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DREAMS OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT:
RESISTING GLOBAL TECHNOLOGICAL SUBJUGATION
THROUGH NEOTRIBAL BODY MODIFICATION

In examining the increasingly popular phenomenon of body modification, evidence suggests it is a manifestation of growing anti-technological sentiment among young people in the West. As scientific and technological institutions increasingly produce intended and unintended consequences exacerbating the suffering associated with failing market economies, individuals become more innovative in their mechanisms of discursive resistance. Research has established that increased reliance on technology and related complexity has resulted in deindustrialization (Hart, 1988), reduced occupational opportunities and wages (Cockburn, 1991), exploited contingent labor (Saint-Paul, 1996), eliminated agrarian societies (Shiva 1987), intensified urban overcrowded migration (Kasarda, 1993), placed excessive educational and technological demands upon the working classes for basic levels of subsistence (Schement and Lievrouw, 1987), and fostered dependency upon hegemonic technologically-driven forces of Western industrialists at all levels of economic development (Wajcman, 1991). In the absence of an effectively-defiant ideological apparatus to combat these conditions, anti-technological sentiment has become internalized and political opposition articulated (to some extent, with greater urgency) among politically active youth. These conditions have given rise to the body politic, where the expression of moral outrage has abandoned the innocuous apparatus of traditional social movement organizations in the West, in favor of symbolic resistance expressed upon the body demonstrating empathetic solidarity with the South. The rise of bodily discourse (Rubin, 1992) increased reliance on alternative social structures known as neotribalism (Maffesoli, 1995), emerging camaraderie inherent in a global class struggle (Wallerstein, 2000), and the prevalence of hidden resistance and subterfuge (Jackman, 1996) are some of the factors discussed that give rise to the proliferation of contemporary body modification practices emulating underdeveloped tribal societies. My new research seeks to explore the deployment of ICT for anti-technological body politic as a strategy to explicitly subvert the scientific and technological hegemony of the dominant culture, as well as express permanent identification with its' worldwide victims.