

Informal Media Economies

**A Comedy, in Some Small
Number of Parts**

Presented for your Edification and
Approbation by

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Prologue

The Setup

In which Our slightly-haggard and
Visibly-Ageing Protagonist
outlines the Background of this odd
Musing, and *explains* just what You
can do for Him.

Part, The First

The Field

In which the audience is treated to a
discussion and explication of **User-
Generated Content**, its serial
forms, and its significance;
with a disquisition on the
forms of analysis of the same.

Part, The second

The Framework

In which we see just

What Our

Hero is up to.

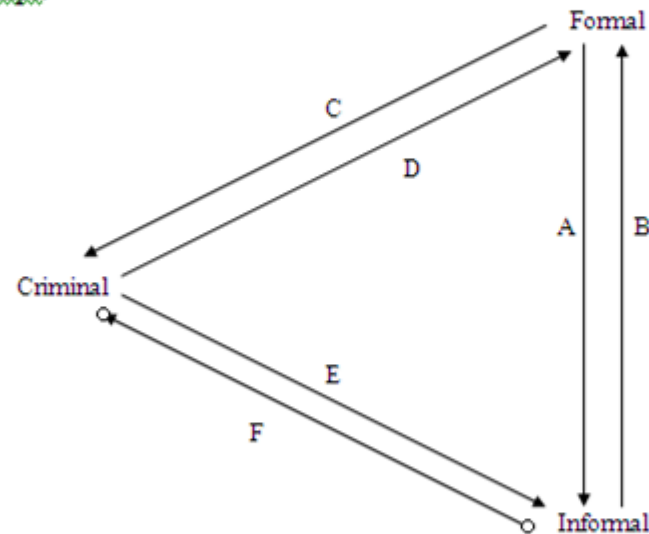
Figure 1

Types of Economic Activities and their Interrelationships

+ = Licit
- = Illicit

| <i>Process of Production and Distribution</i> | <i>Final Product</i> | <i>Economic Type</i> |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| + | + | Formal |
| - | + | Informal |
| - | - | Criminal |

II. Relationships:



- A. State interference, competition from large firms, sources of capital and technology.
- B. Cheaper consumer goods and industrial inputs, flexible reserves of labor.
- C. State interference and disruption, supplies of certain controlled goods.
- D. Corruption, "gatekeeper's rents" for selected state officials.
- E. Capital, demand for goods, new income-earning opportunities.
- F. Cheaper goods, flexible reserves of labor.

Source: Castells and Portes (1989:14).

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| State Regulatory Capacity | High | “Liberal State” (U.S., U.K.) | “Welfare State” (France, Germany) | “Totalitarian State” (Former USSR, North Korea, Cuba) |
| | Low | “Absent State” (Somalia, Zaire) | “Enclave State” (Kenya, Bolivia, Angola) | “Frustrated State” (Argentina, Peru, Ecuador) |
| | 0 | Low | Medium | High |
| <i>State Regulatory Intent</i> | | | | |

Source: Centeno & Portes in *Out of the Shadows*

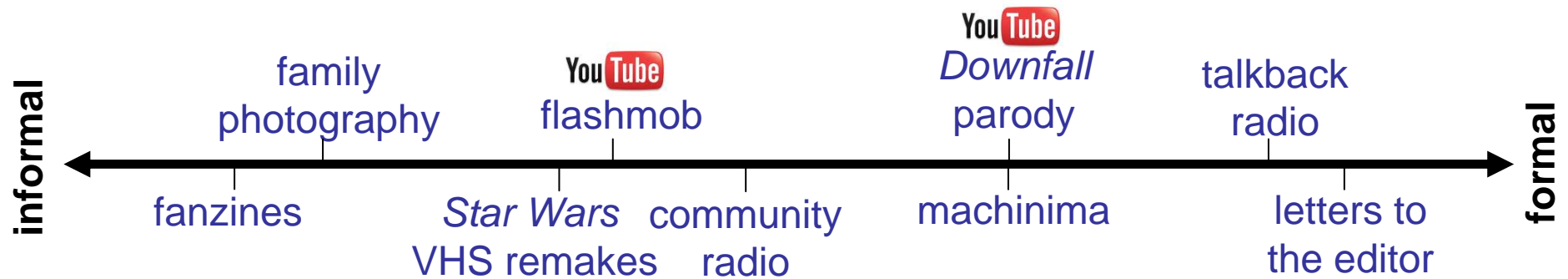
Part, The third

The Existing Analysis

In which the Audience will
Despair as they feel the Will To
Live **actually leaving** their
Bodies.

▪

The diversity of UGC



(Note the historical and a-historical accounts)

Part, The final

The new stuff

In which the audience perks up

(for their suffering is near-over).

State technologies

Taxation

Measurement

Regulation

Institutionalisation

Rationalisation

Legalisation

informal

formal

Regulation

Labour regulation (unions)

Censorship/classification/content regulation

Cultural policy/subsidy

Professional associations

Taxation

State measurement

informal

formal

informal

formal

state regulation of content?

state regulation of carriage?

taxation?

professionalisation?

Talk radio



epilogue

The plea

In which our Protagonist begs for help in the most plaintive way imaginable, and the audience looks off (to **One Side**, ashamed at his Display) and Endeavors not to **make eye contact**.

End

The End

Hallelujah !