**Participatory Networks – and the Decline of the Social**

Dieter Mersch, Vortrag Lissabon

Participation is one of the key-words pertaining to theories of computerization and social media. Both are considered to be techniques of interaction and communication based in cannels of mutual exchange which allow for true political participation. Therefore networks of the so-called web 2.0 are regarded to be genuinely social so that technology today supports the creation of communities and new alliances. However the claim of the lecture will be the opposite: Participation leads only to a ‘bisected’ or ‘shrunk version’ of the social, because through participation basic cooperative conditions such as ‘trust’ or ‘justice’ cannot be fully reconstructed. The crisis of the social today is related to this.