Of Walking Shoes, Boats, Golf Carts, Bicycles, and a Slow Technoculture:

A Technography of Movement and Embodied Media on Protection Island, BC

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Abstract:

Drawing upon participant observation conducted on Protection Island, British Columbia, in this paper we reflect on the significance of technologies of movement and in particular on embodied media. We propose that embodied media (technologies of transportation) differ significantly from disembodied media (traditional mass media and new media). Utilizing media ecology and symbolic interactionist theory this visual, sensuous, reflexive, poetic, McLuhanesque ethnography shows how the uniqueness of technoculture on Protection Island is due to the local patterns of interaction between techniques and technics of movement. Such patterns are conceptualized as "heavy" and "slow" and their consequences for social relationships, and in particular the structure of space, are described and interpreted. Discussed is also the role of technography, or ethnography of technology.