



*Extended Abstract*

## **Critical Theory of the Internet: The Importance of Raymond Williams, Dallas Smythe, and Herbert Marcuse Today**

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This keynote talk discusses some foundations of a critical theory of the Internet. It visits three specific critical theories of the media, communication, technology, culture and society: works by Raymond Williams, Dallas Smythe, and Herbert Marcuse. It argues that insights of these thinkers can form foundations for a critical theory of the Internet. All three thinkers have had profound influence on my own work and thought, which is especially evident in two of my recent books: *Digital Labour and Karl Marx* (2014) and *Culture and Economy in the Age of Social Media* (2015). I will also talk about these works in this presentation.

**Christian Fuchs** is Professor of at the University of Westminster's Communication and Media Research Institute (<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/camri>), one of Britain's leading institutions in this field. He is also director of the Centre for Social Media Research (<http://www.westminster.ac.uk/csmr>), editor of the journal tripleC: Communication, Capitalism & Critique (<http://www.triple-c.at>), Vice-Chair of the EU COST Action Dynamics of Virtual Work, Chair of the European Sociological Association's Research Network 18 – Sociology of Communications and Media Research, and author of books such as *Culture and Economy in the Age of Social Media*, *Digital Labour and Karl Marx*, *Social Media: A Critical Introduction*, *OccupyMedia!*, *The Occupy Movement and Social Media in Crisis Capitalism*, *Foundations of Critical Media and Information Studies*, *Internet and Society: Social Theory in the Information* Age.

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**Most recent books:**

*Culture and Economy in the Age of Social Media:*

<http://www.routledge.com/u/routledge/9781138839311>

*Digital Labour and Karl Marx:* <http://www.routledge.com/u/routledge/9780415716161>

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