



ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT
INSTITUTE FOR INTERNET
AND SOCIETY

The social side of internet interconnection

Uta Meier-Hahn | meier-hahn@hiig.de | [@zielwasser](https://twitter.com/zielwasser)

RIPE 69 | RACI, London

Internet
interconnection is
social.

How?

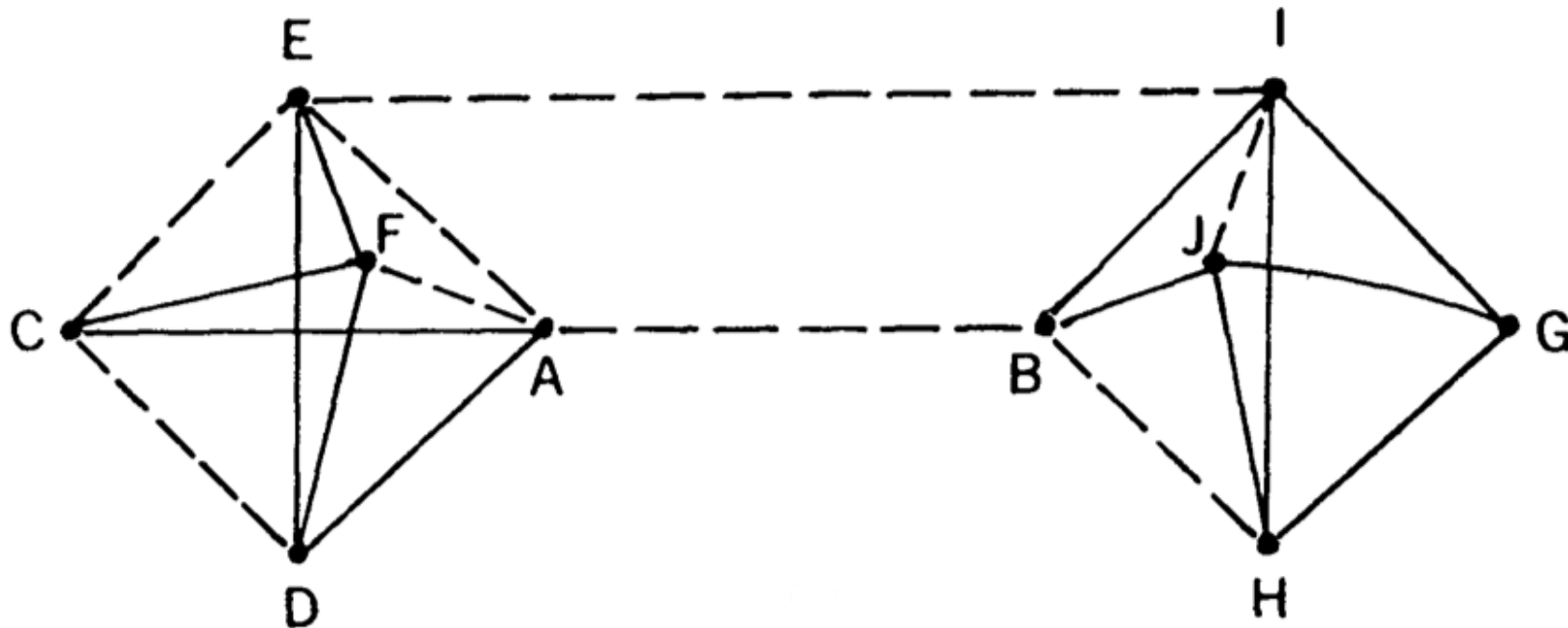


Imagine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMRkUFnucnU>

(1 Minute)

1. Embeddedness of economic action & The strength of weak ties



Granovetter, M. (1973). The strength of weak ties. *American Journal of Sociology*, 78(6), 1360-1380

2. **Plurality** of rationales



Price is one mode of
evaluation –
among others.

Rationales in internet interconnection

- Market: Price,
- Industry: Efficiency,
- Domestic: Trust,
- Civic: Collective interest,
- ...

Specific uncertainties

Network actors face **systemic uncertainty** and **architectural opaqueness**.

Systemic uncertainty: it's **live!**



Dealing with the Border Gateway Protocol

- 
- Procedure for resolution of irregularities
 - Common best practices
 - Education

Architectural opaqueness, products and markets



Outlook

- Dispose of universal view on interconnection arrangements. Instead: **situative** analysis.
- A **social network** beneath the internet.
Plausible?
- Plurality of rationales. When do you change **justifications**?
- Specific uncertainties: How do you mitigate them?



ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT
INSTITUTE FOR INTERNET
AND SOCIETY

The social side of internet interconnection

Uta Meier-Hahn | meier-hahn@hiig.de | [@zielwasser](https://twitter.com/zielwasser)

RIPE Academic Cooperation Initiative / RIPE69, London