



Hactivism / E-Music / New Media Art

neural.it

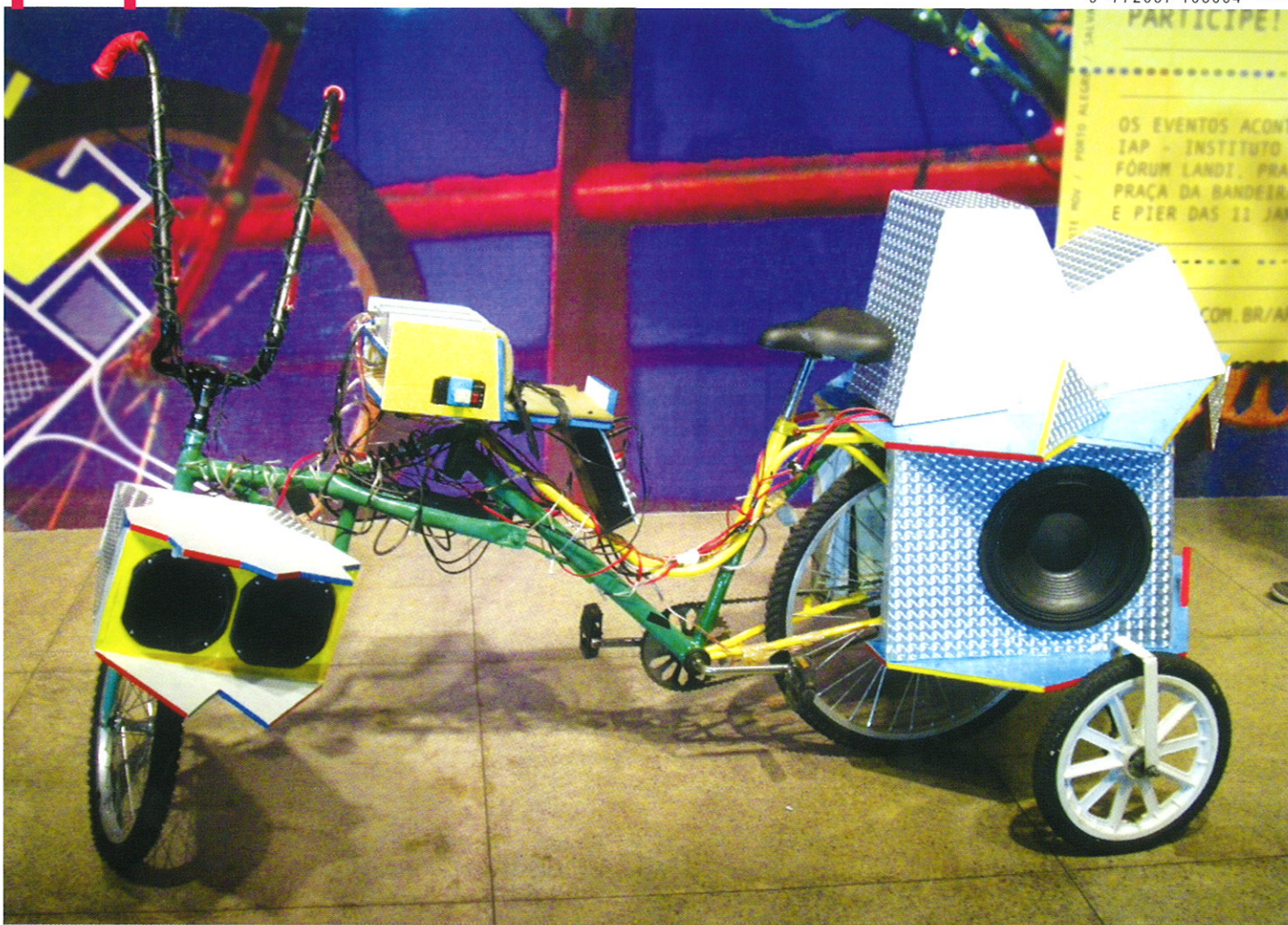
Europe € 7 / UK £ 6 / US+World \$ 8 / AU\$ 14.99

ISSUE 38/
p2p > f2f

ISSN 2037-108X



9 772037 108004



The Force of Sharing / The Sound of Network Topologies / Netless Dead Drops

interviews > Michel Bauwens / Dmytri Kleiner, Telekommunisten / Superflex

Platoniq / Mattin, Free Software Series / Anders Weberg

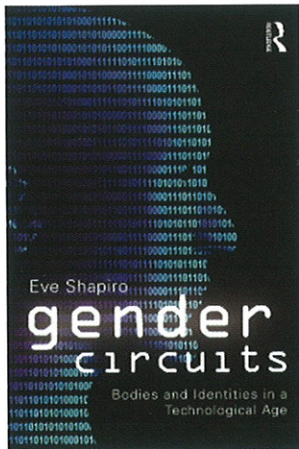
report > arte.mov Belém 2010 / Electrohype 2010 /

Eve Shapiro

Gender Circuits

Routledge <book>

ISBN: 978-0415996969



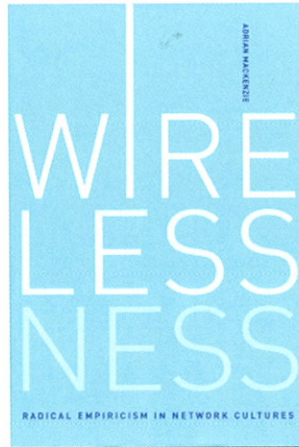
How technologies are shaping and affecting our body has been often discussed in terms of "representation" and identity. Eve Shapiro is a sociologist researching the dynamic relationship between identity, embodiment and community, mainly within North America. In this book she's able to investigate various aspects of the definition of gender through a number of different technologies. From the modification of female muscles induced by the intensive use of high heels to the tremendous impact of biotechnologies, the author discusses number of politically relevant questions like: did the development of body modification technologies lead to contemporary transsexual identities? To understand the different scenarios we found in the text a few useful highlighted definitions of new words, like "somatechnics", a term that is used to express the idea that the body is always known and shaped through the technologies of a particular society. Moreover Shapiro ranges from the analysis of how gender was historically defined to the technologies developed to foster "gender conformity" (the corset, for example). She also investigates of how gender is shown, changed and negotiated online. Here the representation of the self is dispersed and multifaceted with a number of consequences, including the so-called "Proteus effect" connected to the perception of our own avatar. With accessible language, brilliantly avoiding the typical slang abuse of gender studies, this book is pleasant and informed writing.

Adrian Mackenzie

Wirelessness.

The MIT Press <book>

ISBN: 978-0262014649



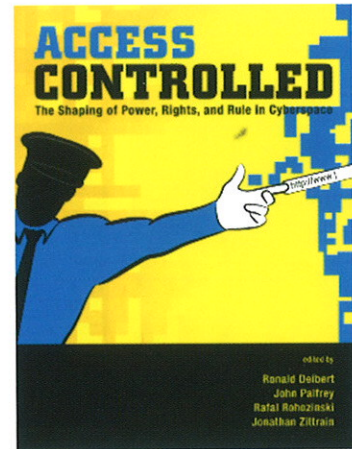
After years talking about the revolution in space perception induced by the real time IT networks, the strong industrial trend to go wireless whenever possible has pervaded space and habits. We're slowly "getting rid of cables", pushed by the industry as if cables were parasites, but unconsciously changing our culture without being aware of what is really happening technologically. Mackenzie fruitfully questions the use of taking wireless connections and communications for granted (as if they were some obscure "public service"). His definition of "wirelessness" states that it "designates an experience trending toward entanglements with things, objects, gadgets, infrastructures, and services, and imbued with indistinct sensations and practices of network-associated change." This experience of change is explained well chapter by chapter, through transmission algorithm principles, the physical perception of transmitters, antennas, post-colonial investments in third world countries, wireless coverage and a quantity of other related activities. Moreover his "radical empiricism" is indeed a godsend. He combines a theoretically rigorous approach with empirical considerations, never losing the reader's interest. Mackenzie delivers an analysis of contemporary networks that is grounded on the visionary idea of a "Hertzian Landscape" by William Mitchell, while tracking the meaning of the disappearing origin of signals, in a compelling style. He probably would have loved the performances of Men In Grey too, but they just came after this important book.

R. J. Deibert, J. G. Palfrey, R. Rohozinski, J. Zittrain

Access Controlled,

The MIT Press <book>

ISBN: 978-0262514354



Two years after "Access Denied", the same team of editors have published a new thick book about internet censorship and filtering. It's another project by the OpenNet Initiative (ONI), a consortium of academics focused on free speech and government interactions with the Internet. This sequel is divided in two parts. The first includes "theory and analysis" with very informative essays that the editors also made freely available online. The second part is constituted of almost five hundred pages of regional and country-by-country reports, with a functional taxonomy to define the three general types of speech and information controls adopted by states. They are, in fact, evolving from the "first generation controls" (like the iconic "Great Firewall of China") to second and third generation controls that are way more sophisticated, act in real time, and can easily assure extensive deniability using surveillance and data mining against the chosen target. The authors are very pessimistic about the future of the internet, forecasting many regional differences and strict state and even military control. The picture of authoritarian governments (and democratic ones as well) working with private companies to almost invisibly control their citizens at all times is not science fiction anymore. Nevertheless recent cases like the outstanding Wikileaks affair, go some way to proving that distributed information can be spread and published by citizens despite any military influence (unless Wikileaks ends up as the last example of real freedom of speech).