

[Q] The World Online

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Master course, 5 ECTS

Averhoffstr. 38, room 16c, Wednesday 16.45h – 18.15h

Language: English

We are permanently surrounded by it, we spend hours with it, and we feel disconnected from the world if it's not available: the Internet. In fact, the Internet has profound impacts on our daily lives. It has changed the ways in which we communicate, shop and exchange, work and play, look for company, search for global headlines or the opening hours of our local bar. The Internet has freed us from limitations of our own small local worlds and opened up the globe. At the same time it continually absorbs our attention and engages us in time-consuming searching, linking, and updating.

The seminar explores these ambivalent impacts of the Internet, and examines the following questions:

[Q] STUDIES: das studium fundamentale der HCU

- The emergence of the virtual world: Who owns the Internet?
- Virtual space and urban space: Substitutes or complements?
- Internet sociality: Gemeinschaft or Gesellschaft?
- New modes of production:
Open source (OpenStreetMap) and wikis (Wikipedia).
- New modes of transaction:
Market places (eBay) and file sharing.
- New modes of interaction:
Social media (Facebook), dating sites, and blogs.