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Round Table Title: Building UX design for “cognitive democracy”

Elevator Pitch:

We benefit so much from technology but technoscientific infrastructure can also be seen to threaten the complexity of mutual relations, interactions, etc. that are features of democratic society.

It is common today to speak of the “tragedy of the commons”, the “unusable” internet – even finding a battery charger on Amazon requires a degree in investigative journalism (Gross), machines that compromise our ability to function without them or that replace us (ML, RBA), epistemic bubbles and echo chambers (Nguyen).

Is our technoscientific information age a poison or a cure? It is up to us.

Goal: Co-creating strategies for cognitive democracy in our own contexts

Engagement:

(Fifteen minute *Icebreaker*: attendees choose/think of term related to their reason for attending the session, explaining why;

Warm-up: UX design requires digital literacy. Are we digitally literate? Q. followed by reflective analysis of use of digital tech, how often, for what purpose);

* Brief definition of Morin’s “cognitive democracy”

= potentially antagonistic mutual relations, interactions, implications that at once nourish democracy while it regulates them

= multidimensional, complex features;

* Concerns of attendees: their wants and needs

– if none are forthcoming, a dilemma will be provided (from Jungk)

* Brainstorm solutions: approaching design by “taking things apart”

– idea map of attendee concerns, knowns/unknowns, causes, symptoms, actors, places, information, etc. followed by solutions;

Resources to be used to prompt discussion, if needed:

* 3 bullet points of examples from the industry (brief descriptions of e.g. Pivot for Humanity, Mandeville’s “The Future Will Be Technical”);

* 5 bullet points of theories that can be applied to real life situations (e.g. Stiegler’s *pharmakon*; Hadot’s hiding/revealing of technology; Ricoeur’s “open” questions; Trocme-Fabre’s rich/poor contextualization);

* Technical vs. moral knowledge

* Professional excellence (Gardner), ethics, values, norms

* Culture as machine for increasing our intelligence and sensitivity? (Krakauer)

* Moving fast and fixing things (Abu-Ghazaleh)