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The (political) Problem if We Interpret Internet as Agora – An Insight from the Political Philosophical and Philosophy of Technology Viewpoints

Our presentation examines the current internet as the transformation of the Greek Agora. If we try to compare the two as spaces of publicity – from our contemporary viewpoint –, we could conclude that the agora was direct, personal, and interpersonal, but exclusive. Meanwhile – if we do not identify people who do not have the internet as people outside the Polis – the internet is indirect, impersonal, and partially anonymous while being interpersonal and inclusive.

The long nineteenth and turbulent twentieth centuries brought enormous economic and technological progress, and a specific networked world society emerged by the turn of the millennium. Beyond all this, we would also show that while the ancient agora can be homogeneous, the nature of the internet is much more fragmented in multiple – social and political – ways.

Overall, we aim to show two different natures of agoras. This raises the question that why is it important from a political philosophical point of view? We also try to present how could we think about the internet as a new, „techno-agora", which demands more reflection from the Platonic-Aristotelian philosophical traditions.