Global Friday Presents

After Free Speech: #datapolitik and the Failures of Liberalism
January 26, 2024

The ubiquity of algorithms throughout the world raises challenges to global theories of governance that our modern political and aesthetic critical vocabularies are unequipped to take up. The reason is quite straight forward: algorithms are not mimetic media whereas our critical practices are rooted in judgments of and about representations. This means that attempts at the legislation of digital life are both misinformed and misguided if they assume that the dilemmas arising from algorithmic governance may be adequately managed by appeals to liberal conceptions of the individual, free speech, or privacy. This talk seeks to explain how and why this is the case. In doing so the talk elaborates the possibility of new forms of critical thinking that attend to the dispositional powers of algorithms.

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