

Review of: "The Moorings of the Intangible: Technology and Social Control"

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First of all, this article is commendable as the author strives to uncover the complex relationship between technology and society, particularly in the context of social control. Through a power-relations approach, the author illustrates how technology functions not merely as a tool but as a medium that reinforces structures of control in everyday life. The statement that "our daily lives are constantly controlled, with or without our consent" is striking and reflects the profound impact of technology on mobility, habits, and individual behavior.

The author adopts two key postmodernist perspectives. First, Michel Foucault's ideas are used to link technology with social control and power. Foucault provides a framework for understanding how modern technology functions as a surveillance tool that regulates individual behavior. In this context, the author shows that technology not only facilitates freedom but also creates new forms of control that individuals are often unaware of. Second, Zygmunt Bauman's notion of liquid modernity is employed to highlight how individuals must constantly adapt to rapid and unstable changes. According to Bauman, the fluid nature of modernity produces uncertainty and ambiguity, where individuals navigate between freedom and control.

One of the weaknesses of this paper lies in its hasty discussion of the relationship between liberalism, stress, and concentration. The author attempts to link capital concentration with liberalism's emphasis on self-interest. Market dynamics driven by self-interest can lead to stress and capital concentration. However, a potential flaw in this argument arises from the author's lack of in-depth explanation of how self-interest in liberalism directly contributes to capital concentration and stress.

Another shortcoming emerges when the author uses film as a tool to depict social and technological realities. Film itself is a technological product involving various elements such as cameras, lenses, and filming techniques, which directly influence how reality is presented to the audience. The analysis overlooks how the technology behind film production can simplify or even manipulate the reality depicted.

Although the relationship between technology and social control is explored, postmodernist thinking often becomes entangled in revealing complexities without providing concrete solutions to address the challenges within that complexity. In the views of Foucault and Bauman, individuals are portrayed as objects within a vast network of power, without offering an explanation of how they can anticipate or counteract these power relations. This highlights a typical weakness of postmodernism, where there is often no clear strategy for empowering individuals in the face of domination by specific

power structures.

The solutions proposed by the author feel normative and lack sufficient depth. More substantive solutions could include mapping the actors and networks involved in the development and use of technology. By understanding the interactions between various stakeholders, conflicting interests can be identified, and constructive dialogue between them can be fostered. It is also essential to incorporate local perspectives into policymaking processes to ensure that the solutions produced are more relevant and responsive to societal needs. By adopting a more comprehensive approach and considering the various social dimensions, a more effective strategy for addressing the relationship between technology and social control can be developed. This approach should not only focus on legal aspects but also recognize the complexity of actor interactions, thus encouraging the creation of policies and practices that are more inclusive and responsive to the needs of society.