

Technopolitics

A Conceptual Scheme for Understanding Politics in the Digital Age

H. Can Kurban, The New School University

Maria Haberer & Ismael Peña-López, UOC



Internet and Politics

- ICTs as isolated external variables
 - Online vs offline?
 - Internet = Democracy?
 - ICTs → Government 2.0?
- The Question of Power and Legitimacy
- Paradigmatic Change in 2008

Technopolitics Outline

- Context
- Actors
- Scale
- Direction
- Synchronization
- Purpose

Technopolitics Literature

- “constitutional integrity” (Lebkowski, 1997)
- “hybridity” (Hecht, 2001)
- contingency and multiplicity of actors (Kellner, 2001)
- contesting conceptions of citizenship, rights, and the polity (Hughes, 2006)
- the closed vs. the open (Rasmussen, 2007)
- power and strategy (Toret et al. 2015)

Conceptual Focus

The Origins of Antagonism:

- The Organizing Role of Communication (Internet Governance)
- The Value of Information (Big/Public Data)

Technopolitics Battles

- Post-2008 Context and Actors

technological battles

Rise of Mobile ICTs	The Pirate Bay Case Iceland Rising	Operation Payback Anonymous	Aaron Swartz Case Wikileaks Revelations	SOPA Battle	Snowden NSA Revelations	Net Neutrality	Apple vs. FBI Wikimedia vs. NSA TPIP Deal	Panama Papers
2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Financial Crash	Bailout Austerity Measures	G20 Summit Toronto Citizens United Act, USA	Arab Spring Iceland-C-C 15M Spain OWS USA	Greek-Eurozone Crisis	Global Occupy Movements	Citizen Platforms Net-Parties	Spanish Elections Paris Climate Accord	Presidential Primaries USA

political battles

Context – Contentious Politics

- New Digital Media Environment (Chadwick, 2009)
- Organizational change (Bimber et. al, 2012)
 - Resource mobilization
 - Participation
 - Collective Action

Pattern: networked practices travel from micro level (individual behaviours and expectation) to meso level (collective action, campaigning, co-framing)

Scale

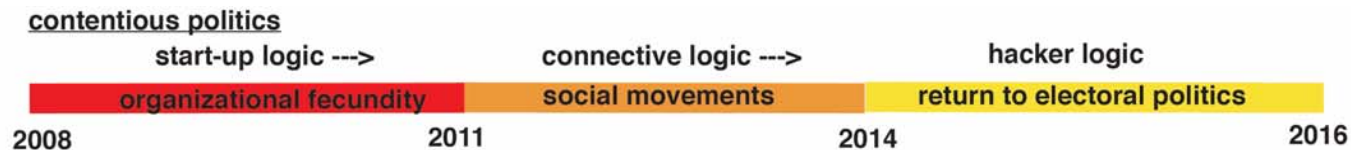
Individual => Organization => Contentious Networks

The connective logic (Bennett and Segerberg, 2013)

- Scale up more quickly
- Produce large mobilization
- Funding
- Flexibility in tracking moving political targets, and bridging different issues
- Build up adaptive repertoires, share open source software development, and embrace an ethos of inclusiveness.

Direction

Contentious Politics Moving From Outside to Inside the Institutional Politics



Cases: Barcelona En Comu, Ahora Madrid, The Pirate Party in Iceland

Synchronization

Internal

- New spaces for activism (Barlow, Echeverría, Castels), including no-places (Augé)
- Spaces that are not isolated, but behave as different layers of a same reality (Toret, Monterde)
- There are "synchronization" practices across spaces that spread information and enable coordination of action (Corsín & Estalella, Martínez Roldán, Monterde)

External

- D-Cent Project

Purpose

- Short term: take back politics
 - increasing civic engagement
 - taking the influence of big money out of politics
- Long term: hack the political system
 - Change the existing processes
 - Expose its shortcomings

Discussion

- Synchronize across Europe?
- Full Scalability?
- A New Constitutional Process?