Social Behavioral Economic FOSS

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How to broaden the focus on FOSS?

1. One movement or many?
2. Value and Values in FOSS?
3. Politics of FOSS or FOSS of Politics?
One Movement or Many?

- Does FOSS still exist?
  - Free Sofware vs. Open Source? Still a relevant debate?
  - Is FOSS being assimilated into business as usual, and if so, where (Wagstrom, West)?
  - Are people still “evangelizing” and on what arguments?
    - Is it simply an economic calculus (Dirk Riehle's decision metrics, Greiner)
  - National/Regional differences in the state of the debate.
One Movement or Many?

- FOSS after Google?
  - changes in software industry: clouds, software as service models
  - changes in infrastructure: server farm wars (Google v. Yahoo)
  - changes in IP issues (GPL3/AGPL, Terms of Service)
  - open source as goodwill branding
  - group identity beyond “community”?
    - Other terms *commons* (Schweik, Ostrom, Benkler, Boyle), *social worlds* (Gerson), *publics* (Kelty)
Value and Values in FOSS

- What are the economic and social implications of corporate involvement in FOSS?
  - Does economic and strategic necessity affect the course of innovation? (As opposed to “open” and under-determined innovation?)
  - Does FOSS push industries towards more open standards? (Alspaugh)
  - Do for-profit vs. not-for-profit organizations that manage FOSS yield different outcomes?
  - What values guide design (Bowker)? Social and democratic values vs. efficiency and elegance?
Politics of FOSS or FOSS of Politics?

- FOSS in governments (e-government) vs. FOSS as a new mode of governance. (Wasserman); Sunlight Foundation, Obama Campaign, Expert Labs. HFOSS, Google/AllForGood.

- Spread of FOSS to new domains (Kelty education, culture, biology, nanotech Hissam on DOD/Mission critical cases)

- FOSS in different Political cultures (Murillo, G. Coleman, J. Karanovic, A. Chan, L. Nguyen, Y. Takhteyev)

- Digital Labor, Labor politics, and the status of work in FOSS (mechanical turk, farmtown)
Methodological challenges?

- What counts as compelling empirical data?
  - reliance on repositories?
  - reliance on old economic categories?
  - ethnographic data vs. anecdotal and common sense perceptions?
  - survey, statistics and revealed preferences vs. observed interactions, network analysis or traces of interactions in software?