



PREFACE

Collaborative production among pairs gained prominence in the digital era, with the advance of new technologies. Through peer to peer (P2P), people started to connect themselves and search for common values, in local and then global situations. According to Bauwens' rating, big projects “without traditional hierarchical organization or financial support”, could become real without State engagement, being autonomous and empowered by those involved in the process. However, would most of the citizens make use of this possibility or stay outside or even get involved in the process, though manipulated by the big companies?

Jean Lievens is the researcher who wrote the article “Can Capitalism Reform Itself and Move towards a P2P Society?”. In this article, he analyzes the paradigms of P2P changes which begin with two critiques on the first Dutch book about P2P, “Save the World”, written by Michel Bauwens: “the feasibility of unconditional basic income within the present system and the possibility of a gradual change towards a P2P society without 'overthrowing' Capitalism”. As clues, he mentions the use of the open source and the internet.

The second article begins with an analysis of one of Michel Bauwens' works about “P2P Revolution and Commons Phase Transition: Notes on the Nature of the Revolution in the P2P Commons Epoch”. The relation between the concepts of revolution and transition phase starting from P2P and Commons, that is, of Commons, is introduced. It is interesting for the readers to understand how it is possible to analyze the process of transition of the dominant system, social structures, the crisis of neoliberal capitalism and the importance of production among pairs, of new political ways and social mobilization.

Femke Kaulingfreks and Ruud Kaulingfreks, in their article “Open-access Communism”, reflect on the idea of Commons in groups based on the internet, displaying initiatives built on the philosophical approach of open-access to all, once they have organizational characteristics which make them suitable when in search for new and more democratic political alternatives.

Along the same way of the so-called Communism in Capital, Michel Bauwens and Vasilis Kostakis convey their analysis “From the Communism of Capital to Capital for the Commons: Towards an Open Co-operativism”. From a critical point of view, they question the cooperative movement with companies whose workers suffer structural vulnerabilities and open initiatives

that have common knowledge networks, but are controlled by multinational companies. To Bauwens and Kostakis, “the more communist the sharing under the same license used in the collaborative process (peer production) of open source software or open hardware, the more capitalist the practice”. They suggest the convergence of models to face the challenges.

“The Place of Women: Gender and Digital Inclusion” is Ariane Durce Maciel’s article, in which the author presents a panorama of feminine achievements, identifying the differences in gender in the use and appropriation of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) “ as a tool to increase women’s citizenship in search of equality between genders”. The research presented shows the confrontation between social inclusion and social exclusion and how much the struggle of Brazilian women allows young women today to “ encounter a more egalitarian environment in relation to the opportunities that are open through access to a global network of computers”.

Patricia Mallmann Souto Pereira and Valdir Jose Morigi are the researchers who wrote the final article analyzing “public policies for digital inclusion in a slum community context and the issue of urban surveillance nowadays”. They introduce the case of Santa Marta’s slum dwellers in Rio de Janeiro (RJ), starting from Bauman’s theory on social ways , community, values of solidarity, and individualism in contemporary society. They say,”the context of change in the urban space of the “favela” (slum), which reflects on social and community relations and leads to the notion of surveillance and insecurity, produces a modification in the behavior of local community movements”.

It is worth checking. Enjoy your reading!

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* Translated by Regina Nuti.