

Workshop “Information Society“

European Left – Summer University

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Workshop Convenor:

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Workshop Objectives

There is much talk about how knowledge-based jobs and new computer-based technologies like the internet and the mobile phone have changed society.

One task of the workshop is to tackle the question: In which society do we live? Has it changed profoundly or not at all? And if so, why or why not? Which role do knowledge and technology have in contemporary society?

Do we live in a capitalist society? A modern society? An information society? A knowledge society? A service society? A post-industrial society? A postmodern society? An internet society? An ICT society? A programmed society? A global society? The era of second modernity? A third wave society? A network society? Or something completely different? Or a combination of some of these concepts?

Another task of the workshop is to discuss the role of the class concept in contemporary society: What does class in the “information society” mean? Which classes are there? Is the class concept still feasible? Do we need an expanded notion of class? Is knowledge labour a class? If so, what sort of class? And what actually is knowledge labour?

Text Inputs

1. Hardt, Michael and Antonio Negri. 2005. Dangerous Classes. In *Multitude. War and Democracy in the Age of Empires*. London: Hamish Hamilton. pp. 103-157. (hardtnegri.pdf)

As expansion and critique of Hardt’s and Negri’s approach two excerpts from two forthcoming books:

2. Fuchs, Christian: Strategies and Forms of Capital Accumulation in Transnational Informational Capitalism (accumulation.pdf)

3. Fuchs, Christian: Knowledge and Class in Informational Capitalism (class.pdf)

Excerpts from:

Fuchs, Christian. 2007. *Internet and Society: Social Theory in the Information Age*. New

York: Routledge.

Fuchs, Christian and Rainer E. Zimmermann. 2007. *Criteria for Practical Civil Virtues. Towards the Utopian Identity of Civitas and Multitudo*. Münchener Schriften zur Design Science: Gestaltung in Systemtheorie, Modellbildung & Wissensmanagement, Vol. 10. Aachen: Shaker.