

# Contents

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| <i>List of figures</i> | xi   |
| <i>List of tables</i>  | xii  |
| <i>Preface</i>         | xiii |
| <i>Acknowledgments</i> | xv   |

## PART I

### **The Internet as a platform for action space** 1

#### **1 The Internet as second space** 3

*Opening background* 3

*Book objectives and structure* 5

*Cyberspace: nature, classes and cognition* 6

*Comparing real and virtual spaces* 9

*Practical relations between real and virtual spaces* 12

*History and characteristics of the Internet* 14

*Mobile communications technologies* 16

*Auditory geography of the Internet* 21

*"Action space" and the Internet* 24

*Conclusion* 26

#### **2 Theoretical perspectives on the Internet as second action space** 28

*Social space attributes* 29

*Social space experiencing* 31

*Social forces in the emergence of virtual action space* 35

*Time geography and virtual action space* 37

*Building blocks for virtual social action space* 38

*Conclusion* 39

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>3 Internet operations</b>                     | <b>41</b> |
| <i>Where is the Internet located?</i>            | 41        |
| <i>Operational software for the Internet</i>     | 46        |
| <i>Operation systems for smartphones</i>         | 48        |
| <i>Internet service providers</i>                | 48        |
| <i>International differences in Internet use</i> | 49        |
| <i>Societal differences in Internet use</i>      | 51        |
| <i>Conclusion</i>                                | 54        |

## **PART II**

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Human needs and the Internet</b> | <b>57</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>4 Human basic needs and their provision</b>                | <b>59</b> |
| <i>An overview of basic needs and space</i>                   | 59        |
| <i>Human needs</i>  | 61        |
| <i>Real and virtual spaces and human basic needs</i>          | 63        |
| <i>Complementarity between real and virtual action spaces</i> | 67        |
| <i>Competition between real and virtual action spaces</i>     | 68        |
| <i>Substitution of real space by virtual one</i>              | 68        |
| <i>Merger between real and virtual spaces</i>                 | 69        |
| <i>Escape from real space to a virtual one</i>                | 69        |
| <i>Exclusivity: novel human action over the Internet?</i>     | 70        |
| <i>Space as a human need</i>                                  | 71        |
| <i>Conclusion</i>   | 72        |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>5 Curiosity and its satiation</b>                                     | <b>73</b> |
| <i>The nature of curiosity</i>   | 75        |
| <i>Space and place as curiosity triggers</i>                             | 76        |
| <i>Space as curiosity objective</i>                                      | 77        |
| <i>Spatial means for the satiation of curiosity</i>                      | 78        |
| <i>Trends in epistemic curiosity and its satiation</i>                   | 81        |
| <i>Wider assessment of contemporary satiation of epistemic curiosity</i> | 83        |
| <i>A general framework for the spatial dimensions of curiosity</i>       | 84        |
| <i>Conclusion</i>  | 86        |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>6 Personal identity</b>                    | <b>87</b> |
| <i>The nature of personal identity</i>        | 88        |
| <i>Personal identity in social networking</i> | 89        |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <i>Personal identity as information</i> | 90 |
| <i>Search for personal information</i>  | 93 |
| <i>Conclusion</i>                       | 94 |

## **PART III**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>The Internet as an action space for individuals</b>   | <b>97</b>  |
| <b>7 Daily activities</b>                                | <b>99</b>  |
| <i>Daily virtual actions</i>                             | 100        |
| <i>Broadband interaction for daily uses</i>              | 101        |
| <i>Home-based work</i>                                   | 102        |
| <i>Online shopping</i>                                   | 104        |
| <i>E-government</i>                                      | 109        |
| <i>Online banking</i>                                    | 112        |
| <i>Travel online</i>                                     | 114        |
| <i>E-learning</i>  | 116        |
| <i>E-health</i>  | 120        |
| <i>Comparative features and trends</i>                   | 122        |
| <i>Conclusion</i>  | 124        |
| <b>8 Social networking</b>                               | <b>127</b> |
| <i>The nature and significances of social networking</i> | 127        |
| <i>Online social networking systems</i>                  | 130        |
| <i>Real versus virtual social action spaces</i>          | 132        |
| <i>Country data on online social networking</i>          | 135        |
| <i>Conclusion</i>  | 138        |
| <b>9 Darker actions over the Internet</b>                | <b>140</b> |
| <i>Cybercrime and cyberobstruction</i>                   | 141        |
| <i>Surveillance</i>                                      | 142        |
| <i>Identity theft</i>                                    | 144        |
| <i>Censorship</i>  | 144        |
| <i>Hacking</i>   | 145        |
| <i>Pornography</i>                                       | 146        |
| <i>Online gambling</i>                                   | 146        |
| <i>Country data on cybercrime and cyberobstruction</i>   | 147        |
| <i>Conclusion</i>  | 149        |
| <b>10 Conclusion</b>                                     | <b>150</b> |
| <i>Book summary</i>                                      | 150        |
| <i>Real and virtual action spaces</i>                    | 159        |

*Time and virtual action space* 162

*Future virtual action spaces* 163

*Appendix* 164

*References* 166

*Index* 186