

Next meeting: 26 September 12:00-14:00.

Reading for next meeting:

- Paradoxes Of Openness and Distinction in The Sharing Economy - Schor, Fitzmaurice, Carfagna, Attwood-Charles, and Dubois Poteat - 2016
- Ghost Work: How to Stop Silicon Valley from Building a New Global Underclass-Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - Gray, and Suri - 2019
- The New Geography of Work: Power to The Precarious? - Ross - 2008

Discussion of The Social Photo: On Photography and Social Media:

- Initial thought raised that he was unclear at times: claimed no one was discussing what he would discuss then listed people who were relevant to it, for example. Also mentioned that Jodi Dean's work on secondary viscosity might be of more use/better academic work.
- The idea of nostalgia invoked was said to be interesting/done well.
- Detox from social media was equally seen as an interesting idea but felt that people are able to 'detox' from it incrementally, rather than having to go to the extremes pointed out in the book. This led to consideration of the mobile phone ban in Victorian schools and how this is a form of behaviour regulation. Overall this idea may not be as easy to dismiss as being some form of neo-luddism. Potential strawman created by Jurgenson for the sake of this argument here then.
- The fundamental concept of how we approach photography raised here is still useful though, such as the shift from the traditionally artistic ideal of what is seen as 'photography', thus democratising it. Instead, the photo becomes more of a means of communication, in place of the written word for example, allowing for potentially greater subjectivities through what is presented.
- Issues were still raised with the work, even if it does have a useful premise though. For example, it was felt Jurgenson brushed off some criticisms simply because they appear to exist before 'the social photo' too, that social photos/selfies were presented as simply another development in photography at times, failing to engage with unique elements of it. Many ideas began to formulate but did not really go anywhere.
- Questions were thus raised about if a framework/orientation were sufficient for the work to be satisfactory, or if the lack of follow through brought it down too much. This should be considered with the understanding that the image and social photography are key to understanding the internet today, again echoing the idea that it is a useful concept if nothing else.