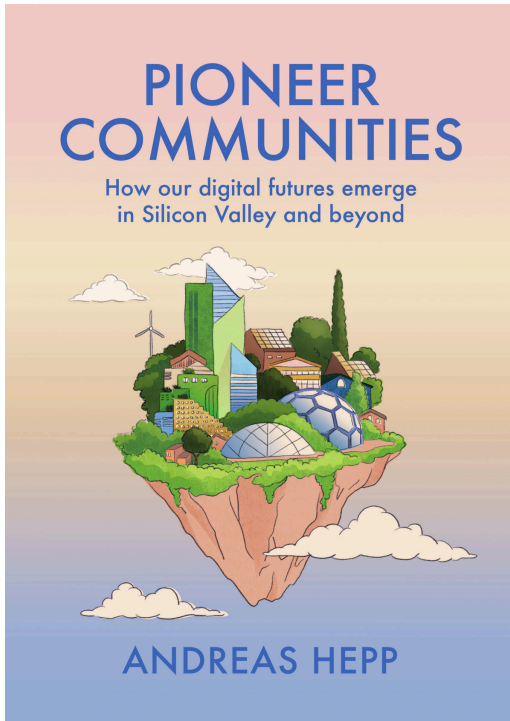


# PIONEER COMMUNITIES

How our digital futures emerge  
in Silicon Valley and beyond

polity



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For decades, pioneer communities in Silicon Valley and beyond have been at the forefront of shaping our ideas of digital futures, from social media platforms and self-tracking practices to groundbreaking space and lab initiatives. Their latest frontier, artificial intelligence, is already pushing the boundaries of human potential.

*Pioneer Communities* is the first book to explore these influential groups and their global impact. Drawing on extensive ethnographic research, the book explores the spread of pioneer communities, from the Whole Earth Network and the Maker and Quantified Self movements, to more recent communities such as Ethereum. It uncovers their visions for digital futures, their life cycles, their idea to understand the world as a lab, and the role of an organizational elite in curating their narratives. The book reveals how these communities foster a “quiet futuring”, a process that, though often unseen, profoundly impacts our perceptions of technological advancement.

Rich with concrete examples and surprising insights, *Pioneer Communities* offers a comprehensive understanding of the groups that influence our future. It is essential reading for students, scholars, journalists, policymakers, and practitioners eager to explore the potential of AI and other digital technologies in shaping our tomorrow.

