

The Spatiality of Control. ICT and Physical Space in Social Protest

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Abstract

Recent years have witnessed an increasing internationalization of claims as well as claimants with respect to social protest as a result of various notions of globalization and the spread of information and communication technologies (ICT). In this contribution, we will show how the rise of ICT goes along with a shift from a society of discipline to a society of control, or, more precisely, a superimposition of these two modes of power and how this calls for a re-conception of space as an apparatus of control. We take a theoretically novel and critical stand by conceptually elaborating Tilly's work on social movements with DeLanda's assemblage theory as well as taking the spatiality and technicity of social movements into consideration. We have chosen the transversality of protest assemblages as our entry point and discuss their shifting performances both with regard to their effectiveness to organize across space-time and their uses and production, of urban space. We illustrate our arguments with recent social protest events.