After the Internet

Module Outline
Dr. Zach Blas
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ABOUT
In 2015, Google CEO Eric Schmidt promises that “the Internet will disappear” into our environments, while artist Hito Steyerl—two years prior—has already suggested that the Internet died. Today, how can the Internet be simultaneously everywhere and dead? What exactly is the Internet—and what has it become? This module addresses these simple yet vastly complex questions through the frame of “after the Internet,” meaning both after the historical emergence and global reach of the Internet and digital networks but also the technical forms of communication that come after the Internet’s supposed death. Throughout the term, we will articulate what occurs “after the Internet” in relation to life, technology, politics, activism, aesthetics, art, and critical theory. Structured into four sections, the module commences with a consideration of 1) the histories, material infrastructures, and political impacts of networks and the Internet, followed by 2) the current trend to theorize our contemporary medial present as post-internet, post-digital, and post-media; 3) critical frustrations and disavowals of the Internet and the network form; and 4) a series of experimental approaches to theorizing and imagining the technologies and techniques that come “after the Internet.” We will read works spanning media theory, political philosophy, aesthetic theory, feminist and queer theory, journalism, and artists’ writings, as well as consider artwork by Louis Henderson, Laurel Ptak, Micha Cárdenas, Critical Art Ensemble, Jennifer Chan, jodi.org, among others.

SCHEDULE

1 “Networking the World”: Globalization and Assemblage

Art:
http://curatorsintl.org/exhibitions/mark-lombardi-global-networks

Suggested:
2 **Infrastructure, or What is the Internet?**
   “Introduction” pp. 2 - 27, “Physical Media” pp. 28 - 53
Keller Easterling, *Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space* (2014), excerpts:
   “Introduction” pp. 11 - 23, Ch. 3: “Broadband” pp. 95 - 136

Art:
   jodi.org, various works, [http://www.jodi.org/](http://www.jodi.org/)

Suggested:

3 **“Network Power”: On Governance and Politics**

Art:

Suggested:

4 **Network Representation: Visualization and Aesthetics**
Patrick Jagoda, *Network Aesthetics* (2015), selections

Suggested:

5 “Going Postal”: Post-Internet, Post-Digital, Post-Media

Art:
Jennifer Chan, various works, http://jennifer-chan.com/
Artie Vierkant, various works, http://artievierkant.com/
Petra Cortwright, various works, http://www.petracortwright.com/

Suggested:
Domenico Quaranta, Media, New Media, Postmedia (2010)

6 “We’re Tired of Rhizomes”: Beyond the Internet and Networks

Art:
Louis Henderson, All That Is Solid (2014)

Suggested:
7 Antiweb 1: Postcapitalist Politics

8 Antiweb 2: Contra-
Zach Blas, "Contra-Internet Aesthetics," You Are Here: Art After the Internet (2013), pp. 84 - 95


9 Antiweb 3: Utopianism
José Esteban Muñoz, Cruising Utopia: The Then and There of Queer Futurity (2009), excerpts: "Introduction: Feeling Utopia" pp. 1 - 18, Ch. 1: "Queerness as Horizon: Utopian Hermeneutics in the Face of Gay Pragmatism" pp. 19 - 32

Wu Tsang, A Day in the Life of Bliss (2014)

Suggested: Silvia Federici, "Wages against Housework" (1975)

10 Antiweb 4: Militancy and Organization (Cryptography, Dark Nets, and Mesh Networks)


Art:

Micha Cárdenas, Local Autonomy Networks (2012 – present), http://autonets.org/
Deep Lab, various works, http://www.deeplab.net/#home