

OPEN WAVES FREEWAYS

Approaches to free wireless networks

Edited by: Efraín Foglia + Yann Bona.

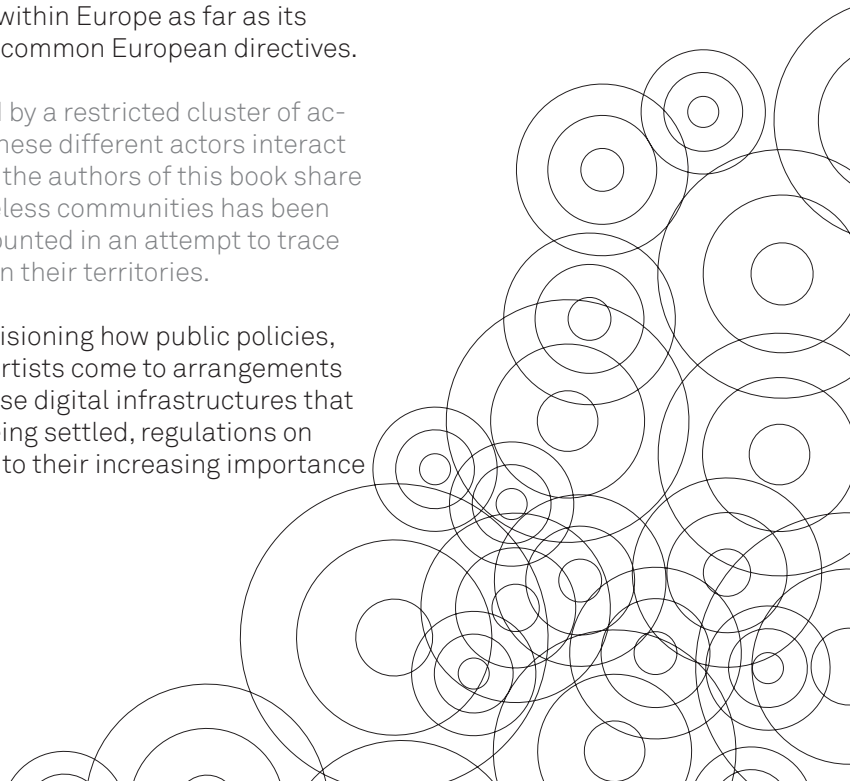
This book surveys a group of terrains central to the emergence of Wireless Networks providing a careful insight on political, technical, legal and artistic concerns about what it means to populate the electromagnetic field with wireless waves.

This publication debates and focuses on the construction of open networks which use wireless technology without rejecting the possibilities now starting to be available concerning the use of optical fiber. The concept of open network refers to the use of any technology providing a sustainable solution which allows increasing degrees of freedom for knowing, accessing and modifying a telecommunication network.

Communication has become central to our information societies. Nevertheless, boundaries between public policy, engineering, urban planning and activist groups are constantly being shaped by agreements or disagreements on how, why and who should be able to build, manage and access telecommunication infrastructures. There are different ways to face the existing diversity within Europe as far as its legal, methodological and conceptual nature, despite common European directives.

Whether we think of a scarce resource to be regulated by a restricted cluster of actors or by an open spectrum, it remains unclear how these different actors interact and posit their arguments. With that warning in mind, the authors of this book share a common feeling that albeit much of the work of wireless communities has been going on for years, little has been documented or accounted in an attempt to trace back the ties these communities have displayed within their territories.

Here you will find an effort to foster public debate envisioning how public policies, activists, business models, Internet governance and artists come to arrangements that, arguably enough, will define how we manage these digital infrastructures that we inhabit. In this spirit, we recognize that far from being settled, regulations on radioelectric spectrum are constantly negotiated due to their increasing importance for local, regional and global economies.



NODE 01 : The structure of ad hoc networks in Europe and the regulations governing them.

Gwen Shaffer

Gwen Shaffer is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of California, Irvine. There, her research focuses on how to best incorporate telecommunications policy and economics into the Internet architecture. This chapter is based on Shaffer's doctoral dissertation, which encompassed both qualitative and quantitative methods to examine the potential for peer-to-peer networking to help bridge the digital divide in the United States and Europe. Shaffer's previous studies examined the sustainability of municipal wireless networks; the need for a national broadband policy in the United States; and personal conduct in the blogosphere.

NODE 02 : Volunteers for the fiber, Catalonia needs to be illuminated again.

Andreu Veà

Andreu Veà Internet Research Fellow, Stanford University. Doctor of Engineering in Electronic and Telecommunications from La Salle University (Barcelona). Master in Digital Signal and Information Treatment; and Master in Management Information Technologies. Since 1992, professionally devoted to the Internet in several sectors (Academic, Administration and European Private Industry). After his Doctoral Thesis, that he made "after work" as a hobby during 9 long years (nights and weekends), impelled by Dr Vint Cerf's interest on the project, he quit his job when invited by Stanford University (California, USA) where he is an Internet Research Scholar since early 2003 when this "Historical Project" was born.
www.veabaro.info/

NODE 03 : Wifi: auto-configurable freeways for art and culture.

Efraín Foglia

Efrain Foglia is a designer and lecturer at the Digital Communication Department, Universitat de Vic in Barcelona. He studied Graphic Communication Design in Mexico City, specialized in NewMedia Art in Weimar, Germany, and he's PhD candidate in Art and Media Culture at the Universitat de Barcelona. His work as designer has been awarded and exhibited in several countries, he has combined his work as a designer with multidisciplinary projects related to the digital culture in the areas of communication and art.

He was born in Mexico City and has lived and worked in Barcelona since 2003.

<http://www.efrainfoglia.net/>

<http://www.proyectoliquido.com/>

NODE 04 : Practicing Wifi as Citizen Management of Technology

Yann Bona

Yann Bona, as a member of Fractalities in Critical Research group, conducts research at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona's Department of Social Psychology where he has been an associate professor on Social Communication. He has also lectured Psychology of Power Relations at Universitat Oberta de Catalunya and has been a visiting scholar at the École des Mines Centre de Sociologie de l'Innovation in Paris. His work, focused in the relation between government, technology and politics regarding WiFi technologies, has been presented and published in international forums leading him to obtain scholarships from Univesritat Autònoma de Barcelona, the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) and the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation.

<http://wifi-r.molekulab.net/>

NODE 05 : **On free wavelengths: wireless networks as techno-social models.**

Armin Medosch

Armin Medosch is a writer, artist and curator working in the field of media art and network culture. In 2007 he curated and hosted the Ars Electronica theme conference “Goodbye Privacy” together with Ina Zwerger. In 2006 he curated the exhibition “WAVES - electromagnetic waves as a material and medium of art”, together with RIXC in Riga. Medosch researches the relationship between technological progress and social change, between media art and free and open source software, between electromagnetic waves and code. To further those long term theoretic research interests, he currently builds a new collaborative research platform under the title “The Next Layer”.

<http://www.thenextlayer.org/>

NODE 06 : **Wireless enculturation: The role of the BBQ in the making of an Australian WiFi network.**

Katrina Jungnickel

Katrina Jungnickel is Research Fellow in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of East London and a member of Studio INCITE in the Sociology Department of Goldsmiths College, University of London. She trained in Sociology at Goldsmiths during which she conducted an ethnography of backyard technologists (WiFi makers and bike makers) in suburban Australia. Her research interests lie at the intersection of DIY technologies, grassroots community practices and messy methods. She holds a BA in Communications, an MA in Visual Culture and a PhD in Sociology and blogs at www.studio-incite.com/makingwifi

NODE 07 : **From the Digital Divide to Digital Excellence: Global Best Practices for Municipal and Community Wireless Networks.**

Laura Forlano + Alison Powell

Laura Forlano is a Postdoctoral Associate in the Interaction Design Lab at Cornell University. Forlano received her Ph.D. in Communications from Columbia University in 2008. Her dissertation, “When Code Meets Place: Collaboration and Innovation at WiFi Hotspots,” explores the intersection between organizations, technology (in particular, mobile and wireless technology) and the role of place in communication, collaboration and innovation. Forlano received a Master’s in International Affairs from Columbia University, a Diploma in International Relations from The Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor’s in Asian Studies from Skidmore College.

www.lauraforlano.wordpress.com/

NODE 08 : **Why should the public administrations only support and promote the Free Network.**

Roger Baig

Roger Baig graduated in Industrial Engineering and Industrial Electronics Engineering from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya. He worked as an associate professor at the Department of Telecommunications and Systems Engineering at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He has done several collaborations with Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. At the moment he doing his master’s thesis, works a freelance consultant and devotes most of his spare time to guifi.net project.