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Hybridization and controversies in the discourses on the commons: web content analysis and emerging social networks

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Resumen

In a first approximation, the commons can be understood as resources and services which are (or can become) collectively managed through different types of horizontal self-organization, and which belong to no one: from free software and Wikipedia to communal lands and fisheries. In the last years, and specially since the current crisis, the discourses on the commons have bloomed throughout the literature in different academic disciplines. In this interdisciplinary project, we are interested in the different social agents in Spain who produce and reproduce discourses on the commons and which have presence in the World Wide Web. We select a few case studies (some coming from the *P2Pvalue* EU-project, in which the group GRASIA at UCM is involved) and we developed a software tool to analyze systematically the web content regarding the discourses on the commons therein. We organize this analysis through different controversial aspects. Starting with a few of them as seeds, we aim to construct an issue network on the commons using web crawling algorithms. Surprisingly, the discourses on the commons are not monolithic. Instead, we find a multiplicity of discourses that we study through the hybridization of four categories or *archetypes*: the *hacker*, the *left*, the *autonomous*, and the *liberal*. We believe this work can bring good understanding on both the discourses on the commons (produced and reproduced) and the nature and structure of the social networks that hyperlinks and discursive connections produce.

Sobre Xavier Castelló

Xavier Castelló Llobet is a postdoctoral researcher at the Group for Social Studies in Science and Technology (GESCIT) at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). He is currently holding a Juan de la Cierva postdoctoral position, with a project on the digital study of the discourses on the commons. He did his PhD at the Institute for Cross-Disciplinary Physics and Complex Systems (IFISC, CSIC-Universitat de les Illes Balears, Palma de Mallorca, Spain) on the study of social dynamics in complex social networks, within the framework of complex systems, using statistical and nonlinear physics. In particular, the PhD focused on the modeling of processes of language contact in bilingual societies. Xavier Castelló has done several research stays abroad: Economic Sociology Working Group at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Cambridge MA (USA); Laboratory of Computational Engineering at Helsinki University of Technology, Finland; Dipartimento de Fisica, Università di Roma "La Sapienza", Italy. Moreover, he has published 10 papers in Journals with JCR Impact Factor, he has given 11 Oral communications in international congresses and 8 Invited seminars. He has also participated in 8 Workshops and Schools.