from technological development and whether crypto anarchy and anarchy are desirable after all (Ludlow 2001; Rot 2001; Denning 2001; Tüfekçi 2017). Chances and advantages of rhizomatic structures and horizontal structures have been explored, and alongside risks and dangers, such as the „tyranny of structurelessness“ (Freeman 1972/73) have come up. Tüfekçi delivers a convincing statement:

„Collective action has always required a balance between empowering the individual voice and expressing the will of the group. Digital technology can often amplify this tension. Sometimes, great unity and collective identity can emerge as people coalesce around hashtags that sing the song of the excluded and the marginalized. But networked movements have few means of dealing with the inevitable internal conflicts of politics, as well as the natural jockeying for status and attention“ (Tüfekçi 2017: 270).

New technological channels transform interaction and offer possibilities, but this stands for the marginalized as well as for those in power. What is sure though, is that technological transformations impact massively social dynamics (ibid. 263). To study this transformation of dynamics is a crucial point when evaluating technology and its benefits or dangers (ibid.). Further on, we have encountered that technology is flexible to adaptation, but also is regulation and law. We have seen hackers become legal experts and protesters (Coleman 2013). The evasion and bypassing of nation states and their legislation and coercive apparatuses has been a common to the various groups examined – be it refugees in remote settlements or crypto anarchists. The argument of cyberspace serving as a field of experimentation might be the strongest notion though:

„The kinds of utopias that we should rather aspire to may be community-based, experimental, dynamic (in the sense that they constantly change), and perhaps short-lived. They may be places carved out of cyberspace and protected by encryption technology, and they may nonetheless be squashed out of existence by government action or by economic reality. But this makes them no less utopian“ (Ludlow 2001: 21).