Identity Wars: the End of Human Society

How internet culture challenges the identity mappings that human society depends on.

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overview

- Top-Down-Imposition of Identities
- Self-Imposition of Identities
- Liberty of Identities
- The Forging/Crafting of the Individual
- The Dissolution of the Individual
- Enter the Borganism
"Stromatolites, that is pre-cambrian petrified biofilm about one billion years old in the Siyeh rock formation of Glacier National Park, Montana, USA." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Stromatolites.jpg
life: original nameless *viriditas*

- life force evolutionarily permeates the universe
- chaotical start, without „order“ / taxonomy
- no purpose, no interest, no identity: no politics
- structures and differentiates itself into organical hierarchies and networks
  - diversities of micro-machines $\rightarrow$ diversities of cells compose diversities of plants/animals/etc. …
  - all interacting with each other in many complex ways, not one clear hierarchy
societies: made up of people
societies: made up of *people*

- differentiated into hierarchies of:
  - discrete animal units (human individuals) and
  - superorganisms (societies) made up of configurations of these

- determined taxonomically by a symbolic intelligence; *orderly*
peoples, cultures, nations, states
peoples, cultures, nations, states

- identitary nature of social superorganisms
  - peoples, cultures, nations, states, organized religions, classes, guilds/unions, political parties, gender?, ...

- superhuman superorganisms != free memeplexes

- strive for stability

- often strive for clear borders

- their relations are powerful and political
superorganisms imposing identity
superorganisms imposing identity

- credentials (by the state, the club, the guild, the university): ID card, membership, certificates
- legal identification and accountability
- cultural education
- „Gleichschaltung“ organically downwards
- authoritarian identity lock-ins
  - Behave according to your identity!
  - Your identity is what I say it is! (By order of God, Nature, History, Society.)
the subjective turn
citizen / citoyen

„Painting of a typical sans-culotte“ / Louis-Léopold Boilly (1761–1845)  

„Roman clad in toga, from 1891 Dictionary of Classical Antiquities.“  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Toga_Illustration.png
citizen / citoyen

- subjective internalization of, identification with society; pride
- strong identification with superorganism, but bottom-up; responsible, creative shareholdership
- illusion (!) of responsibility for identity (e.g. nationality, education hardly ever freely chosen)
- top-down vs bottom-up: yet another political power struggle
humanism and personalism
humanism and personalism

- individual personality
- Christianity: absolute human dignity, equality, incommensurability; Human Rights
- glorifying, romanticizing the individuals, their inner selves and their relations
- individual human ego as the new bottleneck for identity
  - (previously: the upper superorganic hierarchies)
The Individual Identity
The Individual Identity

- complex society with conflicting guidelines for behaviour →
- individual identity as the necessary new guiding scheme
- identity = responsibility
- create your own identitary, biographical narrative of goals, guilts, bindings
- draw on available identity resources
  - not the same choices available for everyone
the fight for identitarian diversity
the fight for identitarian diversity

- broaden the inventory of identity resources
- broaden the social acceptance of certain identities in existing spaces
- create new spaces accepting certain identities
enter the internet
empowering identitarian liberty?

- multiplication of identity resources
- endless space for every imaginable identity
- new socialities for identities give strengthening social feedback
- traditional identity bottlenecks get goatsed
identitarian bottleneck incongruities
identitarian bottleneck incongruities

- acceptance of imposed identity bottlenecks diminishes
  - choose the democracy that votes your way
  - have your cake and eat it, too
- superorganisms lose control over flow of identity resources in their territory
  - loss of common background, socialization
- digital globalization and its discontents
  - how to block? censorship? national internet?
Facebook Should Recognize Polyamory!

Name:
Category:
Description:

Facebook Should Recognize Polyamory!
Common Interest -

This is a group that will try and get the administrators of Facebook to recognize polyamory by letting people show on their profiles if they have more than one significant other, or would consider this type of relationship.

Polyamory is simply multiple loves. It has nothing to do with marriage, but of having an intimate relationship with more than one person. It is not just one male with more than one female, it can be any combination of any sexuality, gender, or sex. Also, there isn't a... (read more)

Privacy Type:
Open: All content is public.

Contact Info
Email:
erica18_2000@yahoo.com

Recent News
„politics 2.0“ (for real)

- citizenships in superorganisms that surpass the size of most states, languages, religions
  - Facebook: 350,000,000, MySpace: 100,000,000
  - USA: 300,000,000, German language: 200,000,000
  - Judaism: 13,000,000
- non-binding, multiple citizenships
- freedom of movement
„politics 2.0“ (for real)

Screenshots from sign-up dialogue of FetLife.com (300.000 members)
reality of new identity structures

What if I am not sure about some of the options?

Don't worry. You can easily change everything at a later date. Even your gender. Only digitally though. :-)

FetLife.com
reality of new identity structures

- internet communities provide basic structure for identity, communication, action
- importance is ever growing
- 'digital' identity not much more artificial than the 'real' one
dissolution of individual integrity

Boah, schieß Kopfschmerzen. Lege mich jetzt und stehe auf Richtung nbi #supatopcheckerbunny
6:19 PM Dec 18th from web

Der natürliche Ausdauer- & Ruhezustand für digitale Daten ist...
6:19 PM Dec 18th from web

Sorry, ich hab's versucht, aber es ist ein netter Artikel drumrum. Hach, war nett da!
6:18 PM Dec 18th from web

Ich wollte mich in den Wahnsinn.
6:18 PM Dec 18th from web

Das Berliner der Weimarer Republik, also einen Besuch in der Wohnung stimmt es zu sehr, das kann ich auch nicht mir.
#niacdays
6:17 PM Dec 18th from web

@folweb: Der Artikel behauptet im zweiten Absatz Bürgerschaften unabhängig von der Following-Arithmetik.
6:17 PM Dec 18th from web

@msp0: Warum war ich ja auch irgendwie ganz gern auf der #npo09
6:16 PM Dec 18th from web

Ein Michael Seemann redet jetzt irgendwas über alte...
dissolution of individual integrity

- open-sourcing of identity
  - fake accounts, fake interpersonality of interactions
  - identitarian chat and twitter bots
- post-private information overload destroys illusion of coherent personality
- loss of individual predictability and responsibility
Harold C. “Hal” Turner D/B/A
Turner Radio Network D/B/A
Hal Turner Radio Show
Plaintiff,

V.

4Chan.org
7chan.org
Ebaumsworld.com
NexisOnline.net
Abjects.com
John Doe(s) 1-1000

Defendants:

Anonymous

Only 1000 of them. No more.

„Anonymous. Only 1000 of them. No more.“ / Author: Anonymous
http://encyclopediaadramatica.com/Image:Bdespairanonymous1000ks2.png
humanistic / personalistic racism
humanistic / personalistic racism

• prove your humanity!
• forced registration, identification, login
• one account only for one e-mail address!
• map everything to legally seizable social units
• surveillance for identification
  • data retention laws / „Vorratsdatenspeicherung“
information politics?

Re: (Score:3, Insightful)  by Yvanhoe (564877)  Or better yet: host it at your own house. Obviously the poster has enough skills.

Re:If they do this.. (Score:4, Insightful)
by flappinbooger (574405) on Saturday December 26, @04:14PM (#30558400) Homepage

That's a great idea, except for the TOS of the DSL and the horrid upload speeds even good DSL typically has.

Re: (Score:3, Interesting)  by danomac (1032160)  I have DSL and I'm allowed to host services, even smtp. It's actually legal.

Re: (Score:3, Insightful)  by Bert64 (520050)  Yeah, host in a proper data center, but supply your own hardware (ISP doesn't want to.

Re: (Score:3, Interesting)  by aztracker1 (702135)  Business DSL accounts aren't much more and allow for hosting. Much cheaper.

Re:If they do this.. (Score:3, Interesting)  by jcrusedotcom (999175)  I am not sure what you would be hosting.

Re:If they do this.. (Score:4, Informative)
by MichaelSmith (789609) on Saturday December 26, @06:14PM (#30559280) Homepage Journal

How about a padlock on the box, and a BIOS password?

Unfortunately they sound like the type of people who would cut the lock, and reset the BIOS. I think the poster should find a security consultant.
information politics?

- new legal persons?
- citizen rights and responsibilities for bot nets, fake accounts, borganisms, memes ...?
- problems: non-binding, transient nature of new identity patterns
- new legal bottlenecks will get bypassed quickly: new structures grow faster
information
society:
society of
informations
information
society:
society of
informations
information
society:
informations
information
Literature

- **Accelerando** (Charles Stross)
  - http://www.antipope.org/charlie/accelerando/
- **L'invention de soi. Une théorie de l'identité / Die Erfindung des Ich** (Jean-Claude-Kaufmann)
- **The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind** (Julian Jaynes)
- **We, Borg. Speculations on Hive Minds as a Posthuman State** (Anders Sandberg)
  - http://www.aleph.se/Trans/Global/Posthumanity/WeBorg.html
- **Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: „Personalism“**
  - http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/personalism/