Dynamics of Information Flows in Networks
Professor Karine Nahon
Course Number 55726, Term B (2013)
Hours of Course: Thursdays, 15:30-18:15

Instructor: Professor Karine Nahon
Course Location: Business school, room of transactions
Hours of Course: Thursdays, 15:30-18:15
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Description of Course:
Information technologies, and particularly social networks, have created new dynamics of information flows among users. Such dynamics have challenged traditional structures of institutions. It became the core of social change, changing practices, behavior and awareness of individuals, collectives, business and societies. For example, Wikileaks challenged governments and circumvented traditional media; the blogosphere has become the engine to spark viral processes in political campaigns; social networks served as platforms for social movements and protests; few actors attract the attention of most users. These examples and empirical studies demonstrate that networks and contemporary dynamics of information alter the traditional power relationships among stakeholders. This course will analyze the changes that are happening as a result of dynamics of information flows in networks.

Goals of Course:
The course attempts to take social and organizational perspectives to information flows in networks. As such, one of the main goals of the course is to provide students with in-depth theoretical and practical frameworks that can serve later as a tool-kit, and lay the groundwork for the student’s development as a professional leader. Second, another goal is to bring to students the broader context for understanding organizations, societal and institutional changes that occur in a networks context.
Course Learning Objectives:
When the course is over, participant will have an in-depth knowledge of theories and methodologies to analyze information flows in networks. They will be able to analyze current interactions in social networks. The end-product of this course is a real-case research project. Through the project, students will gain experience in using tools to harvest data in networks and being able to discuss and interpret results.

Course Grading:
The course grading will be structured as follows:

1. Participation 10%
2. Presentation and critique of an article 10%
3. Mid-term presentation (25.4) 10%
3. Project 65%
   - Presentation in Class (20%) (20.6)
   - Written report (45%)

Total 100%

Course Curriculum and Readings:

1. **28.2.2013 – Introduction: Changes in the traditional balance of powers**
   No Readings assigned for this week

   Nahon Karine and Hemsley, Jeff, 2013, Going Viral, Polity, Cambridge:UK [forthcoming]. Ch. 2
   
   

3. **14.3.2013 – Structures: Between Structures of Networks and Social Structures**
   
   Nahon Karine and Hemsley, Jeff, 2013, Going Viral, Polity, Cambridge:UK [forthcoming]. Ch. 5


4. **4.4.2013 – Groups are meeting with Karine**
No Readings this week

5. **11.4.2013 – Network Gatekeeping and Regulation**

Nahon Karine and Hemsley, Jeff, 2013, Going Viral, Polity, Cambridge:UK [forthcoming]. Ch. 3


6. **18.4.2013 – Emerging Patterns of Behavior**

Nahon Karine and Hemsley, Jeff, 2013, Going Viral, Polity, Cambridge:UK [forthcoming]. Ch. 4


7. **25.4.2013 – Mid-term Presentations + discussion**
No Readings this week

8. **2.5.2013 – Constructions and Deconstructions of Boundaries: Between Public and Private Spheres**


*Papacharissi Zizi, 2009, “The Virtual Sphere 2.0: the Internet, the Public Sphere, and Byond”, in: Andrew Chadwick & Philip N. Howard (Eds.), Routledge Handbook of Internet Politics, Routledge. Ch. 17, pp. 230-246


9. 9.5.2013 – Introduction to Challenging Institutions of Power: The impact of social networks on individuals, collectives, organizations and societies

Nahon Karine and Hemsley, Jeff, 2013, Going Viral, Polity, Cambridge:UK [forthcoming]. Ch. 6-7

TBD

10. 23.5.2013 – No Class
No Readings assigned for this week

11. 30.5 – Challenging Institutions of Power: Open Government


12.6.6 – Challenging Institutions of Power: Social Movements


Lievrouw Leah, 2011, Alternative and Activist New Media, Polity Press: UK, Ch. 6, pp.149-177.

TBD

13. 13.6 – Challenging Institutions of Power: the Media


TBD

14. 20.6 - Final Presentations and summary

No Readings this week