

# society, technology, information

COMN 2312,  
Feb 15, 2011  
Happy after Valentines Day

- Electronic Here(s) & Electronic Elsewheres

**Agenda**

- Four films which feature a here/there binary which is organized around electronic culture

**Electronic Here(s)/Electronic Elsewheres**

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- Film 1: Almost real: **Connecting in a Wired World**

**Electronic Here(s)/Electronic Elsewheres**

- Four films which feature a here/there binary which is organized around electronic culture
- Film 1: Almost real: **Connecting in a Wired World**
- The internet is explored in the ways in which it is rewiring community: what are some of those ways?

**Electronic Here(s)/Electronic Elsewheres**

- Four films which explore a here/there binary which is organized around electronic culture
- Film 2: Village Cell phone: Empowering Bangladesh
- How was the cell phone used to rewrite the boundaries of here and there in Bangladesh

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- Four films which explore a here/there binary around electronic culture
- Film 3: Exporting Harm : the High-tech Trashing of Asia
- How is the idea of here and there used to create “high tech trashing” in Asia?

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- Four films which explore a here/there binary around electronic culture
- Film 4: **Secrets of Silicon Valley**
- This movie takes place in Silicon Valley yet shows two very different cultures, one is considered the “underbelly” of the other. How does this idea of the underbelly function as a “there” and a “here” in Silicon Valley

**Electronic Here(s)/Electronic Elsewheres**

- The Industrial Revolution

- plus colonialism equaled significant changes in the relationship of nature, location and cultural dominance
- was accompanied by significant immigration
- was accompanied by a transition from agrarian to urban
- was accompanied by sets of changes to that space which was called domestic

**Electronic Here(s)/Electronic Elsewheres**

- The Industrial Revolution/Western Imperialism/Western Colonialism
  - is experienced by some as cultural displacement even though they have not moved
  - as the strangeness of geography that is familiar but changed,
  - the interior transforms into a strange place and land – not because they have left but because of the arrival of “strangers”
  - find themselves “strangers” in their own land

**Electronic Here(s)/Electronic Elsewheres**

- The Industrial Revolution/Western Imperialism/Western Colonialism
  - the motif of the domestic transitions
  - as lands are transitioned
  - land as modified by technology, such that “the land itself becomes a stranger”
  - the accoutrements of the industrial revolution and the arrival of modernism include increasingly homogenized spaces, the triumph of certain versions of interior

**Electronic Here(s)/Electronic Elsewheres**

- The Industrial Revolution/Modernism
  - the motif of the domestic
  - is aided by technologies of building which though they are adapted to the environs they are in, also do not adapt, they prioritize certain “pictures” of how home should be
  - NFB video on [Prairie homes](#)
  - Technology is evoked to create the homogenous interior which is marked by certain architectures, styles, fashions and themes
  - This is accompanied by technologies which proclaim this new interior through pictures, through technologies themselves which become quickly (more quickly than ever before) culturally transcendent )

**Electronic Here(s)/Electronic Elsewheres**

- The Industrial Revolution/Modernism/Immigration
  - as immigrants arrive into these modernized spaces it is with the expectation that they will adopt certain relationships with its domestication
  - to arrive as an immigrant into the industrialized cities or colonies is to also arrive into certain agreements which give priority to certain kinds of spaces: white, English, protestant was also identified with clean, ordered in certain ways: literate in certain ways
  - thus though domestic spaces are homes of ethnic cultures, there is also a press upon these to conform to the technologies and aesthetics of modernism: for example literacy, cleanliness

**Electronic Here(s)/Electronic Elsewheres**

- The Industrial Revolution/Modernism/Immigration
  - this ends up being “interesting” in varied ways
  - for example, the England which Marx analyzes is an England which while its is busy imperializing the world has also in many ways rendered its own interior as strange to itself: its inhabitants through industrialization become cultural “immigrants” displaced
  - The urban jungle means that one can be in their own country and feel a displacement a way in which “the assumptions of here” turn into an experience of there”

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