

Dissertation Research Proposal

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The “contemporary proliferation of political spaces and the multiplicity of democratic demands” (Mouffe, 2000, p.17) needs a new politics, a politics that works at the global and the local, the universal and the particular. New relationships of interconnectedness between people, communities, identities, artifacts, locations and events need to be reflected in the political culture of our institutions. What are the dynamics of these relationships? Where are these new political spaces emerging in such a tightly closed political culture?

The meshing of the politics of the Hacker, the Artist and the Activist has produced a manifesto for free/libre and open-source which I will refer to as f/los¹. Increasing contact with f/los artefacts, technologies and economies and the wider dissemination of f/los concepts is raising popular consciousness of emerging redefinitions for master concepts such as freedom, property and ownership. Freedom and openness are the two ideas central to the hacker culture and the movements it has influenced. These two ideas are by no means fixed definitions. Indeed it is the very flexibility of these ideas and the way in which they are redefined that is of interest.

¹The acronym FLOSS stands for Free / Libre and Open Source Software. I have hacked this acronym to free/libre and open-source as I am not concerned with the technology aspects of the term

References

Mouffe, C.: 2000, *The Democratic Paradox*, Verso, London.