

Share it and bring it home: open source, commons and pirates

Cozzutto, Alessandro, University of Turin, Via Giolitti 33, 10124, Turin, IT,
ale.cozzutto@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Mass endorsement of new information and communication technologies appears to outline, inside the world-system, the surfacing of altogether innovative – and potentially democratic – political, economic and socio-cultural relations, in the long run carrying from the binary language to the FOSS movements and the “Web 2.0”

This study attempts to inquire into what, quite far from representing something new, appears instead as the surviving of quite strict relational dynamics peculiar to modern age, in the passage from techniques to technology and in the substitution of the pyramid with the symbolic representation of power relationships.

The analysis focuses in particular on the concept of 'Commons', as emerging currency in particular in the hands of the young actors which cooperate and compete, in a more comfortable way, within the world wide web, as young were those who have been leading the information revolution.

The article finally examines, according to such analysis, the recent case of the Swedish 'Pirate Party', first party among the under-30, which has been able to get a seat in occasion of the European Elections of June 2009, by prompting awareness about issues like removal of copyright restrictions, privacy of the internauts and free access to knowledge, but also thanks to the emotional wave engendered in Sweden by the sentence to one year of jail for each operator of the site 'piratebay.org'.

The empirical side of the research focuses on a series of qualitative interviews with some representatives of the German Pirate Party and an interview with Christian Engstrom, one of the two members of the European Parliament for the Swedish PP.

In the transformation, in the resistances and in the new categories associated to the capitalist historical system, new interesting outlooks for comprehensive social sciences are brought forth.

The conclusion of this work argues that “The world might get closer in the sense that rulers are likely to look to each other more and more, independently from the state-nation they belong to, and folks alike, but without linearity and with an unfaltering interaction between old (very old) and new, of everlasting that comes back and of only one that does not matter, of ownership and power. Of reactions, endurances and voids.

Will social sciences succeed, after getting rid of pyramid slavery, to clutch the fibre age before being entangled in the web?”

Parole Chiave: Information, Open Source, Commons, Pirate, Ideology