followthethings.com

Ian Cook

Department of Geography, University of Exeter, Exeter EX44RJ, UK

Abstract

Who makes the things that we buy? Few of us know. They seem untouched by human hands. Occasionally there's a news story, a documentary film, or an artwork showing the hidden ingredients in our coffee, t-shirts, or iPads. They often 'expose' unpleasant working conditions to encourage more 'ethical' consumer or corporate behaviour. followthethings.com is this work's 'online store'. Here you can find out who has followed what, why and how; the techniques used to 'grab' its audiences; the discussions and impacts that this has provoked; and how to follow things yourself.

Home page screenshot (23 July 2016)



Date of first publication: October 2011

URL: http://www.followthethings.com

Bibliography

- Cook et al, I. (2014) Organic Public Geographies and REF Impact. *Acme: an international e-journal for critical geographies* 13(1), 47-51 [in English]
- Cook et al, I. (2014) Fabrication critique et web 2.0: les géographies matérielles de followthethings.com. *Géographie et Cultures*, 91-92, 23-48 [inFrench | in English]
- Cook et al, I. (2016) Les géographies du numérique: on en veut encore! | More digital geographies, please. *Justice Spatiale | Spatial Justice* 10 [in French and English]
- Cook et al, I. (2016 forthcoming) followthethings.com: analysing relations between the making, reception and impact of commodity activism in a transmedia world. in Söderström, O & Kloetzer, L. (eds) *How social science shapes society*. Université de Neuchâtel.