

As we adjust Foucault's panopticon lens,
shadows emerge where academics hover in Plato's cave,
caught between resting on laurels
or stepping into the light.

They move without progress,
like a rocking camshaft lacking propulsion.

This embodies the paradox of academic sharing.

Though we're taught since childhood to share,
in the real world, we face a dog-eat-dog environment
where sharing seems naive.

As a sociologist, I can't analyse this fear of sharing
through a psychological lens alone.

Structural problems create this culture.

Bourdieu would describe our habitus
as crabs scrambling for intellectual capital
without questioning who created the barrel
or considering our collective escape.

Within this barrel, academics grasp resources defensively,
retreating when scrutinised.

Their professional exteriors harden over their tenure,
avoiding vulnerability as too risky.

The music industry can parallel this.

Spotify's CEO recently sparked outrage,
claiming the cost of creating content is close to zero,
reducing artists to content creators.

Similarly, academics risk becoming mere content providers
while publishers profit enormously from our labour.

So now what?

Feel the fear and do it anyway only offers a partial solution.

Neoliberal thinking places responsibility on individual crustaceans
to trust more and be braver.

Instead, we must address the structural factors that maintain our containment.

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