

## Seminar: The Self-Organisation of the Information Society

### Session 3

#### The Self-Organisation of the Information Society

A categorisation of information society theories is given. Basically, those theories are about the relationship of ICTs and society. They can be differentiated according to which factor is considered as independent variable: ICTs or some non-technological societal factor. Secondly, they can be classified according to whether they give a favourable or an unfavourable evaluation of the relation. That is, we find technological determinism and social constructivism as well as eutopianism and dystopianism. An information society theory that considers information society as another social system that organises itself goes beyond the taxonomy given so far. It is the only approach that leaves room for the pro-active design of social and technologically mediated systems and hence might be called a Critical Information Society Theory (CIST).