

# Culture and Globalization

*Internet and Revolution*

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# Course Themes

power  
technology  
communication  
flows  
space & place  
capitalism  
political structure  
social change  
contact & connection  
inequality

# Kahn and Kellner

## New Media and Internet Activism



# Democracy

What do we mean by "democracy" both as an ideal and as a political system?

What relationships between the internet and democracy do the authors propose?



# **Above & Below**

What do they mean by globalization from above versus from below?

How does new internet media relate to this?

# Dumb and Smart Mobs

"As the virtual community theorist Howard Rheingold notes (2002), advances in personal, mobile informational technology are providing rapidly the structural elements for the existence of fresh kinds of highly-informed, autonomous communities that coalesce around local lifestyle choices, global political demands, and everything in-between" (p. 89).

# Internet and Politics

What examples of internet activism do the authors provide?

Do we agree with their analyses of these moments?

# Internet and Politics

- anti-war protests
- Google-bombing McDonalds
- warblogging
- Trent Lott
- flash mobs





# Limits to Virtual Democracy?

"Whether by using the internet to take part in a worldwide expression of dissent and disgust, to divert corporate agendas and militarism through the construction of freenets and new oppositional spaces and movements, or simply to encourage critical media analysis, debate, and new forms of journalistic community, the new information and communication technologies are indeed revolutionary. To a meaningful extent, they constitute a dramatic transformation of everyday life that is presently being constructed and enacted by internet subcultures. Yet, this transformation has often been a revolution that also promotes and disseminates the capitalist consumer society, individualism and competition, and that has involved new modes of fetishism, enslavement, and domination yet to be clearly perceived and theorized" (p. 93).

# Kahn & Kellner

## Key terms

- democracy
- globalization from above and from below
- neoliberalism
- dumb mobs versus smart mobs
- hacktivism

# **Antony and Thomas**

Citizen Journalism and Oscar Grant

# Mainstream Media

Antony and Thomas contrast an idea of the mainstream media as "watch dogs" with the notion that they are "guard dogs."



What do they mean by this, and why does internet media matter for this?

# Jurgen Habermas & the Public Sphere

The public sphere is where "private individuals" communicate about their interests, values, needs.

It is understood as independent of the state, and a vehicle for exerting pressure on the state when the state fails to represent the public.

How do the authors connect this notion to citizen journalism?

# Methods

What was the authors research question?

What methods did they use?



# **Citizen Journalism & Political Action**

What limits and possibilities of citizen journalism did their research suggest?

# Group Discussion Questions

1. Does social media make new forms of revolution possible?
2. What are some relationships between activism online and on-the-ground?
3. Do the examples of Occupy Wall Street and Arab Spring challenge or support the arguments of Kahn & Kellner and Antony & Thomas?