research makes this book a good introductory text for someone who has little knowledge in this subject, and the number of topics would serve as an overview of the field for an upper division course on the topic. Aside from being an introduction for someone who is new to this line of research, this book also features the most cutting-edge methods for those who want to know what is new in this vein of study.

If taken on its own terms, as an overview of the subject matter, this book is an enlightening and interesting read on the state of the research. The contributors use both cutting-edge methods and personal experience, and Davis combines these strategies to paint a complete picture of the ways the press and the Supreme Court interact and influence each other. If anything, reading this book serves to whet one's appetite for more information and research regarding the ways the Supreme Court and the news media interact. Readers are left formulating their own questions and will, perhaps, be inspired to add to the discipline themselves.

The Internet as Second Action Space. Aharon Kellerman. New York: Routledge, 2014. 192 pp. $145 hbk.

Reviewed by: Oscar H. Gandy Jr., *University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA*
DOI: 10.1177/1077699015595634h

Aharon Kellerman is a busy man. Although he is now Professor Emeritus in Geography at the University of Haifa, he is also President of Israel's Zefat Academic College. While he serves as Vice President of the International Geographical Union, where he also acts as Honorary Chair of its Commission on the Geography of Information Society, he still finds time to add to his already impressive list of publications that explore the relations between telecommunications and geography. This new book of his will undoubtedly help the rest of us appreciate aspects of the relationships between "cyberspace" and the other spaces we inhabit in a variety of novel and important ways.

Although Kellerman accepts the common distinctions that are drawn between the virtual and the "real" spaces in which we work and play, his purpose in this volume is to prepare us for a future in which the "Internet" enables us to engage in a variety of activities, some of which simply were not possible in those spaces we think of as real. His careful preparation begins with three chapters that explore the Internet as a technological platform that allows us to make use of the virtual environment as a place in which meaningful action is not only possible but is also rapidly emerging as a primary action space.

He reviews a number of the distinctions that have been drawn between real and virtual social spaces, and among the more theoretically interesting aspects of these comparisons are those that relate to time-space or time geography. Beginning with sets of constraints that operate on us in the spaces we think of as real, Kellerman identifies a variety of ways through which the virtual reduces or transforms them. This stage-setting exercise ends with a presentation of the differences that exist, at least for the time being, between services, uses, and users within and between nations.

The next three chapters examine the ways through which the satisfaction of different human needs drives the development of the technology while also shaping our expectations regarding how, and where those needs will be met, or redefined. Kellerman's carefully structured movement through this particular set of issues generates something of an explosion in the number and variety of research questions inviting the exploration of uses and gratifications that we barely managed to complete with regard to the last plateau we reached in new media development. Here again, we are invited to consider the complementarity, competition, substitution, and mergers between the real and the virtual as the relations between their action spaces take shape, and are transformed at faster and faster rates. We are also challenged to consider what the possibilities are for the emergence of sets of actions and needs that would become exclusive to the virtual realm.

Kellerman suggests that because of the potential that the virtual holds for the "satiation of curiosity," in part through the ease with which the search for information can proceed, professional, and non-professional "questers" are likely to experience an increase in the number and range of "curiosity cycles" they go through during the average day.

The importance of search for curiosity's sake is unquestionable, but Kellerman identifies the requirements of our development and performance of our own identities as yet another social activity that is being transformed through the virtual. Although we readily understand social networking as a kind of mediated interaction that has become a central part of the virtual, Kellerman reminds us that because our personal identities are also information, the search for personal information has also become a part of our daily routines. An important question then becomes one of understanding how the results of these searches about ourselves and others are likely to shape both the presentation of, and the actual functioning of, our identities.

In the final section, Kellerman turns his attention almost exclusively to the description and evaluative assessment of the activities that are becoming routinized within the virtual realm. The first set includes those interactions that relate to work and play, as well as those that involve interactions with public and private bureaucracies. Rather than satisfying curiosity, these interactions are more explicitly purposive. They include shopping, banking, and learning, as well as health maintenance and recreation, of the sort that online tourism might provide.

Kellerman devotes an entire chapter to social networking, and another to what he refers to as the "darker actions." These include cybercrime and "cyberobstruction," as well as surveillance, censorship, pornography, online gambling, and hacking. Far too many of these actions exist for Kellerman to provide very much in the way of a discussion of their extent or impact on the needs that bring users into these spaces in the first place.

Unfortunately, the final chapter is less of a conclusion than a recapitulation of the material that has been presented in each of the previous chapters. This tendency of his to spend so much time telling his readers what he will be presenting, and then making references to what was presented in earlier chapters undoubtedly reflects his life's work and personal identity as an educator. It gets to be a bit annoying after a while.

But, overall, there is more than enough in the way of theoretical insights and challenges for the average undergraduate, as well as for the rest of us, to make this little book a worthwhile investment.

Amazing Ourselves to Death: Neil Postman's Brave New World Revisited. Lance Strate. New York: Peter Lang, 2014. 170 pp. $159.95 hbk. $39.95 pbk.

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In equal measures homage, elegy, literature review, and media critique, *Amazing Ourselves to Death: Neil Postman's Brave New World Revisited* by Lance Strate is apt reading for students and scholars in media and communication. During his doctoral studies at New York University, Strate was a student of Neil Postman, so Strate's admiration for Postman as a leader in media ecology suffuses this book. Today, Strate teaches communication and media studies at Fordham University and is recognized for his contributions to the field. *Amazing Ourselves to Death* is a concentrated update of Postman's landmark book, *Amusing Ourselves to Death: Public Discourse in the Age of Show Business* (1985). Strate deftly recaps Postman's original plaints about public mass deterioration of critical thinking via debased e-amusements. Strate updates his former professor's theses, incorporating into his own analysis newly emerging technologies. Strate echoes Postman in theorizing that computerized, quantified modes of media often engender habits of cognitive slothfulness, moral ambivalence, and collective detachment, none of which bodes well for American society.

Amazing Ourselves to Death offers an insightful, biographical understanding of how Postman was influenced by authors such as Aldous Huxley, who wrote futuristic novels and essays, notably *Brave New World* (1932), and wise analysts of propaganda, like Jacques Ellul and Marshall McLuhan. Where Postman distinguished himself as an academic and media critic, and where Strate in this book continues to prod us to see anew, is showing the layered ways "freedom is sacrificed for the sake of fun." That said, neither did Postman, nor does Strate here, evince neo-Luddite attitudes. To the contrary, they both value "democratizing effects" from greater "access to information." But Strate urges taking the Postmanian view that each unfolding "innovation . . . [has costs] . . . and sometimes what is lost will outweigh what is gained." Strate asks readers to take a chastened double-take at the world's overwhelming environmental and justice issues, and wonder, "Will technology save us?"

Strate, like Postman, argues convincingly that questionable technological processes seem innocuous by being relegated to "background" status. Who among us notices anymore that everyone we see is holding a cell phone? In our post-Postman "technopoly," efficient appurtenances are taken for granted. The normalization of behaviors that counter civic participation includes trading contemplative habits, such as deep reading, for entertaining habits, such as TV watching with simultaneous techno-distractions such as web surfing. Superficial media grabs attention as it creates attention deficits. Strate explains that televisual/cyber pass-times, via the latest wow-factor gadgets propelling