





# FAST CAPITALISM

An Interdisciplinary Journal

Volume 20 • Issue 1

**2023**

Fast Capitalism is an academic journal with a political intent. We publish reviewed scholarship and essays about the impact of rapid information and communication technologies on self, society and culture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We do not pretend an absolute objectivity; the work we publish is written from the vantages of viewpoint. Our authors examine how heretofore distinct social institutions, such as work and family, education and entertainment, have blurred to the point of near identity in an accelerated, post-Fordist stage of capitalism. This makes it difficult for people to shield themselves from subordination and surveillance. The working day has expanded; there is little down time anymore. People can 'office' anywhere, using laptops and cells to stay in touch. But these invasive technologies that tether us to capital and control can also help us resist these tendencies. People use the Internet as a public sphere in which they express and enlighten themselves and organize others; women, especially, manage their families and nurture children from the job site and on the road, perhaps even 'familizing' traditionally patriarchal and bureaucratic work relations; information technologies afford connection, mitigate isolation, and even make way for social movements. We are convinced that the best way to study an accelerated media culture and its various political economies and existential meanings is dialectically, with nuance, avoiding sheer condemnation and ebullient celebration. We seek to shape these new technologies and social structures in democratic ways.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.  
(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

UT Arlington Libraries Mavs Open Press: Leah McCurdy, Vanessa Garrett, Hang Pham-Vu

Published and made openly accessible by:  
University of Texas at Arlington Libraries  
702 Planetarium Pl.  
Arlington, TX 76019

ISSN 1930-014X



Mavs Open Press  
2023 University of Texas at Arlington

# Contents

## Regular Articles

- 1 TikTok Containment Meets “The Threat of a Good Example”  
*Marcus Breen*
- 24 Fediverse’s Evolution from the Cultural-Historical Activity Theory  
*José Manuel Meza-Cano and Edith González-Santiago*
- 38 Beyond Verticality and Horizontality: Arcological Thinking and the Neoliberal Subject  
*François Debrix*
- 56 Cyberculture’s Abstract Utopias: Silicon Valley and Cleaner, Greener, Leaner Rules for a “New Economy”  
*Timothy W. Luke*
- 72 The Right-Wing’s Dirty War Against History and Education: Beyond the Politics of Disappearance  
*Henry A. Giroux*
- 86 The Claustropolitan Society: A Critical Perspective on the Impact of Digital Technologies and the Lockdown Imaginary  
*Tara Brabazon and Stefan Lawrence*
- 100 Of the Enemy: Scalping as Culture and Commodity on the North American Frontier  
*James Sandy*

## Slow Thoughts for Fast Times

- 118 C. Wright Mills: A New Left for a New Day  
*Charles Lemert*