

# ***The Social Politics of Free/Libre and Open Source Software***

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# Agenda

- what is the social?
- social politics
- inscription = set of practices
- Free Software/Open Source Software
- Three main Social Issues
- OpenSolaris case
- Toward an ethnology

# ***What is the social?***

- the social is the explananda
- monadic character of society
- centrality of connections
- “technology is society made durable”
- relational approach: technology-in-use

# *Social politics*

- inscription/de-description
- views of the world
- stability
- two interrelated aspects: inscription of views of the world; enrollment to stabilize inscription

# *Inscription as a set of practices*

- holistic/qualitative aspect
- temporality
- social recognizement
- ordering the world
- all become questions for sociologists

# *What is Free software...*

- the Xerox printer case
- problematization of copyright
- choice of Unix
- ethical commitment
- practices of freedom

# *...and Open Source Software*

- shared attention to copyright (and widely intellectual property)
- different problematization: best technical achievements
- enrollment of corporations

# *Three main social issues*

- relationships between intellectual property, business models, development practices
- technical character of technology
- ecology of translations

# The OpenSolaris project



# *OpenSolaris and Linux: the license*

- software as a commons?
- legal incompatibility OpenSolaris/Linux
- history of the Common Development and Distribution License (CDDL)
- peculiarities of software licenses
- bandwagon of copyright, business model, development practices

# *Resistance of other elements*

- regime of accountability in front of share holders
- alignment business model/FLOSS: radio antennas
- changes in the industry (challenging “the winner takes all” model)

# *Programming guidelines and code contributions*

- modularity -> code anarchy?
- programming guidelines
- human filter
- problem of the Source Control Manager
- freedom, openness  
(zealots)/pragmatism

# *Conflicts and ties*

- multiple translations
- multiple boundary objects
- strong debates
- problematization of the ongoing practices
- “field of practices of freedom”

# *Translations and...*

- ecology of translations (Sun, “zealots”, pragmatists)
- Sun double regime of accountability (share holders, developers)
- boundaries creations and discussions

# *...ethnology*

- different forms of problematization
- strategies of translations
- practices related to the translation
- multiplicity
- and more...

# *Free questions*

Thank you!

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