Endangered Elements, Critical Raw Materials and Conflict Minerals
Christopher J Rhodes | Science Progress

"Amid present concerns over a potential scarcity of critical elements and raw materials that are essential for modern technology, including those for low-carbon energy production, a survey of the present situation, and how it may unfold both in the immediate and the longer term, appears warranted...Even for those elements that are relatively abundant on Earth, limitations in their production rates/supply may well be experienced on a timescale of decades..."

Regulating TNCs: Should Uber and Lyft Set Their Own Rules?
Sen Li, Hamidreza Tavafoghi, Kameshwar Poolla, Pravin Varaiya | Transportation Research Part B: Methodological

"We evaluate the impact of three proposed regulations of transportation network companies (TNCs) like Uber, Lyft and Didi: (1) A minimum wage for drivers, (2) a cap on the number of drivers or vehicles, and (3) a per-trip congestion tax...Enforcing a minimum wage for drivers benefits both drivers and passengers, and promotes the efficiency of the entire system.”

“Gaming the System”: Platform Paternalism and the Politics of Algorithmic Visibility
Caitlin Petre, Brooke Erin Duffy, Emily Hund | Social Media + Society

"...the line between what platforms deem illegitimate algorithmic manipulation and legitimate strategy is nebulous and largely reflective of their material interests. However, the language used to invoke this distinction is strongly normative, condemning 'system gamers’ as morally bankrupt, while casting platform companies as neutral actors working to uphold the ideals of authenticity and integrity...

Strategic Coupling Between Finance, Technology and the State: Cultivating a Fintech Ecosystem for Incumbent Finance
Reijer Hendrikse, Michiel van Meeteren, et al | Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space

"...We analyse how Belgian entrepreneurs and politicians assess Brussels’ locational resources, and strategically couple big financial institutions with small tech startups in order to cultivate a Fintech ecosystem in the service of incumbent finance, constituting a Fin-Tech-State triangle...The coalescence of finance and technology offers new opportunities for second-tier financial centres, while highlighting the difficulties in reaping these in practice.”

The Social Production of Radical Space: Machinic Labor Struggles Against Digital Spatial Abstractions
Marco Briziarelli | Capital & Class

"In this paper we revive Lefebvre’s perspective on the production of space contextualized within the recent debate on digital capitalism, and we explore the antagonism between capital and labor from a distinctive spatial and connective perspective: by examining the tension between the production of digital abstract space in the context of machines and computational automation, and the powerful push backs of embodied labor struggles of gig-economy workers advancing alternative connective strategies.”

Rune Saugmann | European Journal of International Security

"Military applications of technologies for enhancing or producing vision play a key role in composing contemporary security, as such technologies are deployed to make security sense of everyday sociality, of battlefields, and of much in between these extremes. In this article, I set out to recompose militarised techno-vision through the public detritus left by its heterogenous development, use, and appropriation.”
Governance and Control of Sharing Economy Platforms: Hosting on Airbnb
Giulia Leoni, Lee D. Parker | The British Accounting Review

"The analysis reveals the platform owner using predominantly formal bureaucratic control systems as mechanisms to govern and control its users. Through users' compliance, they and their activities are made visible to the platform owner, which in turn maintains control over the value creation process."

BOOKS

Furious: Technological Feminism and Digital Futures
Caroline Bassett, Sarah Kember | Pluto Press

"As digital transformations continue to accelerate in the world, discourses of big data have come to dominate in a number of fields, from politics and economics, to media and education."

Why Hackers Win: Power and Disruption in the Network Society
Patrick Burkart, Tom McCourt | University of California Press

"When people think of hackers, they usually think of a lone wolf acting with the intent to garner personal data for identity theft and fraud. But what about the corporations and government entities that use hacking as a strategy for managing risk?"

Data Selves: More-Than-Human Perspectives
Deborah Lupton | Springer

"This book develops a fresh and intriguing perspective on how people make sense of and use their personal data, and what they know about others who use this information."

JOURNALISM & ESSAYS

The Captured City. The “Smart City” Makes Infrastructure and Surveillance Indistinguishable
Jathan Sadowski | Real Life

"The smart city is not an actually existing entity. It’s a misleading euphemism for a corporately controlled urban future."

AI Ethics Is All About Power
Kharin Johnson | VentureBeat

"Power is everywhere in the AI ethics debate, but that doesn’t mean we must remain powerless. As the racial literacy project illustrates, there’s another way."

The Real Fight for the Future of 5G
Scott Malcomson | Foreign Affairs

"What the Trump administration is doing to Huawei, and China once did to Google, is what the EU might do to AWS."

REPORTS, DISSERTATIONS, & MISCELLANEOUS

Ross P. Buckley | University of New South Wales

"Data - like finance - benefits from economies of scope and scale and from network effects and tends towards monopolistic or oligopolistic outcomes, resulting in the potential for systemic risk from new forms of 'Too Big to Fail' and 'Too Connected to Fail' phenomena."

The Geoeconomic Challenge To International Economic Law: Lessons From the Regulation of Data in China
Henrique Choer Moraes | Mission of Brazil to the EU

"The article examines the regulation of data in China to show how this legislation advances the geoeconomic goal of helping China to become a leader in artificial intelligence; and the consequences of China’s approach to data regulation over the prospects of international rules being agreed in this area."
The Era of Killer Robots Is Upon Us
Anonymous | PAX
"Killer robots are being developed despite assurances from some companies that they will not do so and despite the concerns of many countries that such fully autonomous weapons should not be deployed."

VIDEOS

Artificial Intelligence: A Guide for Thinking Humans
Melanie Mitchell | Santa Fe Institute
"Should we welcome intelligent machines or fear them? Or perhaps question whether they are actually intelligent at all?"

Dealing With 'Surveillance Capitalism'
Carl Miller | SogetiLabs
"The panelist talks about the changing form & shape of power, the rise of the 'Digital Citizen' and the rebirth of the Fourth Estate."

Blockchain and Platforms: Disruption of Data Monopolies?
Egils Levits, Roberto Viola | Digital Single Market
"Can blockchain technologies change the path of the digital economy or even contribute to break the Internet Monopolies?"

PODCASTS

Power and Politics in Silicon Valley
Ramesh Srinivasan | The Michael Brooks Show
"Ramesh Srinivasan, Bernie Sanders surrogate, debates why conversations about technology need to be conversations about power, Silicon Valley’s branding campaign and problematizes the web as a non-profit product that is killing the open internet."

Tech Hubs and Economic Opportunity
Enrico Moretti | Political Economy
"Why do innovative businesses tend to cluster together in tech hubs like Silicon Valley? Why do these companies stay in these expensive cities when they could go to another city with significantly cheaper costs?"

The Digital War
Paolo Gerbaudo | Politics Theory Other
"This podcast discusses online campaigning, the recent cyber attack on Labour’s campaigning platforms, the contrasting effectiveness of the Labour and Tory digital campaigns in 2017, and we also chatted about whether social media platforms have an inherent right-wing bias."

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