Python as a Social Fact
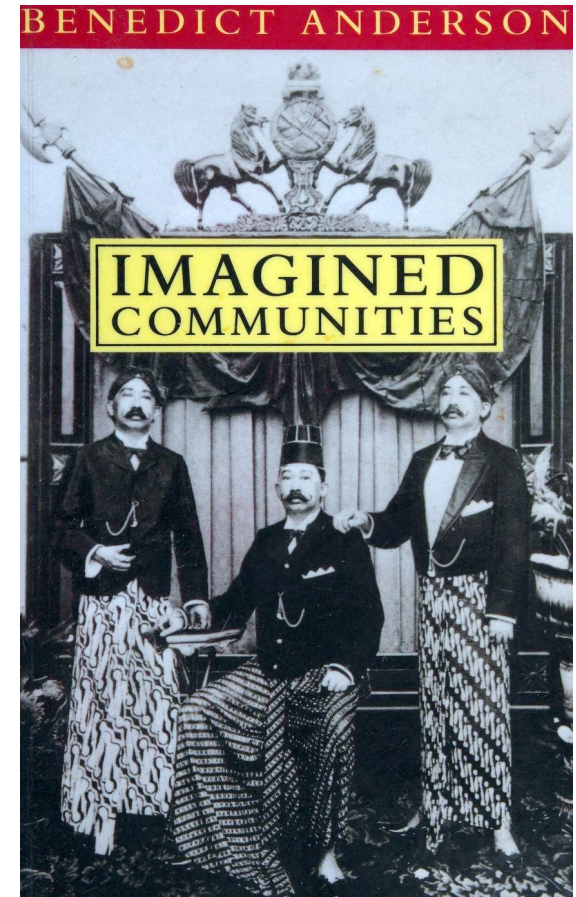
An Acknowledgment of Place

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David Mertz, Ph.D.

Identities and Communities

Imagined communities:
reflections on the origin and spread of nationalism
Benedict Anderson
https://archive.org/details/
imaginedcommunit0000ande_f5f1

The Python Community Before There Was a Python Community

- Used Python from 1998
- Wrote about Python since 1999
- PSF Fellow from 2008
- PSF Director from 2009-2015
- Erstwhile Chair Outreach & Education Committee

A Group before a Community Forms

https://pycon.blogspot.com/
2017/04/
python-1994-recollections
-from-first.html

Python as a Social Fact

[R]eligion [...] stimulates the feelings of joy, inner peace, serenity, and enthusiasm that, for the faithful, stand as experimental proof of their beliefs. The cult is not merely a system of signs by which the faith is outwardly expressed; it is the sum total of means by which that faith is created and recreated periodically.

–Émile Durkheim, 1912
(The Elementary Forms of Religious Life)

New ~~Religious~~ ~~Movements~~ Open Source Programming Languages

The Organic Evolution
of an
Inclusive Community

Grants	Infrastructure	PyCon US
In 2022 we awarded $215,000 USD for over 138 grants to recipients in 42 different countries.	We support and maintain python.org, The Python Package Index, Python Documentation, and many other services the Python Community relies on.	We produce and underwrite the PyCon US Conference, the largest annual gathering for the Python community. Our sponsors' support enabled us to award more than $270,000 USD in financial aid to 374 attendees for PyCon 2023.

Institutionalizing Inclusivity

PyLadies is an international mentorship group for marginalized genders, such as but not limited to non-binary people, trans people, and women in tech, with a focus on helping our community become active participants and leaders in the Python open-source community.

Python as a Social Fact

Beautiful is better than ugly.
Explicit is better than implicit.
[...]
Errors should never pass silently.
Unless explicitly silenced.
In the face of ambiguity, refuse the temptation to guess.
There should be one-- and preferably only one --obvious
    way to do it.
Although that way may not be obvious at first unless
    you're Dutch.
Now is better than never.
Although never is often better than *right* now.
[...]
Namespaces are one honking great idea -- let's do
    more of those!

The Schism of 2009

Our community, like many open-source communities, has a bug: lack of diversity. We're working to address this bug, but it's hard to solve all at once, so we're taking it on in parts.

1. We're a community, and that means we're based on mutual respect, tolerance, and encouragement. We'll help each other live up to these ideals.

2. Our community is for everyone. Words, images, or actions that are disrespectful or marginalizing to members of the community are not acceptable.

The Schisms that Never Happened in 2014 and 2015

```python
async def process(
    template: str,
    data: str,
    p: PathLike | IO[AnyStr] | None = None
) -> JSONResponse:
    # ... other code ...
    if (obj := get_object(p)) is None:
        missing.append(p)
    else:
        new: ProcData = await get_more(obj)
```
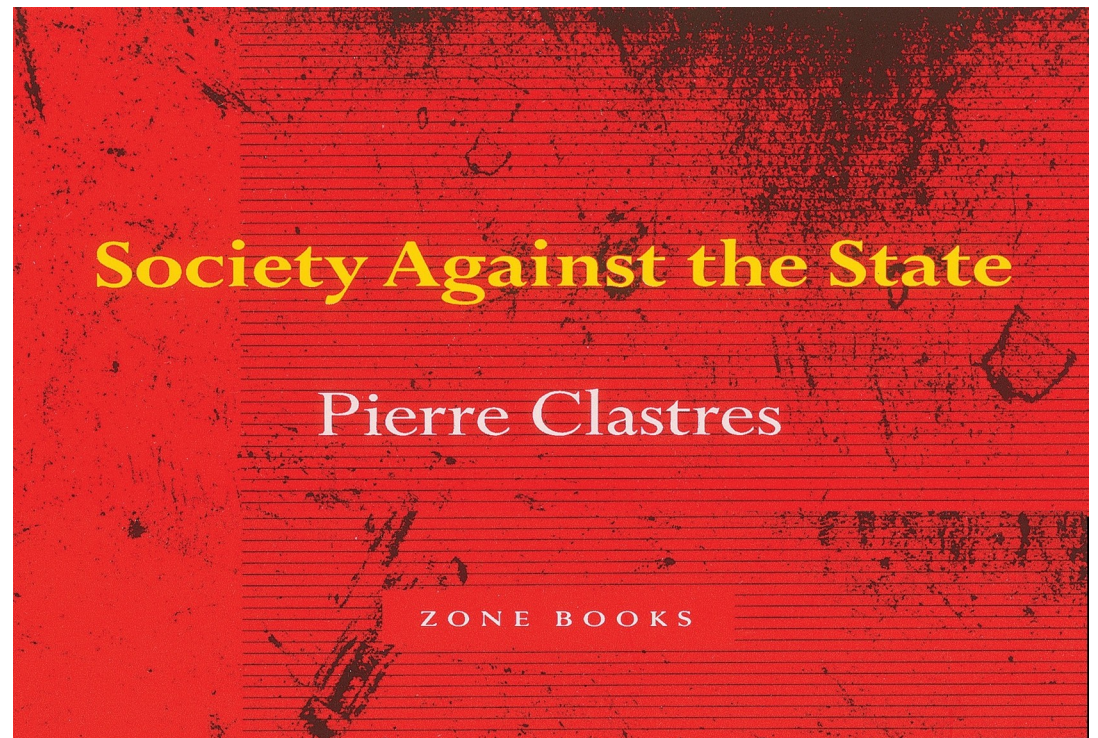
The Schism of 2018:
The Walrus

```python
async def process(
    template: str,
    data: str,
    p: PathLike | IO[AnyStr] | None = None
) -> JSONResponse:
    # ... other code ...
    if (obj := get_object(p)) is None:
        missing.append(p)
    else:
        new: ProcData = await get_more(obj)
```

A Community When a Leader Departs

https://press.princeton.edu/
books/paperback/
9780942299014/
society-against-the-state

The Ontological Foundation of Sociology is the Programming Language

PyCon US 2023 Sprints
Photo by Leah Wasser
Executive Director & Founder,
pyOpenSci

A Darker Side of Social Cohesion

An Anecdote
of Foolishness

pyfound.blogspot.com/2015/04/pycon-2018-2019-in-havana-cuba.html

An Archipelago of Communities

Thank You!

… and thanks to the wonderful trade union, my employer, Service Employees International Union.

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