

Informatics 161
October 14, 2013

Reading Assignment 1: Attached To Technology and Paying a Price by Matt Ritel

Reading Assignment 2: Growing up Digital, Wired for Distraction by Matt Ritel

Notice:

Team 11, 16 and 17 will be doing something in class next week (an email will be sent out)

Team 5 and 7 scribe next week

Team 1 and 2 scribe note can be found on the website

Professor's Intro Lecture:

- Readings on the website preface the topic of connectivity
- Consequences of digital connectivity as we experience it.
- Anxieties provoked from being cut off and the difficulty that the people experience.
- The idea is that one is NOT capable of disconnecting – both disconnecting from other people and also being unable to control what devices we encounter
- Disconnecting from devices means disconnecting from other people, meaning making ourselves inaccessible to others.
- There is a sense of social responsibility to be available
- None of us have the **opportunity** to disconnect
- **Technology renders us accountable in society**
- Decision to NOT use technology is significant

It's hard to disconnect from our devices:

- Digital technology is the way that we are available to another
- Hard not to be accessible to another
- Hard to disconnect [People don't know how to do it]

People do not seem to mind much about privacy, they want people to know where they are [They don't mind]

Technology makes you visible.

- Woman went hiking for a couple of days and did not have her phone on
- Her parents got worried and called the police because she was not responding
- Thought it was weird for her to not answer her phone

Technology renders us accountable to each other.

Questions To Think About:

How does technology change the environment where one cannot disconnect, not be available?

What is the larger idea in the ways we use technology to keep in touch?

What is the bigger picture of achieving social coherence by being connected each other?

Vocabulary:

Phatic communication: think of communication as different types of functions. Being there, being in touch and engaged in communication.

Move to communication of more than just information – generates social completion

Nonverbal – BEING there, acknowledging responsibility, engage in social groups by

Being present/visible

E.g. eye contact, small verbal sounds.

Nonverbal communication: words such as “yeah” or “hmm” little word or phrase that acknowledge other when communicating.

Devices – there is a conflict between **being there** and **being connected**

Connective Culture Presentation (Group 6):

Video – kids grow up in technological times

- Documentary about kids growing up in technological times
- Video about 8th graders addicted to technology
- 8th grade conversations – kids today are always staring at their phones and listening to music
- Naked without phone
- Keep you away from talking to people physically
- No eye contact was kept
- People don't like to talk to people (felt uncomfortable)
- How kids today act (looking at their phones)

The Millennials:

- People born between the 1980s – 2000s are seen as having grown up with technology.
- Elementary – technology class to learn how to use computers
- Kids are used to using technology at a young age
- Kids have ipads and phones at a young age
- Parents hand their children the technology in order to not deal with them
- Society is losing the person to person communication
- Social media has changed the way in how people express themselves
- Everything is done online and not physically done anymore

Forms of Distraction:

- Television, computers, mobile phones, social media
- Computers may eventually take over the television
- Technology may eventually take over all of our activities and responsibilities
- Technology causes stress
- Before people sleep, many tend to continue using technology causing them to lose sleep
- Though it causes stress, it can also be a stress reliever
- Technology is seen as giving people the potential to learn
- Easy to access more information, but it also comprises the ability to create long term memory; we can search the internet for everything

Technology is an Addiction

- Video – Futurama: technology makes people lazy
- No one wanted to walk down the street because they had a robot that did everything they wanted.
- The main character has a robot so he does not bother to do anything other than be with his robot (Monrobot)
- “Don't Date Robots”
- Technology can ruin us because we are focusing so much on our technology
- Technology makes you neglect real life responsibilities

Technology as Causing Stress/ Causing no Stress:

- Group Discussion:
 - Question: How do you cope with stress?
 - Answers from groups:
 - Watch and play sports
 - Play video games (Counter Strike). You feel relaxed if you win, but then you may get stressed if you lose so you keep on trying until you win.
 - Whether you get stressed or not depends on the game, such as the game Journey, it is a relaxing game so you cannot really get stressed with it.
 - From the answers, technology serves as a stress reliever but also as a stress giver

Technological Harm:

- People who multi task finish their activity in the late evening
- Multitasking sets one up for failure
- People who multi task less tend to end their activities sooner in the day rather than later
- Smartphones encourage multi-tasking which leads to more distractions
 - Everything is in a single device
 - Time discounting
 - People value today more than tomorrow

Technology Distraction:

- Homework and time efficiency
- Is it more efficient with music
- Being distracted depends on the person and the location
- Group Discussion:
 - Question: Does technology today actually help you or distract you?
 - Answers from groups:
 - Technology depends on what technology is available to you at the moment
 - If music has words, then it will distract people. That is why some listen to classical music or something that does not consist of lyrics.
 - Distraction depends on the genre of music that is playing
 - Again technology seems to be the cause and the cure

Social Anxiety and Technology:

- Looking at your phone at “awkward” moments
- Idea of being “occupied” when you are using your smart phone
- People walking around while listening to their music, so they are not paying attention
- Texting may be misinterpreted by recipients since texting will not be able to deliver the right “tone” of conversation.
- People usually pick up the hints of other’s emotions in face to face communication, with texting, recipients cannot interpret the way we do in other ways of communication

Language and Connective Culture:

- It now takes seconds for cultures to interact
- Nowadays because of the internet, it is very fast to talk to another person through the internet rather than face to face
- “Hold on” has a heavier meaning on people than it used to.
- Instead of waiting on the phone, why not look up the information online.
- **Pidgin**: a simplified language that is developed between groups [made-up]

- There are an estimated 4.5 billion web pages in the internet and many of them are in Chinese
- Since English is becoming a popular language to know all around the world
- Many cultures have made their own version/style of English
 - Letter abbreviations
 - Punctuations
 - Onomatopoeic
 - emoticons
 - Direct requests (ASL)
 - L33t speak (n00b)
 - Official FBI slang glossary
 - The government mines the internet for data
 - All the words they found in the internet are translated
 - “Texting makes you smarter”
 - Texting leads to casual conversation
- Casual speech is very different
- It is fine because in the internet there are no accents, correct spelling, none of that matters
- “LOL” has become a word of empathy when having a conversation.
 - Nothing has to be funny in order to use it.
 - Eases tension and creates a sense of equality
- Social lives are an extension of offline life
- Artificial intelligence in our Daily Life
 - Are social networks an extension of our offline life, or are we living in a virtual reality?

Next Week:

Digital Democracy on Thursday

Discuss final project on Thursday

There will be a video and an essay