Redes sociales:
de la comunicación a la solidaridad en red
(un enfoque interdisciplinar)

En Sierra Pambley, 13-15 Septiembre 2013

Foundations of hope for a global sustainable information society

Funda-mentos de esperanza para una sociedad de información global y sostenible

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## Contenido

# 1 The Great Bifurcation

- We live in the age of **global challenges**.

  Global challenges are due to disparities in social relations
  - among humans
  - between humans and nature
  - between humans and technology

# 1 The Great Bifurcation

- Disparities in social relations **among humans** = alienation of humans from each other through alienation from society („Big Brother", „Net")
  - cultural crises
  - political crises
  - economic crises

# 1 The Great Bifurcation

- Disparities in social relations **between humans and environment** = alienation from nature („Gaia")
  - environmental catastrophes

# 1 The Great Bifurcation

- Disparities in social relations **between humans and technology** = alienation from technology („Megamachine")
  - technological desasters

# 1 The Great Bifurcation

- Global challenges
  - threaten the continuation of humanity through another world war and environmental catastrophes
  - can be met only by all humanity: need of global consciousness

# 1 The Great Bifurcation

- We face the choice:
  - either **breakdown** of the interdependent world system because of business as usual
  - or **breakthrough** to a higher-order world system through co-operative action

# 2 Global Sustainable Information Society

- Framework of requirements:
  - first, the change must re-design relations among all humans on earth and between them and nature and technology and build up an integrative **new world-system - hence globality**

# 2 Global Sustainable Information Society

- Framework of requirements:
  - second, the change must establish **safeguards against man-made dysfunctions** that might, eventually, cause the collapse of the whole world-system **– hence sustainability**

# 2 Global Sustainable Information Society

- Framework of requirements:
  - third, the change must mobilise humanity's best **intellectual capacities** to gain knowledge that allows for the design of the required safeguards
  - **hence informationality**

# 3 Global Consciousness

- The Triple-C Model describes **social information** (= information of, between and in social systems) in different levels:
  - cognition
  - communication
  - co-operation

# 3 Global Consciousness

- First, **social cognition** =
  the actualisation of capabilities of actors
  (= social agents, social systems) of
  **reflecting** their own goals, the state they
  are in, and the way to reach the goals, **as
  individual systems**

# 3 Global Consciousness

- Second, **social communication** =
the actualisation of capabilities of actors
of **reflecting** each others' reflection on
goals, states, and ways, **in interaction of
individual systems**

# 3 Global Consciousness

- Third, **social co-operation** =
the actualisation of capabilities of actors
of **reflecting** goals as common, states
they are in as common, and ways to
reach their goals as common, **in the
collective supra-system they are
integrated with**

# 3 Global Consciousness

- Human history has so far unfolded different stages of the formation of social cognition, communication, and co-operation; they have been oscillating between **individualism** and **collectivism**.

# 3 Global Consciousness

- First stage: **Tribalism**
  at the dawn of humankind in face-to-face groups
  - the supra-system is mystified as an all-embracing „**We**"; any actor works as personification of the „We"
  - **myths** convey tradition
  - **means and ends are not questioned**

# 3 Global Consciousness

- Second stage: **Idiotism**
from Antiquity to this day's anonymous mass societies

  – the actors become **self-regarding** persons of their own; the structures of the supra-systems prioritise **competition**

  – **ideology**: the **private** as the supreme good

  – **means are intelligently flexibilised** for given, shortsighted ends

# 3 Global Consciousness

- Possible, but needful third stage:
  **Cosmopolitanism** (= global, sustainable
  information society)
  here and now (to avoid barbarism)

  – actors need to build up a **unity-through-diversity relationship** to the supra-system
    (collective reflexion assures that the pursuit
    of individual goals does not harm other
    supra-system components)

# 3 Global Consciousness

- Possible, but needful third stage:
  **Cosmopolitanism** (= global, sustainable information society)
  here and now (to avoid barbarism)
  - **realistic, science-based assessment** of different development paths is needed

# 3 Global Consciousness

- Possible, but needful third stage:
**Cosmopolitanism** (= global, sustainable information society)
here and now (to avoid barbarism)

    – **means as well as ends need to be questionable and agreeable** (actors are capacitated to reflect their own position as well as the position of others from the perspective of the supra-system)

# 4 Conclusion

- From communication to **solidarity** =
toward **co-operation**
toward **a global sustainable information society**
toward **global consciousness**
toward **cosmopolitanism**

# 4 Conclusion

- There are **foreshadowings** of a global sustainable information society...

# Gracias por su atención

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