Some Reflections on Manuel Castells' Book "Networks of Outrage and Hope. Social Movements in the Internet Age".

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Abstract
This paper provides critical reflections on Manuel Castells' (2012) book Networks of Outrage and Hope. Social Movements in the Internet Age that analyses the “nature and perspectives of networked social movements” (p. 4) and gives special focus to the role of “social media” in movements that emerged in 2011 in Tunisia, Iceland, Egypt, Spain and the United States. I situate Castells' book in an intellectual discourse that focuses on the political implications of social media and that has involved Clay Shirky, Malcolm Gladwell and Evgeny Morozov. The article also discusses the role of social theory and empirical research in Castells' book, presents as an alternative a theoretical model of the relationship between social movements and the media, discusses the implications that some empirical data that focus on social media in the Egyptian revolution and the Occupy Wall Street movement have for Castells’ approach, discusses how Castells positions himself towards capitalism and compares his explanation of the crisis and his political views to David Harvey’s approach.

Section overview:
1. Introduction
2. Social Media and Politics: A Controversy between Clay Shirky, Malcolm Gladwell and Evgeny Morozov
3. Castells on Social Media in the Context of Protests and Revolutions: The Dimension of Social Theory
4. Social Theory Recovered: A Model of the Relationship between Social Movements and the Media
5. Castells on Social Media in the Context of Protests and Revolutions: The Dimension of Empirical Research
6. Manuel Castells and David Harvey: The Question of Political Struggle - For or against Capitalism?
7. Conclusion

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Christian Fuchs is professor and chair in media and communication studies at Uppsala University’s Department of Informatics and Media. He is board member of the Unified Theory of Information Research Group and editor of tripleC (cognition, communication, co-operation): Journal for a Global Sustainable Information Society. He holds a venia docendi in the field of ICTs and society. His research interests are: critical theory, social theory, media and society, ICTs and society, information society theory/research, political economy. He is author of many publications in these fields, including the books 'Internet and Society: Social Theory in the Information Age' (Routledge 2008), which presents a social theory of contemporary society with a special consideration of media, information, and technology, and the book 'Foundations of

Networks of outrage and hope - social movements in the Internet age. September 2013. International Journal of Public Opinion Research 25(3):398-402. The aim of Manuel Castells is to identify and understand new paths of social change in our time and to stimulate a debate on the practical and ultimately political implications about it. Grounded on observation, some hypotheses about the nature and perspectives of networked social movements are gradually developed (p. 4). Informal institutions and social structures that are stronger than some may have thought or hoped. Power creates counterpower and the other way around, resulting in constantly changing relationships. In sum, we conclude that this new book of Castells is absolutely worth reading for anyone interested in the political implications of social movements.

Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age, that analyses the "nature and perspectives of networked social movements" (p. 4) and gives special focus to the role of "social media" in movements that emerged in 2011 in Tunisia, Iceland, Egypt, Spain and the United States. I situate Castells' book in an intellectual discourse that focuses on the political implications of social media and that has involved Clay Shirky, Malcolm Gladwell and Evgeny Morozov. This paper provides critical reflections on Manuel Castells' (2012) book Networks of Outrage and Hope. This paper provides critical reflections on Manuel Castells' (2012) book Networks of Outrage and Hope. Social Movements in the Internet Age that analyses the "nature and perspectives of networked social movements" (p. 4) and gives special focus to the role of "social media" in movements that emerged in 2011 in Tunisia, Iceland, Egypt, Spain and the United States. I situate Castells' book in an intellectual discourse that focuses on the political implications of social media and that has involved Clay Shirky, Malcolm Gladwell and Evgeny Morozov. This article also discusses the role of social media in the second edition of Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age, sociologist Manuel Castells conceptualises the relationship between social movements and the internet age through the notion of 'the networked social movement'. While the book utilises an admirable empirical dataset and shows deep understanding of the fluidity of contemporary social movements, Helton Levy wonders if Castells's optimistic vision neglects lingering issues, including state surveillance and the digital divide. Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age. 2nd edition.