Advance Praise

Brilliantly inaugurates an era of transnational media theory retooled for an era of global mayhem.

Matthew Fuller, Professor of Cultural Studies, Goldsmiths, University of London; author of *How to Be a Geek: Essays on the Culture of Software*

Drawing together scholars from cinema, anthropology, law, contemporary art, and media theory across Asia, Europe, and North America, *Twenty-First-Century Media Aesthetics and the Political* has its finger right on the pulse of a crucial development in contemporary digital networks—that is, the changing relationships between aesthetics, technology, and politics. A genuinely transnational and transdisciplinary account of how media infrastructures are reshaping political life in the twenty-first century, it challenges the idea that global technocultures are predominantly Western, dismantling older notions of a digital divide between North and South, West and East. Instead, it shows that subaltern populations are at the core of the new ecologies of massification and their sensory infrastructures. An essential reading!

Tiziana Terranova, Professor in Cultural Studies and Digital Media Theory, Università di Napoli 'L'Orientale'; author of *After the Internet: Digital Networks between Capital and the Common*

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TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY MEDIA AESTHETICS AND THE POLITICAL

This collection audaciously frames a theory of twenty-first-century media in a world where the vast majority of internet users reside in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The COVID-19 pandemic dramatized a complex set of technological infrastructures that now shape life in pragmatic and exceptional ways. Cognition, public affect, memory, and the experience of the political have been radically transformed with twenty-first-century media networks. Acts of violence become media spectacles in network spaces. Questions of media aesthetics and political affect have taken centre stage in a radically expanded digital sensorium. Consequently, this volume revisits and pushes beyond older questions of social and cultural theory and the metamorphoses of the political in the twenty-first century. Moving beyond the West-centred references of classical critical theory, this book brings together international scholars from media studies, anthropology, cinema, and contemporary art. The book offers a window into the turbulent futures of twenty-first-century media aesthetics.

Ravi Sundaram is Professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in Delhi and is a convenor of the Sarai media programme. His scholarly work has emerged from the intersections of media, architecture, urbanism, and contemporary art in the post-digital era. In addition to editing the Sarai Reader series, Sundaram has authored *Pirate Modernity: Media Urbanism in Delhi* (New York and London, 2009) and edited *No Limits: Media Studies from India* (Delhi, 2015). He is also a co-author of *Technopharmacology* (Minneapolis, 2022). His essays have been translated into numerous languages across India, Asia, and Europe.

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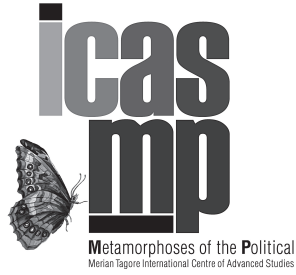
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TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY MEDIA AESTHETICS AND THE POLITICAL

Edited by

RAVI SUNDARAM





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