

CS-234

Technologies for societal self-organization

Speak Up: 13967

Week 1

Promised benefits of self-organization

- Freedom of expression - anonymity
- Freedom of association - finding, "meeting" those with similar interests
- Freedom of information (news/media, social ...) - to learn (together)
- Resistance to central control, censorship
- Inclusiveness: everyone should have a voice / role
- Fairness, equality: everyone has equal "voice" or "power"
- Recognition, approval by peers - peer review
- Structuring, curating information collectively

Applications for self-organizing technologies

Keep up on local / global "goings-on"

Sharing information & knowledge, learning

Deliberation, decision-making on policy (incl. remotely), E-voting

Science - formal peer review as "publication gateway"

Culture-enabling artists to emerge, get recognition, economic support/reward

Entertainment (tiktok, Youtube, ...?)

Mutual support - emotional, experiences, ...

Business/economic/finance organization - Bitcoin, Ethereum, DAOs

Challenges

Privacy vs information extraction-surveillance capitalism

Echo chambers—hear from your “friends”—already like-minded, narrow “information diet”

Manipulation of public opinion—often toward extreme/radical content

Algorithmic manipulation—algorithmic bias

Information addiction—more eyeballs, more ad revenue

Abuse of anonymity—less subject to social norms/restraints → trolling, attacks

Relevant tools and technologies

How can we improve our technologies for self-organization?