

# Software, Infrastructure, Labor: A Media Theory of Logistical Nightmares

*Ned Rossiter*

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**Ned Rossiter : Software, Infrastructure, Labor: A Media Theory of Logistical Nightmares** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Software, Infrastructure, Labor: A Media Theory of Logistical Nightmares:

Infrastructure makes worlds. Software coordinates labor. Logistics governs movement. These pillars of contemporary

capitalism correspond with the materiality of digital communication systems on a planetary scale. Ned Rossiter theorizes the force of logistical media to discern how subjectivity and labor, economy and society are tied to the logistical imaginary of seamless interoperability. Contingency haunts logistical power. Technologies of capture are prone to infrastructural breakdown, sabotage, and failure. Strategies of evasion, anonymity, and disruption unsettle regimes of calculation and containment. We live in a computational age where media, again, disappear into the background as infrastructure. *Software, Infrastructure, Labor* intercuts transdisciplinary theoretical reflection with empirical encounters ranging from the Cold War legacy of cybernetics, shipping ports in China and Greece, the territoriality of data centers, video game design, and scrap metal economies in the e-waste industry. Rossiter argues that infrastructural ruins serve as resources for the collective design of blueprints and prototypes demanded of radical politics today.

"Ned Rossiter's remarkable contribution effectively inaugurates a new branch of media theory - a media theory of logistics which addresses the movement of bodies and things, labor and commodities underlying the flows of information. Grounded in empirical and collective research projects, it moves between China, India, Australia, Europe and South America to chart and diagram what runs beneath the smooth surfaces of digital networks. A brilliant piece of research, highly recommended." ndash;Tiziana Terranova, University of Naples, 'L'Orientale' "Ned Rossiter is one of the finest analysts of the old, middle-aged, and newer media around. *Software, Infrastructure, Labor* brings together his central concerns in a bold and exciting way. Read on and feel the scales drop from your eyes!" ndash;Toby Miller, Loughborough University London

About the Author Ned Rossiter is Professor of Communication with a joint appointment in the Institute for Culture and Society and the School of Humanities and Communication Arts at Western Sydney University. He is the author of *Organized Networks: Media Theory, Creative Labour, New Institutions* (2006).