WikiWars Timetable

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

9.00–9.45	Welcome, with Nishant Shah, Geert Lovink and Rut Jesus & Anne Goldenberg
9.45–12.15	**Wiki Theory** (p.3)
	Shunling Chen, Stuart Geiger, Beatriz Martin, Dipti Kulkarni
12.15–13.15	Lunch
13.15–15.00	**Global Politics of Exclusion** (p.7)
	Mark Graham, Alok Nandi, Dror Kamir
15.00–15.15	Coffee, tea
15.15–16.45	**Critique of Free and Open** (p.12)
	Linda Gross, Heather Ford, Elad Wieder, Nathaniel Tkacz
16.45–17.30	Round table: synthesis

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

09.00–11.30	**Wikipedia and Education** (p.16)
	Usha Raman, Nupoor Rawal & Srikiet Tadepali
11.30–11.45	Coffee, tea
11.45–13.30	**Wikipedia and The Place of Resistance** (p.19)
	William Buetler, Eric Ilya Lee, Tawileh, Zona Yi-Ping Tsou
13.30–14.30	Lunch
14.30–16.30	**Wikipedia and Critique of Western Knowledge Production** (p.22)
	Johanna Niesyto, Eric Zimmerman, Stian Håklev, Han Teng Liao
16.30–16.45	Coffee, tea
16.45–17.30	**Wikipedia and Art** (p.27)
	Scott Kildall and Nathaniel Stern, Rut Jesus and Anne Goldenberg
17.30–18.00	Round table: synthesis

Wiki Thoery

Moderator: Geert Lovink[1] (NL)

Besides providing a general overview of the topics to come, and with an emphasis on diverse global approaches, the aim here is to develop concepts that could be used in further research and that could fit into larger projects on Internet culture and the critique of the free and open. Is it possible to develop a counter-hegemony of critical practices that situates itself in the midst of technological cultures? What kind of critical lessons does Wikipedia provide in the face of overwhelming Web 2.0 hype and P2P utopianism? How can a radical Wikipedia critique be developed that does not present itself as the cynical 'I told you so' outsider or mimic the neo-conservatist position of Andrew Keen? What kind of insight can Wikipedia offer regarding the continuing tension between knowledge and information?

The first conference of the Critical Point of View–WikiWars, was organized by the Centre for Internet & Society, Bangalore, India in collaboration with the Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

1. ^ **Geert Lovink** is a Dutch-Australian media theorist and critic and founding director of the Institute of Network Cultures. He holds a PhD from the University of Melbourne in Australia and was Post Doctorate Fellow at the Centre for Critical and Cultural Studies, University of Queensland in 2003. In 2004 Geert Lovink was appointed Research Professor at the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences and Associate Professor at the University of Amsterdam. He is the founder of Internet projects such as nettime and fibreculture. He authored the books *Dark Fiber* (2002), *Uncanny Networks* (2002) and *My First Recession* (2003). In 2005–06 he was a fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg Berlin Institute for Advanced Study, where he finished his third volume on critical Internet culture, *Zero Comments* (2007).

Speakers:

Shunling Chen[2] (TW/US)
Wikipedia—A republic of Science Democratized?

This paper seeks to understand Wikipedia as a site for the reorientation of knowledge and power through the intricate relationships between knowledge, technology, and legal/social order which surfaced with its emergence. It has borrowed analytical tools from STS to show that Wikipedia has tried to offer a new network for making reference works, and has done boundary-work to show that it is a credible and viable alternative to traditional encyclopedias.

The findings have stark implications for those who would embrace Wikipedia as an inherent library or critical space for the un-coerced production of knowledge. At first, it is tempting to use these findings to bolster support for Wikipedia, showing that it is indeed on par with traditional sources of knowledge production. However, what is the cost of such a response, especially regarding the ideals of freedom and openness that have surrounded Wikipedia?

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Stuart Geiger[3] (US)
The Wisdom of Bots: A Critique of 'Self-Organization' in Wikipedia

This paper argues that a significant amount of Wikipedia's underlying social and epistemic structure should be attributed to a heterogeneous network of automated and semi-automated computer programs, user interface enhancements, and other tools used by Wikipedians. As a case study, it examines the process of 'vandal fighting' in Wikipedia and traces in detail the case of identifying an anonymous user as a vandal and subsequently blocking the user from editing. The paper focuses on the user's edits and the various actors in the process—humans, bots and assisted editing tools deployed in order to enable a form of decentralized collaboration.

Beatriz Cintra Martin[4] (BR)
Wikipedia and the reinvention of authorship through digital media

This analysis attempts to include the technological platforms that provide the support base for discursive production in each historical period, or 'writing spaces'—to adopt the concept Jay Bolter uses to define the interaction between the material properties of each support base and social practices surrounding the appropriation of writing. The hypothesis is that Wikipedia represents a new model of authorship for our times that, in turn, is linked to the way discursive production is socially validated.

Wikipedia is, quite evidently, a site of dispute where meaning is negotiated, where a wide range of sectors of society participate in critical

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2. ^ **Shunling Chen** is a doctoral student at Harvard Law School. She is interested in on-line collaboration such as free software projects. She seeks to on one hand develop a critique of copyright, and on the other explore internal governance issues within such projects. She has also been working extensively on indigenous rights, especially on the issues of self-governance and natural resources management. She sees both kinds of community efforts —digital and tribal—as attempts to provide alternative thinking of social relationships and different models of resource distribution. She was the founding project co-lead of Creative Commons Taiwan. She has worked as an in-house of a free software project, as well as a law clerk at the Wikimedia Foundation.

3. ^ **Stuart Geiger** is a researcher at Georgetown University's Communication, Culture, and Technology program, in Washington, D.C. He studies knowledge production in distributed or decentralized organizations, paying close attention to the sociality of technologies that sustain collaboration. Stuart's research specifically focuses on the production and maintenance of order in both Wikipedia and scientific research networks. He uses a variety of qualitative and quantitative methods and is influenced by a number of disciplines, including media and communication studies, science and technology studies, critical software studies, and information studies.

4. ^ **Beatriz Martins** is from the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and has special intrest in authorship and authority.

definitions of content. To what extent this process is made up of pressures and limitations is a matter that still calls for more research.

Dipti Kulkarni[5] (IN)
Wikipedia: A Social Semiotics Perspective

This paper looks at Wikipedia from a communications and linguistic perspective and argues that language in Wikipedia is used exclusively for information. It is also argued that not only does Wikipedia provide information but it does so while suppressing the interpersonal strand of language. The paper draws on the disciplines of Communications and Linguistics for its study of Wikipedia. The first part outlines some of the ways in which the communicative context has been conceptualized and discusses the features of the context specific to Wikipedia. Wikipedia is seen here, as an instance of technology-engendered, deferred communication where the goal is exclusively to provide information. In the next section, a basic stylistic analysis is done to show how the text is impacted by and encodes aspects of the communicative context and to point to the linguistic choices adopted by the genre in order to exclusively convey information. The last part shows in more formal terms how the interpersonal component of language is suppressed in Wikipedia.

The analysis is based on introductions to the following eight Wikipedia entries, each of which was randomly picked from different sections of Wikipedia's featured content: The Lucy Poems, The Manila Light Rail Transit System, Lung Cancer, Forest Park, Edward Wright (mathematician), Jupiter, Barack Obama, and Ganesha. The Simple Concordance Program (SCP) was used for analysis.

Global Politics of Exclusion

5. ^ **Dipti Kulkarni** is currently pursuing her PhD in Language and Communication at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. While being interested in questions of meaning as dealt within the Philosophy of Language, Communication, and Linguistics she is also interested in mediated communication and the effect of these new technology contexts have on human language and communication. Dipti has a Master in Communication Studies from the University of Pune and has worked for three years as a communication researcher at the Centre for Media Studies, New Delhi.

Moderator: Asha Achuthan[6] (IN)

Tyranny of the connected: In societies which are compounded by digital and participation divides, the connected usually always win over those who don't have access and time to spare. Gendered Knowledge: While women are strongly represented among readers, globally, they are hardly represented among contributors. In offlist chats, women express that they do not feel comfortable when contributing to Wikipedia conversations. They even felt silenced by the perception of Wikipedia as a masculine tech culture. Some women have already created an alternative space of discussion at wikichix.org. Does the separation of discussion spaces and the marginalization of domestic issues and social impacts on Wikipedia turn back time?

Morality laundering: Moral standards that exist in one country are being exported to other countries via Wikipedia. For example, photo-realistic images of human bodies on pages dealing with sexuality and anatomy are being replaced with drawings. Does this type of common denominator approach undermine the pluralism of global sexuality? The call and eventual refusal of image censorship for the entry on Mohammad represents a similar scenario.

Language diversity: Despite the self-imposed normative claim of language diversity and the self-description of Wikipedia as a truly multi-lingual project, English is the Lingua Franca in translingual meta projects and policy discussions. Also, on the level of content, is the English Wikipedia the 'Leitmedium' in terms of (content) synchronization. In what other ways does the language divide operate on Wikipedia?

Global governance: Governance of Wikipedia has evolved and become increasingly sophisticated to match its phenomenal growth and the attention it has garnered. While these changes in governance have managed to sustain the growth of Wikipedia and prevent its credibility from being undermined, there is a need to understand the impact that various governance mechanisms have on the different incarnations of Wikipedia throughout the world. Such analysis should consider separately (and compare) different national chapters, plus extend beyond Wikipedia projects to the governance of the Wikimedia Foundation.

Does the separation of the marginalization of and discussion spaces and domestic issues social impacts on Wikipedia turn back time?

Speakers:

Mark Graham[7] (UK)
Wiki Space–Palimpsests and the Politics of Exclusion

This paper makes the argument that there are three core reasons that Wikipedia is anything but a floating layer of information, or a global component of the palimpsests of place. That is, Wikipedia is characterised by uneven geographies, uneven directionality and uneven politics. This paper will thus detail the abilities of Wikipedia to influence the palimpsests of place in three ways. First, a database of all geo-tagged articles in the encyclopaedia is examined in order to visualise the distinct geographies of Wikipedia. Some parts of the world are characterised by highly dense virtual representations, while others have essentially become virtual terra incognita. Second, the geographies of some of the language editions are looked at in order to explore the distinct directions in which information can flow in the encyclopaedia. Finally, through a few case studies, some of the politics and power relationships of representation within Wikipedia are highlighted.

The paper concludes on the note that Wikipedia, at least the English language version, is often presented as having exhausted potential topics. Much work has gone into examining bias in the content that already exists, but maybe more focus is needed on the information that simply isn't there.

Alok Nandi[8] (CD/BE)
Constructing WikiHeroes–A Case Study of an Indian Auteur and His Presence/Demise on the Wikipedia

This paper builds up on the Bangalore discussions and the further research triggered by these and will throw light on whether the Wikipedia is a meta-narrative? The case study also focuses on the oeuvre of the auteur Ray along with an analysis on how it is disbalanced in terms of description of frameworks, of discourses will lead to questioning an aesthetic eco-system.

Dror Kamir[9] (IL)
Side, your Side and Wikipedia—the tension between neutral information and narrative knowledge on Wikipedia demonstrated with articles about the Middle East conflict

It is assumed that while many editors of Wikipedia adhere to the notion that knowledge is better reflected if individually held portions of knowledge were put together to form a unified corpus. However, some of the policies currently governing the work on Wikipedia are not in line with this notion, as they seem to give some precedence to narratives and culturally influenced views on the account of informative texts written in a universal approach.

This article discusses the lack of hierarchy among the three basic principles of Wikipedia, which allows some manipulation by editors in the aforementioned direction, and the principle of community autonomy which creates secluded corpora of knowledge within Wikipedia based on examples taken from articles related to the Middle East conflict on the Arabic, Hebrew and English Wikipedias.

8. ^ **Alok Nandi** is active in media art and design, with a focus on interactive mise-en-scene and narrative architecture. His background combines engineering, management and film studies. He is an invited professor and regular speaker in international conferences and a jury member in film and media festivals. His previous professional experiences include i.e. advertising (P&G), film production, exhibition design and publishing (Casterman, groupe Flammarion).

9. ^ **Dror Kamir** worked mainly in the fields of Natural Language Processing and translation. He became active in the Hebrew Wikipedia in April 2005, then became active also in the Arabic and English Wikipedias, but is currently in a long 'Wiki vacation' from all three, and focusing on promoting free-content policy in Israel as a board member of Wikimedia Israel, of which he was one of the founders, and as a volunteer of the Wikimedia Foundation. In Wikimania 2008 in Alexandria, Egypt, he delivered the presentation "Cross-Cultural Dialog through Wikipedia".

7. ^ **Mark Graham** is a Research Fellow at the Oxford Internet Institute. His work focuses on the geographies of the Internet and uses of ICT for development. His research can be divided into three categories: ICT for development (particuarly work focused on Thailand and East Africa) (his published papers can be accessed at geospace.co.uk); hybrid urban spaces and the politics of virtual globes (much of his work in this category is available on the floatingsheep. org blog); and non-proximate transparency and economic reorganisation (see for example the wikichains.com project that he recently started).

Critique of Free and Open

Moderator: Sunil Abraham[10] (IN)

Vacuous collaboration: Master concepts like freedom and openness are at constant risk of remaining empty or constituting an 'empty signifier'. The failure to fill such concepts has lead to many descriptions of Wikipedia as 'collaborations' or even 'ad hoc meritocracies' (Alex Bruns). Both these second-tier notions also tend to mask the reconfiguration of the political and new forms of closure.

Paid and voluntary community manipulation: Many Wikipedians hold strong opinions on a range of sensitive areas including identity, religion, science, politics, culture, and use sophisticated techniques such as astro-turfing on Wikipedia. Additionally, some states, corporations and organized religious groups sometimes pay specialists to engage in astro-turfing in order to remove critical opinions and rewrite information from Wikipedia.

Topics may include: the parasite model of free culture ('You work for free, others will make the money from your free labour.'), governance, the role of developers, economy of Wikipedia, the beliefs of the founders as the political foundation of Wikipedia, critical interrogation of knowledge in relation to 'the open'.

Speakers:

Linda Gross[11] (DE)
Wikipedia: Openness, Egalitarianism and the Emergence of Structures

Free and Open seem to be the signifying revolutionary characteristics of the FLOSS movement and also of the Open Content Movement. Originating from the communities' self-description, these concepts have entered public and scientific discourse. This talk contributes to the conceptualization of openness in Wikipedia by analyzing it on the level of practice and on the level of ideology. Employing a qualitative sociological framework, it focuses on the methods users of Wikipedia apply, i.e. their routine practices of 'Doing Wikipedia', explaining what structures in Wikipedia like ideology, norms and rules mean to users and their action.

10. ^ **Sunil Abraham** is the Executive Director at the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS), India. The CIS (cis-india.org) aims to critically engage with concerns of digital pluralism, public accountability and pedagogic practices, in the field of Internet and Society, with particular emphasis on South-South dialogue and exchange. Sunil is a social entrepreneur and Free Software advocate. He founded Mahiti (mahiti.org) in 1998 which aims to reduce the cost and complexity of Information and Communication Technology for the Voluntary Sector by using Free Software. He was elected an Ashoka fellow in 1999 to 'explore the democratic potential of the Internet'. He was granted a Sarai FLOSS fellow in 2003. Between June 2004 and June 2007, Sunil also managed the International Open Source Network (iosn.net) a project of United Nations Development Programme's Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme serving 42 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

11. ^ **Linda Gross** is a Stipendiary at the DFG Research Training Group 'Entering the Knowledge Society: Science in Applied and Advisory Contexts' at the Institute for Science and Technology Studies, University of Bielefeld, Germany.

What particular economic and cultural contexts are necessary for Creative Commons licenses to be successful?

Heather Ford[12] (ZA)
Current research into critiques of Creative Commons

This research paper poses the question of whether we are trying to use the CC solution (which was designed for a very particular purpose in a very specific context) to solve a series of very different problems faced by people in the Global South. The author's aim is to use the Creative Commons license data to develop a series of visualisations to understand why Creative Commons isn't being adopted by certain communities by remixing current visualisations and analytics to develop a more global view of open licensing trends according to GDP, internet penetration, education levels etc. Using this data, it poses the questions: ⌄ What particular economic and cultural contexts are necessary for Creative Commons licenses to be successful? How does the design and development of the license suite affect its target audience? And if we were to approach specific problems faced by creators in the Global South in designing new solutions, how different would the result be?

Elad Wieder[13] (IL)
Communities vs. Markets—The dissonance within growing free and open projects

This paper looks at the question of whether a project based on a community of volunteers stays viable while striving to be genuinely open and free? The relevance of this question rises as the free/open movement evolves from software to content. It also distinguishes between different types of projects pertaining to use free and / or open standards, based on triple criteria related to the creation and evolution of such projects.

Nathaniel Tkacz[14] (AU)
Force is Not Binary—The implications of Open Politics

This presentation explores the reemergence of openness as a political concept, which both resonates with and differs from Popper's. The genealogy of this second coming commences with the hacker-geek computer cultures of the late 70s and 80s where it manifests specifically as Open Source software, through to the numerous Open Projects (Open Access Publishing, Open Education, Open Hardware etc.) associated with online network cultures and eventual general deployment in institutional politics. While the paper acknowledges the real force of this concept as a rallying tool, it eventually argues via a reconsideration of Popper as well as the projects mentioned above, that the open suffers a constitutional poverty: it tells us nothing about the relations of force that emerge under its name.

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12. ^ **Heather Ford** is a South African social entrepreneur, researcher and writer who is currently enrolled as a Masters student at the UC Berkeley iSchool where she is researching collaboration and the governance of global online communities. She is a former Wikimedia Foundation Advisory Board member and the former Executive Director of iCommons—an international organisation started by Creative Commons to connect the open education, access to knowledge, free software, open access publishing and free culture communities around the world. She was a co-founder of Creative Commons South Africa and of the South African non-profit, The African Commons Project as well as a community-building initiative called the GeekRetreat—bringing together South Africa's top Web thinkers to talk about how to make the local Internet better.

13. ^ **Elad Wieder** is an Israeli lawyer and Creative Commons activist with special interests in communities vs. markets. He also works as Coordinator at the Haifa Center of Law & Technology at the University of Haifa, Israel.

14. ^ **Nathaniel Tkacz** is a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne and is also employed as a Research Fellow at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. His research lies at the intersection of network theory, software studies and politics.

Weekipedia and Edukasion

Moderator: Nishant Shah[15] (IN)

Knowing about knowing: While technologies like newspapers, television, radio and cinema have given birth to educational institutions that engage in media studies, thereby providing tools for the discerning citizen-consumer and future professional, there is still much work required to develop similar critical models for emerging projects like Wikipedia. The common institutional (non)response to warn against the 'dangers' of Wikipedia-like projects and discourage or ban their use seems grossly inadequate. The rise of 'prosumers' suggests a need for new 'production literacies' in addition to the traditional 'consumption literacy'. Furthermore, there is also a growing number of meta projects on Wikipedia that seek cooperation with schools and academia. But is the Wikimedia foundation and select national bodies the legitimate actors to teach media literacy or is this rather a public relations effort? What would Wikipedia literacy entail?

Speakers:

Usha Raman[16] (IN)
Definitive references and disruptive locations? The Wikipedia as a school teaching-learning resource

This discussion paper considers the ways in which collaborative knowledge production and their existence within an essentially disruptive medium can alter the dynamics of instructional spaces, particularly at the secondary school level, where use of the Internet as a reference source begins to take on importance. The paper will draw on a variety of perspectives across learner and educator groups

15. ^ **Nishant Shah** is Director-Research, at the Bangalore based Centre for Internet and Society. His doctoral and post-doctoral work raises questions about digital identities, cultural productions and new pedagogies in the emerging field of Internet and Society. His work cuts across different parts of Asia and seeks to articulate new vocabularies, frameworks and methods of research and intervention in the region. He is currently engaged in working on a project on Digital Natives and potentials for socio-political transformation and mobilisation.

16. ^ **Usha Raman**, PhD Communications Consultant, L V Prasad Eye Institute Visiting Professor, Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad. He has special intrest in the social impact of technology and learning styles, and their relationship with the production and validation of knowledge.

along with existing literature to explore the influence of interactive (or seemingly interactive) sources of information on the politics of knowledge creation, definition, consumption and validation.

Nupoor Rawal[17] & Srikiet Tadepalli[18] (IN)
Problems of authenticity in experiential information on the English Wikipedia

The article argues that a large portion of Wikipedia includes detailed articles about national, regional and local practices. The drawback in the Wikipedia model (user-contributes → admin/experienced user/subject expert-verifies → article becomes an information authority) lies in characteristic of the 'peer to peer' dissemination of information. Here, instead of destabilizing the notion of a central information authority, which Wikipedia strives to do by enabling every consumer of knowledge to have a stake in its production, it merely recreates smaller centres. This process is problematic since nationality, ethnicity, etc. are given parameters that enable privilege of authenticity to people who provide information. Their subjective experience gets mapped onto a seemingly neutral, informative article.

Wikipedia And the Place Of Resist- ance

17. ^ **Noopur Raval** is currently in the third year of a B.A. in Media Studies, Literature and Psychology at Christ University, Bangalore. He worked as an intern at the Times of India and Radio Mirchi in Ahmedabad, India. His interests are Philosophy, Web design, Culture Studies, Learning languages, Sociolinguistics, Studies of cyberspace, etc.

18. ^ **Srikiet Tadepalli** is currently pursuing the 3rd year (5th Semester) of a Bachelor of Arts in Communicative (Functional) English from the Dept. of Media Studies, Christ University, Bangalore since June '07. Course majors are Communicative English, Literature and Psychology. He is administrator (since July '06) and Editor (since January '06) on the English Wikipedia and member of the Wikimedia's OTRS (Open Ticket Resource System) committee, which is responsible for answering queries directed to the Wikimedia Foundation. He conducted the session 'Wikipedia Editing for Beginners' as a speaker at Barcamp Bangalore 7, a tech conference at IIM Bangalore (September '08).

Moderator: Amie Perry[19] (TW)

Can Wikipedia be said to be a social movement itself and/or how do social movement actors appropriate Wikipedia to build alternatives? Why do people resign from Wikipedia? Are critical voices silenced by the majority of the mass? Does the exclusion of the Wikipedia Art project reveal that within Wikipedia there is no place for contesting forms, repertoires, and styles that go beyond linguistic approaches? Rituals and mechanisms of exclusion offer critical insights into the contemporary status of resistance formation in an paradigmatic age of diversity and inclusion. Going beyond and extending the thinking of social movement scholars such as Touraine or Melucci, the study of Wikipedia might inform culture and identity approaches of social movement studies and vice versa.

Speakers:

William Buetler[20] (US)
Wikipedia's Open Door and Closing Window

The article argues about the vast disparity between the average Internet user's dependence on Wikipedia for information and the relative understanding of how Wikipedia actually works. The article also points out that for all its ambiguity, few people know that Wikipedia literacy is surprisingly low and that the separation between the number of people who read Wikipedia every month and the number of people who contribute is vast and that this pains many long time Wikipedia supporters.

Eric Ilya Lee[21] (TW)
Re-appropriating Wikipedia: Lazy People's Archives

The article argues that while Chinese wikipedian content when compared to English wikipedia, may still have a long way to go, a way of using Chinese wikipedian content is tactically important in carving new media user-generated content's social impact. Local name of the usage is 'LPA, Lazy People's Archive', a kind of content protocol for rapidly wrapped related (and unrelated, sometimes) articles, images and videos and usually organized in chronicled order and that from the local perspective, wikipedian entries are especially functioning as LPAs when controversial events happen and are appropriated by netizens.

Zona Yi-Ping Tsou[22] (TW)
Resistance, Reluctance and Reticence: Why Taiwan does not like Wikipedia

This research raises the issue of the relatively inactive Wikipedia community in Taiwan and proposes a contextualized account for such reticence. The author makes the bold claim that the reticence of youth could be seen as an empowering illustration of subcultural resistance and a critique of the paradigm of Wikipedia, or perhaps, even of the universalized formation of knowledge production that does not take regional and cultural contingency into account.

19. ^ **Amie Parry** teaches American Literature in the Foreign Languages and Literatures Department of Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu. Her book on modernist poetics and countermodernities is forthcoming from Duke University Press.

20. ^ **William Buetler** is an Innovation Manager at NMS and an active member of the Wikipedia community. He has written for the Washington Monthly and Weekly Standard, and has appeared on Bloggingheads.tv, 'The Radio Factor' with Bill O'Reilly and NPR's 'Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me!'. Beutler received a degree in English from the University of Oregon, where he spent two years as editor-in-chief of the student-run Oregon Commentator.

21. ^ **Ilya Eric Lee** is an Internet cultural activist, independent researcher, coordinator/project manager and sociology PhD student based in Taipei and Hsinchu, Taiwan. He has devoted the last decade to open-source and open-culture related projects, and has worked at TELDAP, Taiwan (The e-Learning and Digital Archives Program) since 2004. His personal interest is in strategic planning, participatory knowledge management and narrative architecture. He currently represents TELDAP on the Culturemondo International Steering Committee, Ilya is also co-Chair of APAN (Asia-Pacific Advance Network) eCulture working group, one of the co-founders of OSGeo, Taiwan, one of the supervisory board members of the Software Liberty Association of Taiwan, and a member of staff at the Social Brain Foundation: All roles which converge on the everyday practices of our information society. He enjoys interdisciplinary practices and hybridity experiments, theoretical dialogues and methodological adventures. Right now connecting back to the tradition of Science Technology Studies and contextualizing Japanese agriculture innovations are his favorite subjects of study.

22. ^ **Zona Yi-Ping Tsou** is a graduate student at the National Central University, Chungli, Taiwan. Since she has written her thesis on an avant-garde poet in Taiwan who utilizes Internet technology to make a transparent poetry volume, she has become interested in questions of user generated technologies and subcultural representations.

Wikipedia and Critique of Western knowledge Produc-tion

Moderator: Zainab Bawa[23] (IN)

The persistence of almost buried master-narratives: The Western tradition of Enlightenment tends to permeate both common and official understandings of knowledge on Wikipedia. Mirroring the Enlightenment itself, Wikipedia both offers a very particular type of knowledge and simultaneously makes claims upon the universal— e.g. in the formulation of visionary goals, structure of articles, author positions, writing style, categorization of entries, conflict resolution models and so on. The ways in which such ideals persist and con-tinue to bear their mark on the present in often subtle ways requires further attention. Indeed, the 'grand narratives' of the Enlightenment that Jean-Françis Lyotard claimed had retreated with the emergence of 'computerized societies' continue to inform the popular imaginary in ways largely untouched by the deconstructive moment. Frederic Jameson once referred to this as the 'persistence of buried master-narratives', a 'political unconscious' that guides decisions irrespective of philosophical status. Likewise, this resonates with Foucault's urge 'to reveal a positive unconscious of knowledge' as that which per-forms the task of subjugation but operates beyond contention. What matters here is not truth or belief, but operation.

The predominance of textual or even linguistic cultures: The current system of Wikipedia citation prejudices textual systems of knowledge over oral and visual systems of knowledge. This undervalues the knowledge systems of cultural memory and related technique suchan as mnemo techniques or oral poetry on the one hand, and illiterate populations on the other hand.

23. ^ **Zainab Bawa** is a PhD student at the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Ban-galore, India. She studies urban spaces.

Speakers:

Johanna Niesyto[24] (DE)
Wikipedia as a Translingual Space

By drawing on interviews with 16 users of the English, French and German language versions of Wikipedia, my talk explores the hidden layer of the translingual. While most users describe the language versions as disconnected from each other, in particular the manual and bot-based interlanguage links are understood as practice and technological space that links different language versions. Besides, the 'trans' of translingual knowledge production is described by the interviewed users mostly in terms of ideas about the Wikipedia's key principle NPoV. In my talk I introduce the two main user definitions of the principle: SPoV (Scientific Point of View) and PPoV (Pluralistic Point of Views). Based on this distinction I raise questions about how these principles may be 'scaled up' by creating a space of knowledge production across language versions.

Eric Zimmerman[25] (IL)
Wikis and Current Research Information Systems

This paper shows that one way to increase trust in wiki use is to assist users in identifying the identity and expertise of authors and editors of content and how this can be accomplished by linking author and editor names to current research information systems. The paper further argues that this may prove difficult with general purpose wikis based on the fundamentals of contributor anonymity, but for specialized wikis this might be a feasible solution.

Stian Håklev[26] (NO/CA)
Equitable Governance in Multilingual Wikipedia

This paper argues that more work needs to be done on discussing Wikipedia governance (and governance of large volunteer online projects in general) and that language presents an additional obstacle that is almost insurmountable, even for the most savvy local administrator. The paper does not intend to propose any finished solutions to this thorny problem but aims to raise an awareness of this important issue and to begin a discussion and propose some tentative ideas to mitigate the issue.

24. ^ **Johanna Niesyto** is a PhD student in political sciences. She works as a research fellow in the project "Changing Protest and Media Cultures" at the collaborative research centre "Media Upheavals" (University of Siegen, Germany). Her key interests cover globalisation, public spaces, democracy, political campaigns, contentious politics, political consumerism, cyberculture, and social web. In her thesis she looks at Wikipedia as a translingual public space of political knowledge production. Johanna is co-editor/author of "Politik mit dem Einkaufswagen" (Politics with the shopping trolley; Bielefeld 2007, together with S. Baringhorst, V. Kneip and A. März), "Political Campaigning on the Web" (Bielefeld 2009, together with S. Baringhorst an V. Kneip), "Protest Online/Offline" (Wiesbaden 2010, together with S. Baringhorst, V. Kneip und A. März).

25. ^ **Eric Zimmerman** is a game designer, academic, and writer who has been working in the game industry for more than 16 years. He has created dozens and dozens of games of

all kinds, from massively multiplayer online games to physical games designed for galleries and musems to card and board games. Making games is his life's passion. He has taught at schools like MIT, NYU, and Parsons School of Design. Teaching has helped him understand what games are and how to create meaningful experiences for players. He has written about game design in books like Rules of Play, co-authored with Katie Salen, considered a standard textbook for game design. Zimmerman is also the co-founder of Gamelab, a NYC-based game development studio that was in operation for nine years with a peak staff of 30. Since Gamelab closed last year, he has been teaching, consulting, and working on a wide range of independent projects.

26. ^ **Stian Haklev** is a Toronto-based activist for open access to research and open education, and one of the founders of P2PU.

Han Teng Liao[27] (TW)
User-generated Encyclopedia as Critical Case of Keyword Economy

The paper argues that the research interest on Google and Wikipedia may even point to something bigger than just finding the correct information. Research on Google and Wikipedia has seen a substantial growth, not just in academic research, but also in market research usually under user-generated content. This paper proposes that after a very brief review of the two research endeavours, both search engines and user-generated content should be studied simultaneously under a theoretical framework in order to capture the emerging dynamics between search results and user-generated content.

Wikipedia and Art

Moderator: Namita Malhotra[28] (IN)

Art at the gates: Wikipedia Art is understood both as artwork and intervention. Taking place largely on Wikipedia itself, the project Wikipedia Art was considered controversial and was quickly removed (see recent debate on nettime-l). What does this project reveal about this type of knowledge production? What is the threshold of legitimacy for this type of knowledge and how are the boundaries policed? What is at stake in the rejection of art?

27. ^ **Han-teng Liao** is a doctoral candidate at the Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, Oxford, U.K., and a doctoral fellow at the Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan. As a student of various disciplines, his research reconsiders the role of keywords (sociolinguistics) and hyperlinks (webometrics) in shaping groups (governance) as bearers of ideas (political communication). He proposes the theory of keyword economy and corresponding geo-linguistic analysis, with his PhD project on a comparative study of two major user-contributed Chinese encyclopedias, Chinese Wikipedia and Baidu Baike. He holds an MSc in Computer Science and Information Engineering, an MA in Journalism, a BSc in Electrical Engineering and a BA in Foreign Languages and Literatures, all from the National Taiwan University.

28. ^ **Namita Malhotra** is a researcher of the Alternative Law Forum in Bangalore, and works on an interdisciplinary project on law and media. She is interested in exploring the intersections of law, culture, and new technologies. She has recently created two comic rescensions on copyright and trademark, and has compiled a database on queer readings of popular culture.

Speakers:

Scott Kildall[29] (US) and Nathaniel Stern[30] (AU)
Wikipedia Art: Citation as Performative Art

This paper explicates and unfolds the performance of Wikipedia Art as a critical analysis of Wikipedia. Like Wikipedia and like Wikipedia Art, it uses citations to make all of its arguments, almost entirely from mainstream sources of information (such as, and including, Wikipedia). This methodology is in line with that which the paper aims to critique.

Rut Jesus[31] (PT/DK) and Anne Goldenberg[32] (CA)
Our Coll(nn)ective Mind: Critics and The WikiWay

Our Coll(nn)ective Minds is a collective artistic installation inspired by wiki-like socio cognitive structures such as the Glass Plate Game, Mind Maps, and Open Space. This participative, low tech and immersive installation invited the participants to play and discuss concepts and relations between them through the two days of the conference. In order to understand better what these devices do, we explored a way to make a wiki 'live', following some of the same principles. The installation consisted of a giant cube made of bamboo, allowing participants to hang concepts (written or drawn) on paper, plasticine, origami and other hanging pieces. They were invited to place concepts in the cube, link them with other concepts and, by doing so, to participate in the creation of a collective mind map. The cubic space, which was editable throughout the conference, was aimed at focusing on the theme: Critics and the Wikiway. Participants were asked to add on to these two concepts, in order to tie together the conference and the participation in a creative, explorative wikiway, and therefore, to edit, correct, link and discuss each other's contributions. It became the occasion for mediated discussion but also the occasion to have face-to-face negotiations around the collective result. By bringing a highly interactive aspect to the conference we wanted to foment the spirit of community with an interplay between art, academic and critical reflexion. Though Our Coll(nn)ective Minds is not exclusively wiki related it will be proposed for the next WikiSym and Wikimania.

29. ^ **Scott Kildall** is a cross-disciplinary artist working with video, installation, prints, sculpture and performance. He gathers material from the public realm as the crux of his artwork in the form of interventions into various concepts of space. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Philosophy from Brown University and a Master of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago through the Art & Technology Studies Department. He exhibits his work internationally in galleries and museums. He has received fellowships and awards from organizations including the Kala Art Institute, The Banff Centre for the Arts and Turbulence.org and the Eyebeam Art + Technology Center.

30. ^ **Nathaniel Stern** is an American-born interdisciplinary artist who works in a variety of media, including interactive art, public art interventions, installation, video art, net.art and printmaking. He is currently working as an Assistant Professor of Art at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. Stern graduated with a degree in Textiles and Apparel Design from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York in 1999, and went on to study at the Interactive Telecommunications Program at New York University, graduating in 2001. He later taught digital art at the University of the Witwatersrand, while also practicing as an artist, in Johannesburg, South Africa from 20012006. He holds a PhD from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, where he wrote a dissertation on interactive art and embodiment.

31. ^ **Rut Jesus** is a PhD student based in Copenhagen. She is studying cooperation and distributed cognition in Wikiarticles. She studied Physics and Philosophy at Harvard University, worked for Learning Lab Denmark at the Center for Learning Games and ran different workshops in the interface of gaming/reflection/play, with themes as diverse as sexual identity or ontology, for activists and academics.

32. ^ **Anne Goldenberg** is a PhD student based in Montreal. She just completed her thesis in sociology and communication in which she studied negotiations of contributions in public wikis. She is also a wiki and free software researcher and practitioner. She directed the Wikigraphe project, sponsored by the CIAM. She also co-organized the RococoCamp / RecentchangesCamp who was held in Montreal 2006. She taught free software and wiki principles to several classes (UQAM, UPAM), research groups (labCMO, Computer society), community groups (Studio XX, Koumbit) and Unions (Studio XX, Koumbit, CCCP). She is also specialized in the organization of OpenSpace (Rocococamp, UPAM, SAT Code Forum). [Our Coll/nn/ective Mind] is her second artistic exploration of wiki principle. She had set up a first version of the project at the Artivistic Festival in October 2009, Montreal before the Bangalore installation.

Encyclopedia Histories

The word made durable: In this session we want to give an overview of various attempts to create a collection of global knowledge. In order to get a better understanding of the cultural specificity of the underlying code on which Wikipedia is built, this topic seeks to dig further into the histories of the encyclopedia. D'Alembert's Preliminary Discourse to the Encyclopedie is often described as the most succinct statement of European Enlightenment, and the Encyclopedie itself as the material project of Enlightenment. It is through the Encyclopedie that the Enlightenment becomes durable, tangible and disseminated. What can be learned by examining such historical precedents?

Imaging the world: Encyclopedias have been said to be the sources of national images and stereotypes of the self and the other within Europe. In Wikipedia image construction tends to be both disembogue and masked in favor of a cosmopolitan, global self-understanding. This session might interrogate to what extent knowledge production's construction of national images is shifted from a discursive to an automatic georeferencing system of construction.

Beyond the index-card system: This session may also look to historical attempts to revolutionize knowledge through the creation of new tech- resonate with Wikipedia specifically and the technologies of the Net as driven by knowl- the Memex, the Galactic Network and project Xanadu.

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Designing Debate

The paradox of neutrality: The Neutral Point of View policy of Wikipedia does not always accurately depict opinions of thousands the NPoV policy and th

Global Issues and Outlooks

Knowledge in flux: The Western tradition of Enlightenment tends to perme Wikipedia. Mirroring the Enlightenment itself, Wikipedia offers both a very the universal - e.g. in the formulation of visionary goals, structure of article resolution models and so on. The ways in w requires further attention. Indeed, the 'grand gence of 'computerized societies' continue to Jameson once referred to this as the 'persist

Wiki Theory

Radical Wiki(pedia) critique: Besides providing a general overview of the the aim here is develop concepts that could be used in further research a of the free and open. Is it possible to develop a counter-hegemony of crit What kind of critical lessons does Wikipedia provide in the face of overw Wikipedia critique be developed that does not present itself as the cynic Andrew Keen? What kind of insight can Wikipedia offer regarding the co

How to analyze Wikipedia?