

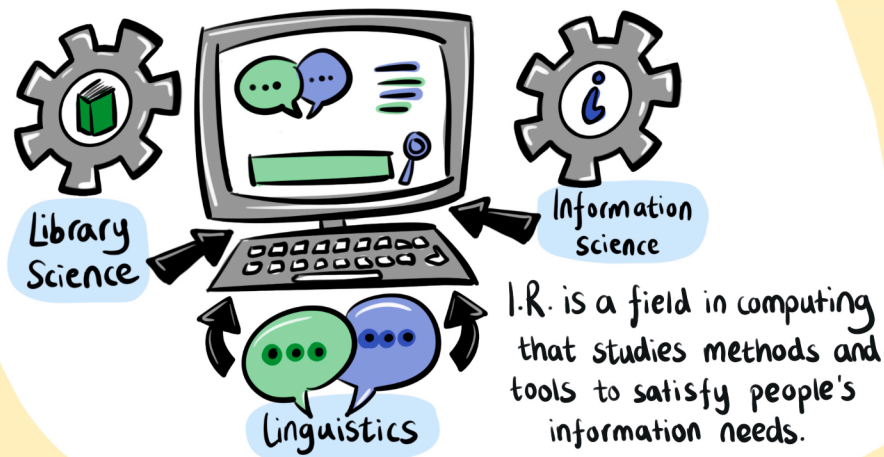
INFORMATION ACCESS OF THE OPPRESSED

#CALC26

KEYNOTE TALK BY BHASKAR MITRA

13TH MAY 2026

WHAT IS INFORMATION RETRIEVAL (I.R.)?



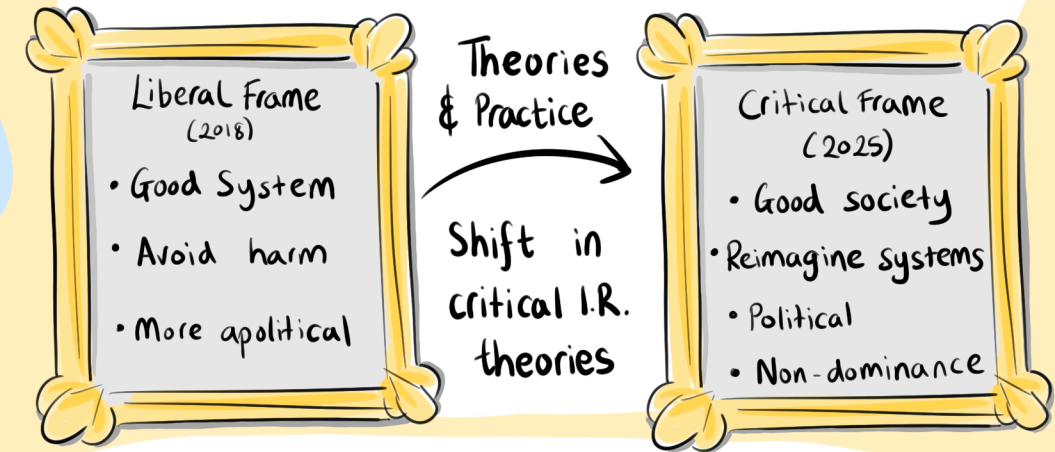
The BIG Question

What is the role of computer-mediated information access in our collective struggle for social justice, universal humanisation and emancipation?



Access to information is critical to our collective sense-making of our place in the world.

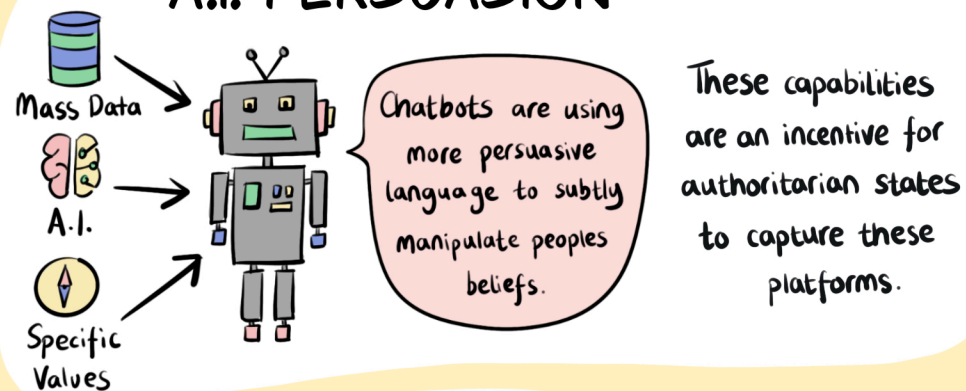
HOW CAN I.R. ACT AS GOOD FOR SOCIETY?



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? WE NEED TO:

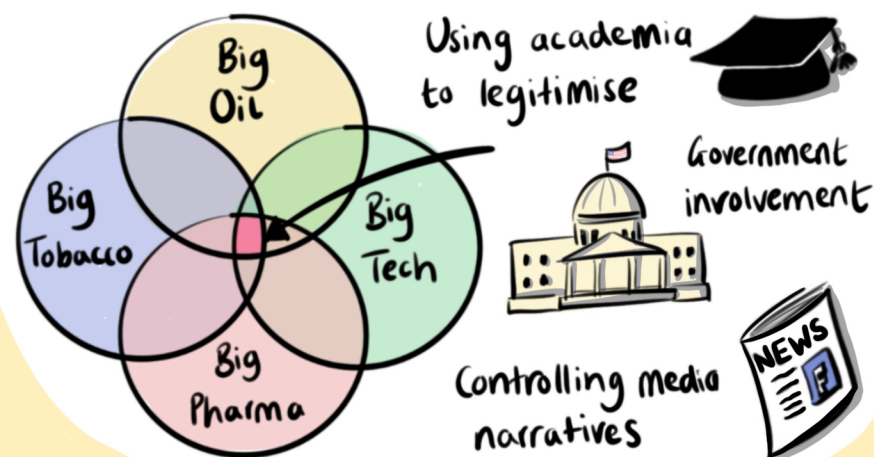
- ✓ NOT be reactionary
- ✓ Use theory
- ✓ Connect & Collaborate
- ✓ Recognise Similarities

A.I. PERSUASION

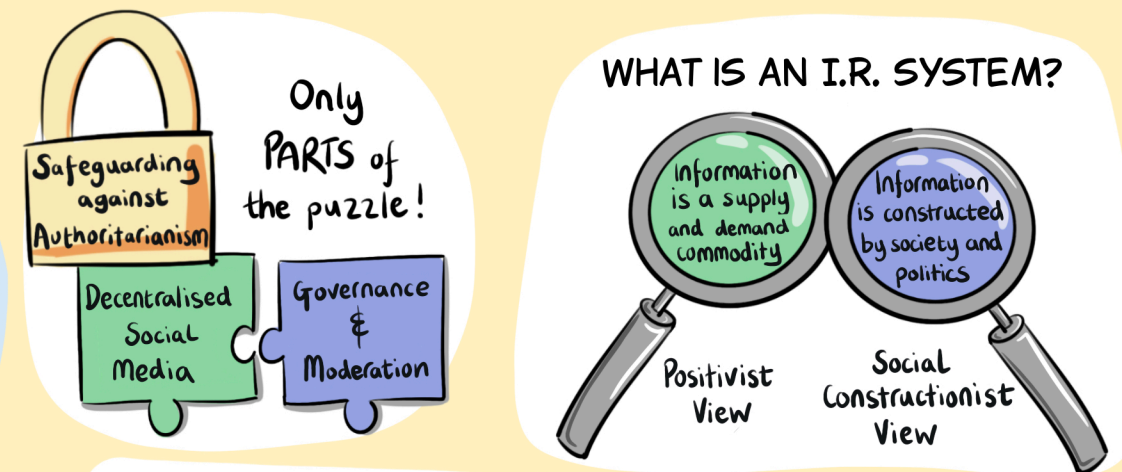


BIG TECH

is mirroring other Big X corporations by exerting influence on public decision making for profit at expense of overall welfare.



WHAT IS AN I.R. SYSTEM?



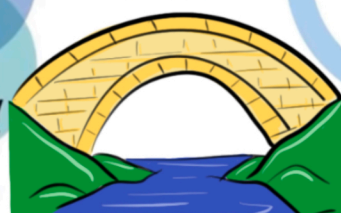
LIBRARY SCIENCES

- DECOLONISE THE LIBRARY
- DISRUPT THE LIBRARY
- LIBERATE THE LIBRARY
- CRITIQUE THE LIBRARY
- DEFEND THE LIBRARY
- EQUALISE THE LIBRARY
- OPEN UP THE LIBRARY
- QUEER THE LIBRARY
- UNIONISE THE LIBRARY
- DIVERSIFY THE LIBRARY
- EMPOWER THE LIBRARY
- ENGAGE THE LIBRARY
- SUBVERT THE LIBRARY

IR SCIENCES

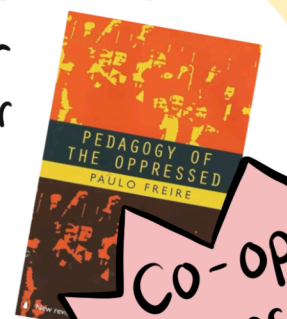
- DECOLONISE IR
- DISRUPT IR
- LIBERATE IR
- CRITIQUE IR
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WE NEED TO BUILD BRIDGES



FREIREAN APPROACH TO TECHNOLOGY DESIGN

- ✓ Make technologists a co-constructor rather than an influential gatekeeper
- ✗ Don't erase the Knowledge
- ✓ Provide liberatory social spaces
- ✓ Technologist is the problem-poser
- ✓ Co-design to make it **LIBERATORY**



Co-opt
Co-construct
& Liberate