Networked Publics

edited by Kazys Varnelis

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Preface

Networked Publics is the product of the 2005–2006 research year at the University of Southern California's Annenberg Center for Communication. A team of thirteen scholars spent the year investigating how new and maturing networking technologies are reconfiguring the way we interact with content, media sources, other individuals and groups, and the world that surrounds us.

This book accompanies the blog that we maintained during that period, now at http://networkedpublics.org. It aims to be a scholarly introduction to the field, synthesizing our own fields of research together with what we learned as a group. The book should also be understood as our response to the cultural material and debates that we brought together at the Networked Publics Conference and Media Festival at the Annenberg Center for Communication on April 28 and 29, 2006.

Networked Publics was produced online, using tools such as Writely (now Google Docs) and, as such, is one of the first books to be produced through collaborative software.