Music Streams & Globalized Seas: What Spotify Can Teach Us About the New Economy

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In this seminar we’ll explore digital music distribution from Napster to Spotify, and how the technology to encode song files acutely captures author Derek Thompson’s “crisis of replicability” argument. Replicability is disruptive, and potentially beneficial—but not to everyone. Also drawing from the work of economist Alan Krueger, we’ll discuss income inequality, the stagnant American working wage, and the fundamental contours of globalization. Finally, we’ll use our Spotify lessons to project which careers will remain viable—and unreplicable—in the coming decades.