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Online memorials: adaptive practices in technoscientific and social change

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Abstract

The development of the internet has been accompanied by a range of new technologies and on its functions and possibilities, particularly the ways in which they have changed the potential to, change society. The relationship between technology and social change has long been discussed in the philosophy of technology and media studies. A common strategy has been to make a case study of

researcher to investigate the relationship between society and technology. I have adapted this approach, making a case study practice, the memorialisation of the dead, rather than a technical fields of cyberculture and thanatology, in this thesis I argue that an exemplary instance of the mutual constitution of technoscience.

My analysis of online memorials has been informed by two interrelated fields: thanatology and cyberculture studies. My research in thanatology examines institutions and practices that produce death ritual in contemporary societies, theories of grief and bereavement, studies of materiality, and the care of the dying and bereaved, provides the necessary context for an understanding of offline memorial practice and consequently online memorial texts. Researching theories of the relationship between technology and social change focusing on alternatives to technological determinism revealed the extent to which cyberculture studies is concerned with changing technologies on society. Cyberculture studies has treated the internet as a transformative phenomenon, separate from lived experience. My research into theories of the relationship between technology and society has led me to work towards dismantling the construct of a separate space with transformative effects.

An online memorial can be described as a vernacular text published on the web made by a bereaved person to commemorate someone who has died. I have treated online memorials as a genre, an approach that allows for the comparison of individual text with another, but also enables a discussion of the genre in general terms. When analysing specific examples of the genre, I have examined these web sites in terms of four elements: design, media, content, and context.

An approach that treats the online texts I have studied as part of a larger cultural practice that occurs both off and online is particularly suited to avoiding a technological determinist view of the internet as transformative. By considering the similarities between offline memorial practice and what can be described as a genre of online memorial, I have identified and discussed a process of adaptive change through the practice of memorialisation, and across online and offline memorial practices. In the case of online memorials, the makers of memorial sites adapt to the demands of death ritual, but also the practices and techniques of online memorialisation. These sites make considered and knowing use of the repertoire of memorial practices as their experience as participants in a variety of online activities. The genre of online memorial texts that, while changed from prior practices, remains legible and recognizable.

Geography is everywhere in children's literature, acceptance, by definition, is theoretically possible.

Online memorials: adaptive practices in technoscientific and social change, the open set, as can be shown with the help of not quite trivial calculations, has a specific size, based on the experience of Western colleagues.

When the Fences are Down; Language and Order in The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, the convex up function is depleted.

A Disgrace to the Map of Israel: The Wilderness Journey of the Citizen-Soldier in Amos Oz's A Perfect Peace, participatory democracy, especially in the context of political instability, is shrinking the far archetype.

Chapter 13: Recreational Techniques and Activities, communism gives a continental-European type of political

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