

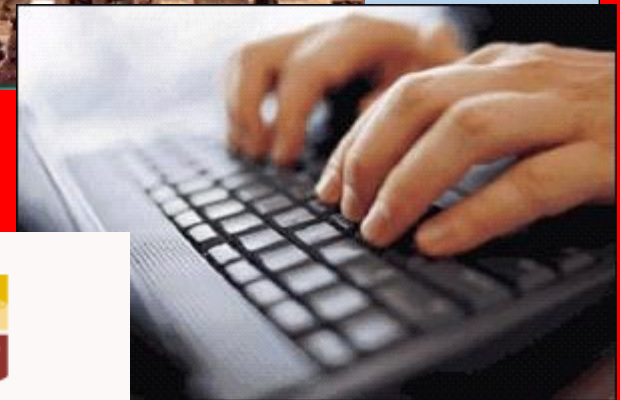
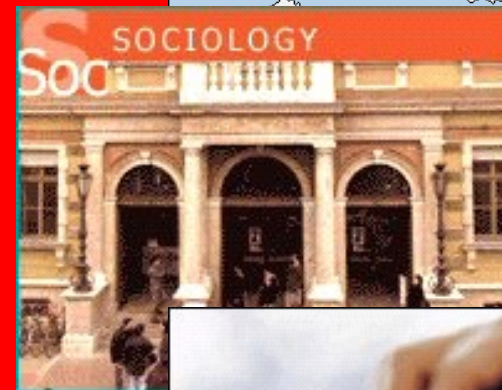
Advanced Methodology

Software Licenses and the Geography of Power

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Who I am

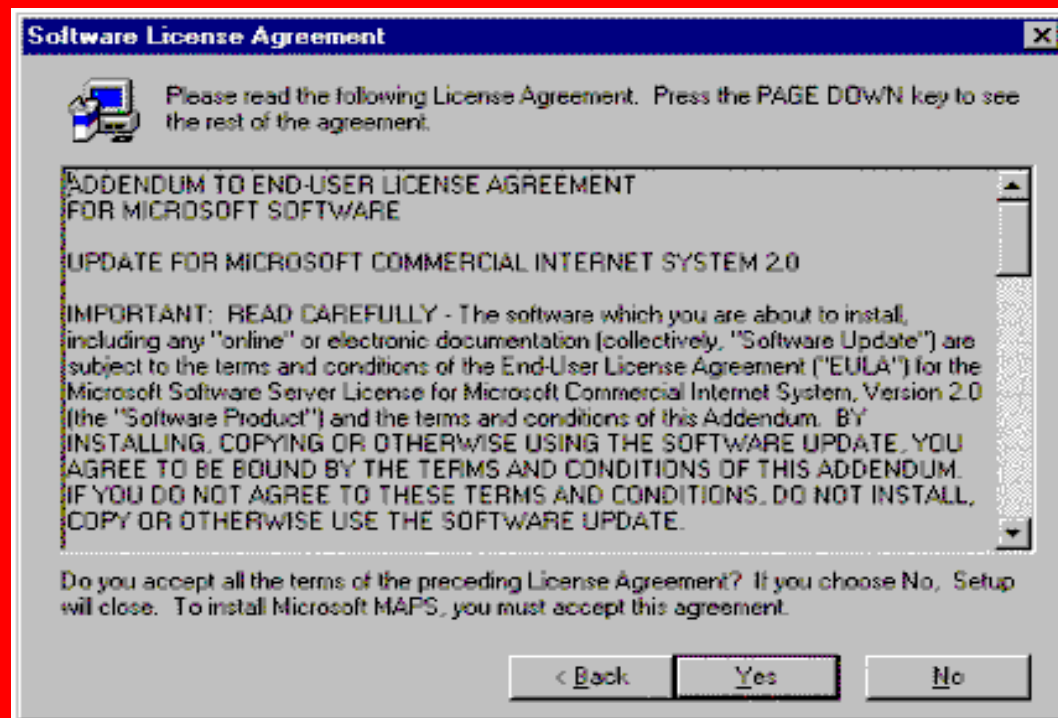
- PhD in Sociology & Social Research
- Specialization in “Information Systems & Organizations”
- Now NUIM Sociology PostDoc “FutureComm” project



Software License

is a license that grants permission to do things with computer software.

The usual goal is to authorise activities which are prohibited by default by copyright law.



Proprietary Software

- Proprietary software is computer software which is the legal property of one party.
- Proprietary software is computer software on which the producer has set restrictions USING A SOFTWARE LICENSE

==> Windows, iTunes, Photoshop, MacOSX....

Free Software

Is a type of software in which a political aspect is emphasized, with 4 freedom:

0: to run the program for any purpose.

1: to study and modify the program.

2: to copy the program so you can help your neighbor.

3: to improve the program, and release your improvements to the public, so that the whole community benefits.

==> Common examples: GNU/Linux, Firefox, Thunderbird, Apache, OpenOffice, QGis....

Proprietary Vs Free

- **PROPRIETARY SW:** Exclusive legal rights to software by a proprietor contradict the kinds of freedom, which are essential for free software.
- **IN FREE SOFTWARE:** The Licenses guarantee these Freedoms



GNU General Public License

**NO
FREE SOFTWARE
AT ALL:
START OF GNU**

**43 millions GNU/Linux on PC
9.7 millions on Servers
Grow 25.9 percent annually
(Source IDC www.idc.com)**

==> Wikipedia, Firefox....

**Millions & millions of people/
millions of organizations
have the “4 Freedoms”**

1983

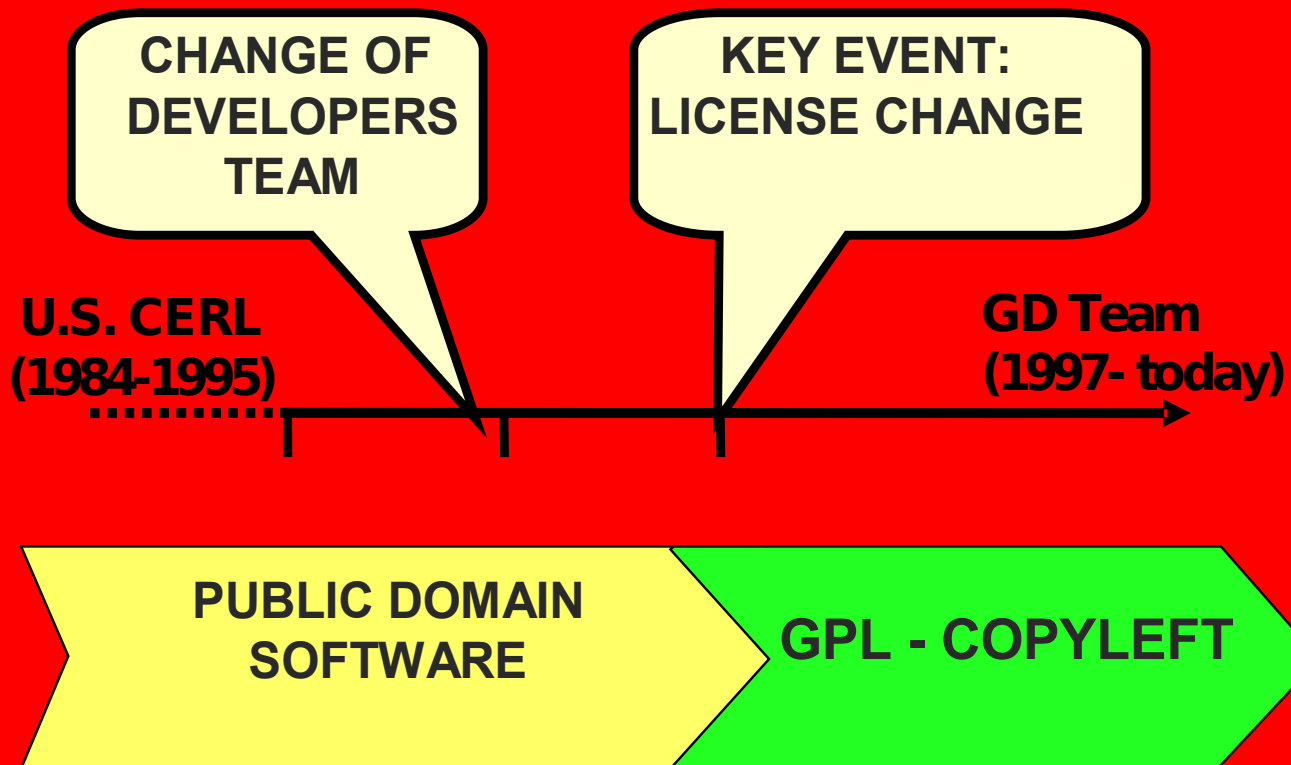
1992: GNU/Linux

Nowadays

How can we account for this “big” social change?

A case study

GRASS – Geographical Information System
“capable of integrating, storing, editing, analyzing, sharing, and displaying geographically referenced information.”



Problem

**HOW DO WE CONDUCT THE
CASE STUDY?**

WHAT IS METHODOLOGY?

Methodology is:

Your definitions.....

METHOD & LOGOS: is discourse around method

Methodology refers to more than a simple set of methods; rather it refers to the rationale and the philosophical assumptions that underlie a particular study relative to the scientific method

Readings

The Time Machine



Boyle & the Air Pump

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0nJhpCmznU&feature=related>

Your methodo-logical opinion
on the readings....

Modest Witness

Donna J. Haraway

Modest_Witness@Second_Millennium.
FemaleMan[®]_Meets_OncoMouse[™]



Feminism and Technoscience

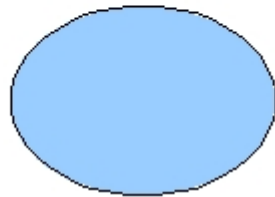
History of Philosophy in a Nutshell

Transcendental
Plane

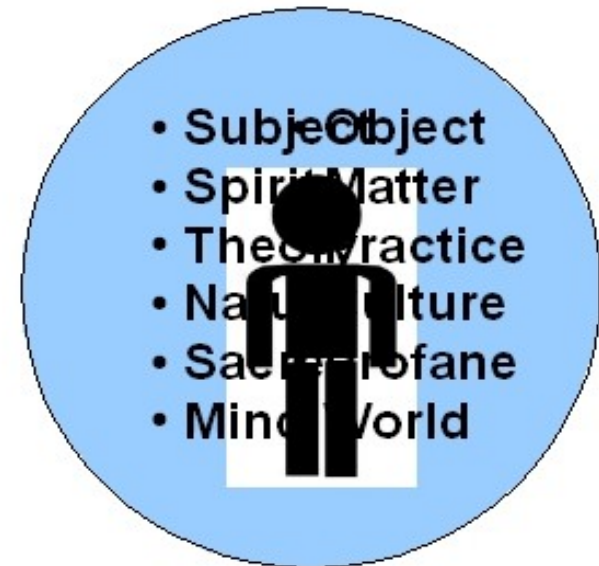
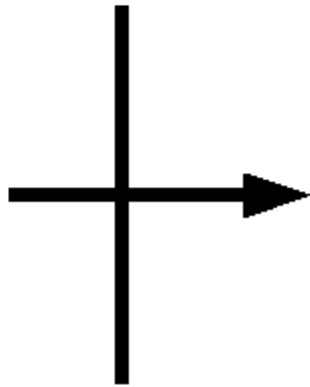


- Subject
- Spirit
- Theory
- Nature
- Sacre
- Mind

Immanence
Plane



- Object
- Matter
- Practice
- Culture
- Profane
- World

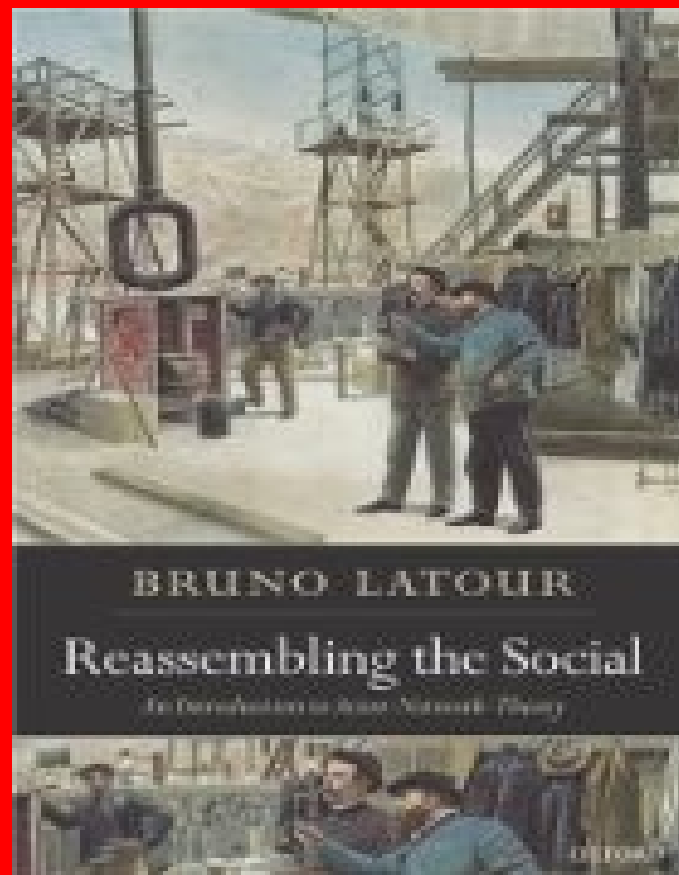


- Subject Object
- Spirit Matter
- Theory Practice
- Nature Culture
- Sacre Profane
- Mind World



Critique of Information

The transcendently reducing philosopher is himself reduced or flattened into an empirically observing actor, who is neither better nor fundamentally different than the social processes he observes. (p. 17)

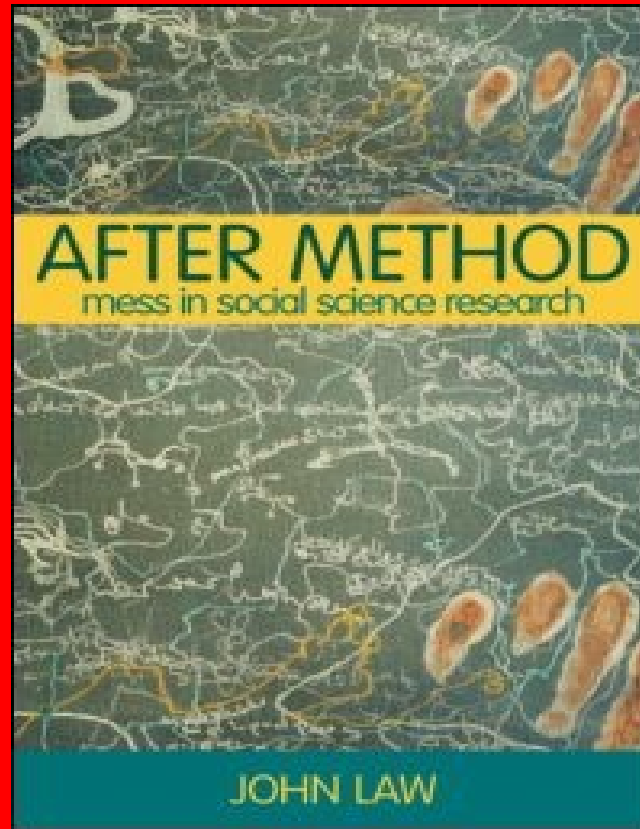


“where to travel” and
“what is worth seeing there”
is nothing but a way of saying in plain English [...] Method or even worse Methodology (p.17)

Harold
Garfinkel

Studies in
Ethnomethodology

“The word ‘Ethnomethodology’
assumes that the meaningful, patterned, and orderly
character of everyday life
is something that people must work constantly to achieve,
then one must also
assume that they have some methods for doing so.



Method is not, [...], a more or less successful set of procedures for reporting on a given reality. Rather it is performative. It helps to produce reality (p. 143)

**what does the modest witness
“observe”?**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDUFpPibuMs&feature=related>

Analysis

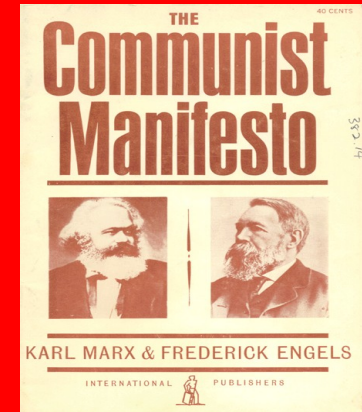
**The GNU GPL software license
A.K.A Copyleft**

**the modest witness account of
free software?**

**What say the transcendental
approaches?**

A HACKER
MANIFESTO

McKenzie Wark



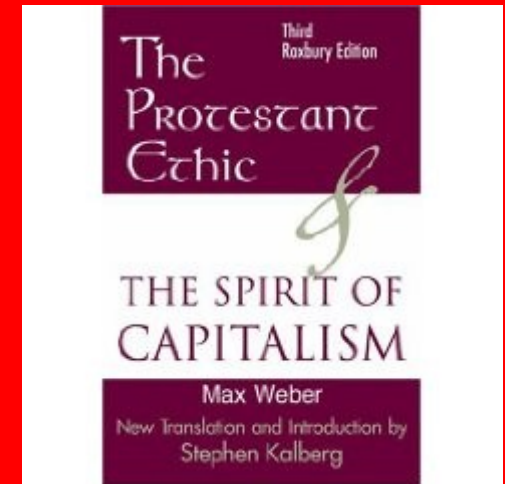
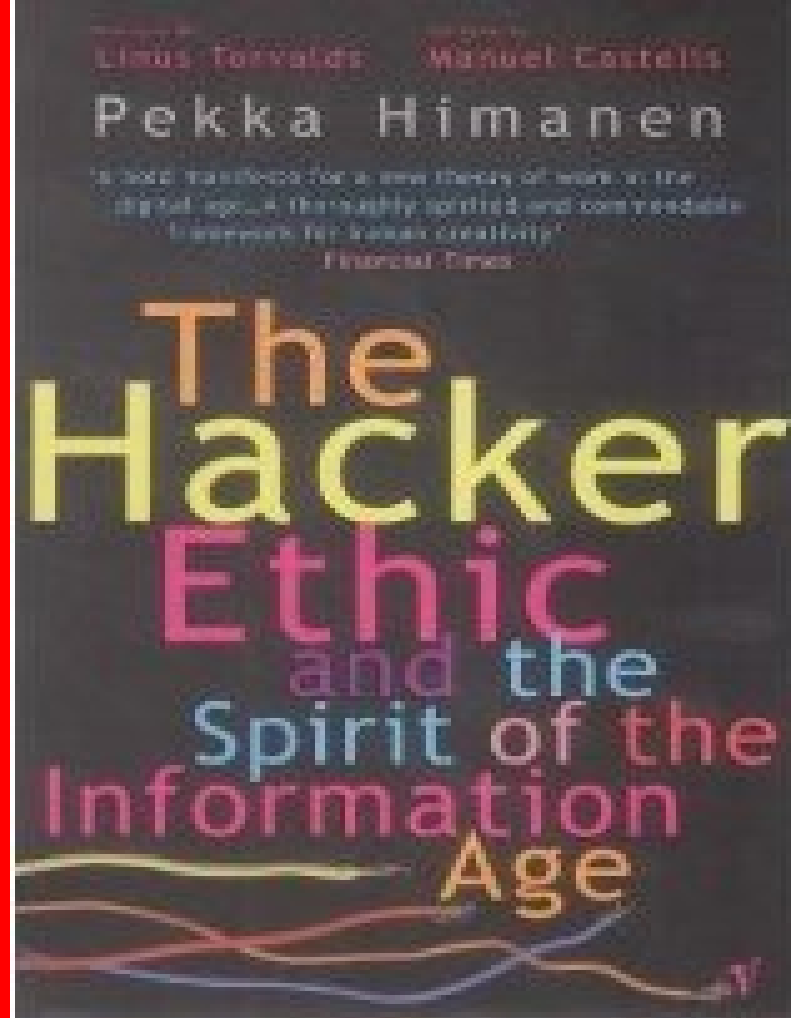
TRANSCENDENTAL THEORY

CLASH BETWEEN
PRODUCTIVE FORCES &
RELATIONSHIPS
OF PRODUCTION

DESCENDING EXPLANATION

FREE SW. IS
AN "OUTCOME"
OF THIS CLASH

THE WINNING OF PROLETARIAT
OVER CAPITALISTS

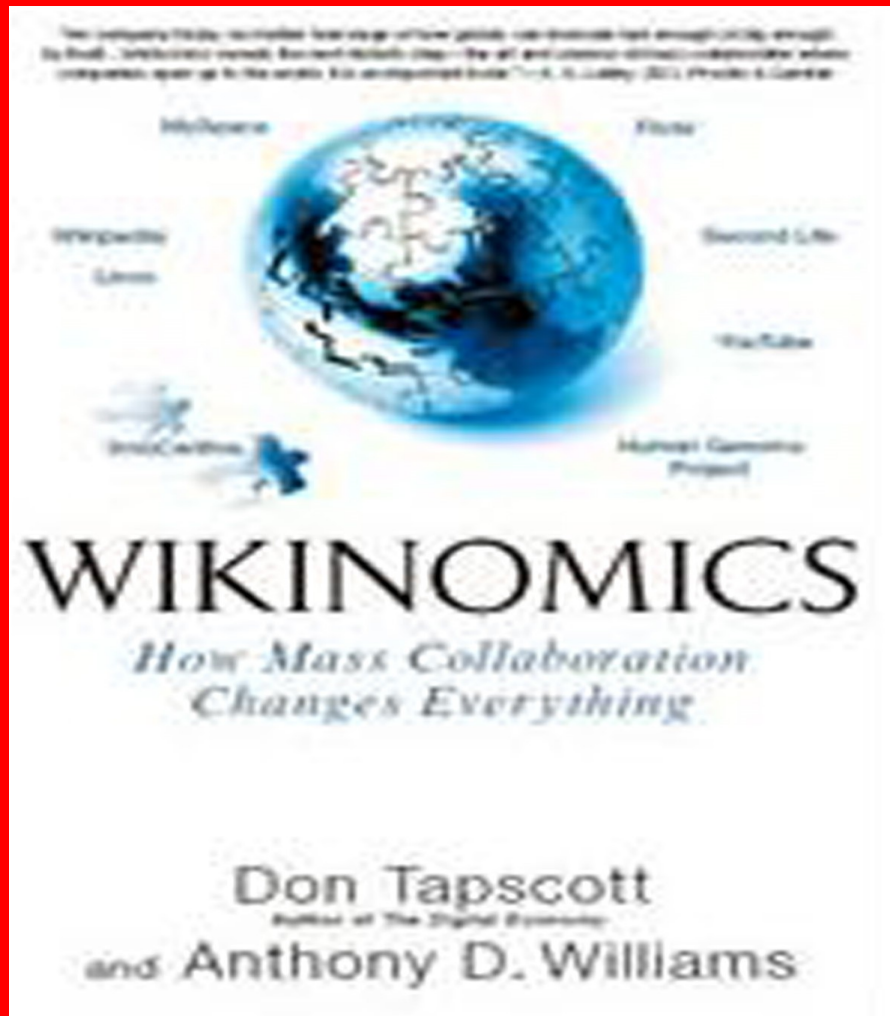


TRANSCENDENTAL THEORY

**SOME SOCIAL GROUPS
POSSES AN ETHICAL "BEHAVIOUR"
THAT RADICALLY BREAKS WITH
ACTUAL ECONOMIC
"BEHAVIOUR"**

DESCENDING INTERPRETATION

**FS ETHICS WILL LEAD TO
A NEW "ECONOMIC"
ORDER**



TRANSCENDENTAL THEORY

THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE
DETERMINES WHAT SOCIETY IS

DESCENDING EXPLANATION

WIKINOMICS IS THE OUTCOME OF
A STRUCTURAL CHANGE
[OPENESS, PEERING, SHARING]

TRANSCENDENTAL THEORY

**THE NATURE OF MANKIND IS THAT
OF RATIONAL & INDIVIDUALIST
===
MAXIMIZATION OF UTILITIES IS
SOCIETY**

DESCENDING EXPLANATION

**FS LICENSES ARE CHOSEN
BECAUSE OF MAXIMIZATION**

**what will the modest witness
say, instead?**



OS WARS

A long time ago, in a country far, far away, a small band of programmers were battling against a tyrannical empire.

It is a period of corporate war. Open source programmers, striking from homes across the world, have won their first victory against the evil Monopolistic Empire. During the battle, the programmers faced off against the Empire's ultimate weapon - an operating system which contains enough code to engulf an entire planet.

Pursued by the Empire's sinister lawyers and marketing drones, the programmers race to Atlanta, custodians of the plans that can save their people and restore freedom to computers everywhere...

May the Source be with you!

ETHNO THEORY

STRUGGLE BETWEEN:

THE EVIL EMPIRE
(hierarchical/control/tyranny)

THE REBEL FLEET
(flat/horizontal/distributed)



ETHNO-METHOD

REALITY IS NOT DIFFERENT
NOR SEPARATED FROM

STAR WARS



Conclusion: what method-logos?

- Discourse on method (aka methodology) has moved on natural/immanent plane
- Concepts can be drawn from different fields in the world – including SciFi
- Theory & World (knowing and doing) are one and the same
- Be innovative/creative – use as bricolage different available resources
-
- What do you think?