CU71007A:
Critical Theory of Interactive Media

Convenor: Axel Roch
Goldsmiths College

Autumn Term

Assessment: One essay (5000-6000 words). Deadline: January 15th

Questions for essays:

Standard:
1. What is a power/knowledge-complex ? Describe.
2. What is a dispositif ?
3. What is a war machine ?
4. What is an interface ?
5. Describe the relation of information theory and/or cybernetics (Shannon, Wiener) to media theory (e.g. Flusser, Kittler, Weibel, or Serres).

Advanced:
6. Discuss and/or compare nomadology and/or archaeology as analytical methods in historical and theoretical media studies.
7. Apply the analytical concept of a dispositif to empirical examples within electronic media.
8. Describe the paradigmatic shift from algorithm to interaction in terms of computation and computability (Turing, Wegner) and contrast this shift with media theory and/or postmodern and/or critical thinking.
9. Discuss open and closed systems in relation to hardware, software, and/or interfaces with concrete examples. Emphasize code as 'critical element'.
10. Choose your own topic and relate it to any topic treated in the core course. Please discuss and confirm topic in advance with convenor.