

Spreadsheet Heading Explanations

Development of the Sociospatial Environment

Here we are talking about the shift of the social from offline to online settings and the integrated connections between the offline and online. This is about much more than just the things we do online and the way they may be influencing mobility patterns or senses of what it actually is to be 'social'. It points towards new thinking about society and the social as entities that are generated from and dependent on virtual (digitally mediated) as well as more familiar concrete physical settings.

Emergence of the Sociotechnical Environment

This area of research points more towards the meshing of ICTs with diverse kinds of social activity from shopping to social networking, teleworking to online activism. The suggestion here is that thanks to ICTs, what we do is merging with how we do it and the complex sets of interconnected hardware and software involved. This is about a revisiting of the ontology of the social in relation to technological factors. It encourages us to ask questions about both the technological characteristics of computer-mediated communication and the social characteristics of different technologies (hardware and software).

Sustainability and Equality

This area of ICT research bridges discussions on environmental sustainability and environmental justice. It emphasizes the tensions between established ideas of equality or social justice associated with industrialized developed economies and the current debates around globalization and new growth economies like China and India, where aspirations echo those historically and contemporaneously associated with rich economies of the past - expanding consumption, individual car ownership etc. How will new priorities of sustainability and social equality be fashioned in these new political economic circumstances? How will new politics of sustainability manifest themselves?