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Risk Communication

9/28/15

Journal Week 6

Last week we discussed the final chapters of Beck’s book. Jasmine and I wrote up some notes, and key points from Chapter 9. While listening to Erikk’s artifact I quickly realized how easy it is to analyze the podcast, and the events it describes under the lens of Beck’s work. In chapter 9 Beck views “risk is an inescapable structural condition of reflexive modernization” (p.142). Risk society may be the most succinct way to describe society in the U.S.

Much of our news and news stories are preoccupied with the potential of risk. Our society is preoccupied with the potential of risk, and not the events or powers that define what we understand as risk, and enforce the staging of that risk. As a society we tend to be less focused with the ways in which risk is socially constructed, and staged, rather we are more concerned with the possible outcomes. We prepare for the worst, often times, without asking what creates these situations and who in power defines the situations as risky.

This is evident in the podcast Erikk brought to class last week. In it there is a description not of the events that took place on 9/11, but rather the focus is on what happened the day after the attacks. The debate of how to declare war without knowing who to declare war on, and how to project unity nation is presented. What we are listening to in this clip are the ways in which the stage is being set to declare war in a way that promotes unity, and supports the cause. The call to action is not dictated necessarily by what happened, but that if the country does nothing, it would certainly happen again, which we can recognize as weighing action against the alternative. The staging of risk is now complete. The U.S. is able to use its power and domination to declare war, and those are two key characteristics that Beck discusses in Chapter 9.

When discussing previous chapters of Beck’s book we addressed the issue of differentiating between new and old threats. Specifically, as a class we discussed that new threats cannot be treated or dealt with the way old threats were. Therefore when the lawyer mentioned in the artifact goes back to the 1991 Iraq war to write the Authorization to Use Force he is approaching this new threat the same way a perceived previous threat was, and that of course does not bring up new solutions.

Management of crisis.

Always weighing against the alternative.

It’s positive deviance, or this. It’s always something against the other.

What is considered in progress in technology and how does that with ….?

ANT?

What is progress and what is development?