

Reading Notes - Technology and Social Theory

Steve Matthews

~~Chapter~~ Introduction 2 (Ch)

- What is It

The reading comes from a book that concerns Social Theory and its relation to technology. Focuses on contemporary features not older

- What it says

- Theories provide framework for understanding social life
- French theoretical
- Five themes: Politics & technology, Materiality & power, non human agency, Subjectivity & tech & emergent sociology

"Everything is technology" - Fernand Braudel (1982, p331)

Artifacts affect history - do not drive

tech nor to define - slowly infiltrating everything we use, how do + we define w/ tech

Tech can be defined by objects, activities, & knowledge
Leo Marx - tech has moved from individual devices to solid technical systems

cf. Railway - needed more than just

creations + Train - bridges, tracks, tunnels, signals, stations, etc....

Wk det. of tech - mod + social organization

Tech is also objects, activities, knowledge, mod + organization, & socio-technical systems

extension of self - Marshall McLuhan (2015)

Info Communication Tech - assume agency

- suite of costs, investment + leads to necessary use
- expectation of use
- new way to perceive world
- better world + better some + others + their distrust