

Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	xvii
<i>List of tables</i>	xix

Introduction	1
---------------------	---

PART I	
Theoretical foundations	13

1 Critical theory and dialectics	15
---	----

Introduction 15

Foundational concepts of a critical theory of media, technology, and society 16

The dialectics of productive forces and relations of production 26

Conclusion: means of communication as means of production 40

2 Critical Internet and social media studies	44
---	----

Introduction 44

Foundations of Internet and social media studies 47

Towards a critical theory of the Internet and social media 51

Conclusion: ideology and commodity critique 54

3 Critical (Internet) privacy studies: ideology critique	57
---	----

Introduction 57

Foundations of (Internet) privacy studies 58

Towards a critical theory of (Internet) privacy 69

Conclusion: capitalist privacy threats vs. corporate privacy protection 73

4 Critical (Internet) surveillance studies: commodity critique	75
---	----

Introduction 75

Foundations of (Internet) surveillance studies 76

Towards a critical theory of (Internet) surveillance 84

Conclusion: capitalist surveillance vs. counter-surveillance 95

PART II

Case study 99

5 Traditional and critical research of privacy and surveillance on social media 101

Introduction 101

Traditional research of privacy on social media 101

Critical research of surveillance on social media 109

Conclusion: a critical empirical study of privacy and surveillance on social media 118

6 Empirical results: (dis)advantages of social media 122

Introduction 122

General characteristics of the respondents 126

Advantages of social networking sites 128

Disadvantages of social networking sites 138

Conclusion 147

PART III

Techno-social revolution 149

7 Critical theory, dialectics, and the (dis)advantages of social media 151

Introduction 151

Foundational concepts of a critical theory of media, technology, and society and the (dis)advantages of social media 151

The dialectics of productive forces and relations of production and the (dis)advantages of social media 160

Conclusion 174

8 Conclusion 177

Technological constraints 178

Technological potentials 179

Social potentials 179

Social constraints 180

(Dis)like Facebook? Communication and network commons 181

Commons-based information society 182

Bibliography 187

Index 205