

Lecture 2, Sep 9, 2022

The Big Ideas

1. Science-Technology-Society Studies (STS)
 - Understanding the relationship between technological and social development
 - Influenced by the environment & civil rights movements (more critical nature)
 - Encourage critique of dominant ideologies
2. (Breaking the) Sociotechnical Dualism
 - Science and mathematics is understood to be the basis of engineering expertise, which gives it a false objectivity
3. Sitting with Discomfort

Epistemology

- The philosophy of knowledge – how do we know things?
- Positivism: knowledge is objective
 - Single truth
 - Scientific
 - It can be proved, or it can't
- Interpretivism: Knowledge is socially constructed
 - Changes with time, context, culture
 - Qualitative observations and discussion
- Highlights from Nightingale's *What Is Technology*:
 - Complex understanding of technology beyond the physics of the artefact
 - How we define and think about technology impacts how we evaluate it
 - The two pathologies:
 1. Technology as a gadget: it's a system of artefacts and knowledge; thinking of technology as a gadget misses all the indivisible infrastructure
 2. Technology as a way of seeing the world: if technology becomes second nature, we can mistake it for being natural
 - * Postman's technology becoming mythic