Sorgaard Jacques: Roberta...you have experience of WIKI production...right?

Roberta Dalek: Yes – I’m a long standing administrator of Wikipedia – been involved since october 2003

VoyeurOne Baron: Last time we spoke, you had some interesting reflections on how different versions of wikipedia (in different languages) tell different stories about the same thing... Would you mind telling the group a bit about that? Thought it might be useful in this context

Roberta Dalek: I hope everyone knows what wikipedia is – if not – Wikipedia is a free online encyclopedia that anyone can edit

MichaelJohn Turner nods

Roberta Dalek: It exists in multiple languages and language communities can request to have the space for their own edition. All content is written and edited by the users

MichaelJohn Turner: I didn’t know that part... (different languages)

Roberta Dalek: Issues that are contentious obviously have contentious articles. Articles on the middle east, G.W. Bush, global warming, Hitler. Recent wars where you have contributors from both communities (there is a large debate in linguistics as to what a language is vs a dialect)... In Yugoslavia prior to the 1990s war, there was one language – serbo-croat. Originally there was a wikipedia in serbo-croat. With the independence of individual states of the former Yugoslavia each has its own language – bosnian, croatian, serbian. There are differences between them (serbian written in russian alphabet for example) but they are mutually comprehensible. Now we have a wikipedia in serbian, croatian, and bosnian... And some trying to put together a joint one on serbo-croatian

MichaelJohn Turner: Are you from that region?
Roberta Dalek: No, I’m from the UK

MichaelJohn Turner: ok... since you said ‘now we have’

Roberta Dalek: The articles on contentious issues relating to the war have different slants because of the different origins of the contributors

MichaelJohn Turner: yes

Roberta Dalek: There are other issues on different topics – the article on evolution is more contentious on the English language Wikipedia than the Swedish one, as evolution is more contentious in the US than in many other countries. As we write our own encyclopedia we write about what is important to us

MichaelJohn Turner nods

VoyeurOne Baron: I thought this was an interesting observation in relation to trying to establish a common reference... which is what Wikipedia does I believe. But it then also shows a multitude of stories rather than one History. And this I believe relates interestingly to the notion of autonomy

Roberta Dalek: In an opposite movement to the splitting in the Balkans there are attempts to make a joint “scandinavian language” one

VoyeurOne Baron: aha

Roberta Dalek: Although I cannot read Arabic there is an Arabic Wikipedia – we can presume that its articles on the Palestinians have a different slant from that of the Hebrew one

Sorgaard Jacques: Very interesting in relation to Autonomy, language both as a communality and as a border

MichaelJohn Turner: And as an ongoing process

Roberta Dalek: They are just reflections of real life divisions

MichaelJohn Turner: And attempts to unify (Scandinavian ex.)

VoyeurOne Baron: True... and they also underline some of the complexities that we face in an attempt to create shared knowledge on a global scale

Jayr Cela: I have recently recovered from closed head injury – and do not remember things sometimes

Sorgaard Jacques: Very true Voy

MichaelJohn Turner: No problem Jayr

Roberta Dalek: The internet can bring us together - but our contrasting world views can bring us head on

Sorgaard Jacques: Indeed Roberta

Jayr Cela: slavery is wrong / however it is rampant / I believe we can not stop it

Sorgaard Jacques: I think this could make an excellent article Roberta... Wikipedia, language, communality, divide

Roberta Dalek: I’ll try. I’m a better researcher than writer but I’ll put something together

VoyeurOne Baron: Wow, Jayr... that’s quite a statement...

Sorgaard Jacques: Slavery...in what sense Jayr?

Jayr Cela: People here seem to wish to be enslaved

Roberta Dalek: Can one be enslaved voluntarily?

Sorgaard Jacques: Don’t they everywhere?

Jayr Cela: Some are enslaved involuntarily. Against their will

MichaelJohn Turner: in second life?

Jayr Cela: correct\n
Sorgaard Jacques: But slave in what sense Jayr?

Jayr Cela: They are just foolish people who give their will to a master

Sorgaard Jacques: Who is the master?

Roberta Dalek: “give” is voluntary

Jayr Cela: Correct. That is flaw in my original plan

Roberta Dalek: The Goreans are one of the autonomous communities here in second life, another obvious one are the furries. The Goreans have their own role-playing continent.

Usagi Musashi: Second life is a place where Greek style slaves are becoming trendy and it seems to be growing

Jesz Murakami: There’s Hamlet’s article on Chinese sweat shops here

Usagi Musashi: From what I’ve been hearing it’s a big problem they are causing

Jayr Cela: Yes and it disgusts me

Roberta Dalek: I don’t think the Goreans are a threat to anyone – all voluntary. If everyone consents what’s the big deal?

VoyeurOne Baron: Which ones? The sweat shops or the Greek style slaves?

Roberta Dalek: I think the sweat shop thing was hype – there was _one_ person

Usagi Musashi: Greek style slaves are a problem with many reports of abuses
Roberta Dalek: It's not like in world of warcraft or whatever

Sorgaard Jacques: Are we not all sweating for Linden Lab?

jesz Murakami: The sweat shops are in first life working for Linden dollars to US dollars. Article was about a week ago

Roberta Dalek: But money from where? Anshe Chung is cashing out.. There are no obvious venues for gold farming

Usagi Musashi: Chung is cashing out, LOL, maybe in a small way but over all I doubt it

Jayr Cela: I have given up on slavery issue

MichaelJohn Turner: How so Jayr?

jesz Murakami: They’re hiring people to work sex shops through computers

Roberta Dalek: Most escorts seem to be bored US women..

Jayr Cela: I want to explore and conquer

MichaelJohn Turner: What do you mean Jayr?

Jayr Cela: After my wedding I will brother Jesz

VoyeurOne Baron: You want to have slaves Jayr?

Jayr Cela: No, I do not believe in slavery

Roberta Dalek: But suppose I wanted to be your slave?

Jayr Cela: All mankind should be free

Roberta Dalek: But can I not be free to choose to be enslaved ? Can you restrict my freedom to restrict my freedom?

Jayr Cela: That is the flaw in my thinking

Sorgaard Jacques: Voluntary slavery or submission... isn't that what consumerism and the structure of a middle class is all about?

jesz Murakami: We can all be free slaves

Usagi Musashi: Don’t you think slavery in second life is a little silly?

VoyeurOne Baron: Yes, Sorgaard... wage slavery

Roberta Dalek: It’s a fetish

Jayr Cela: It is only a Simulation

jesz Murakami: If all are free is there freedom

Roberta Dalek: No one is truly free of course - we all allow ourselves to be restricted by society

jesz Murakami: If all are slaves is their slavery

Usagi Musashi: I have friends that tell me that real life greek style slaves in second life is silly and does not even come close

Jayr Cela: It's only a game. World will not change because of what we do

MichaelJohn Turner: It is interesting that slavery plays
such a big role in relationships chosen to explore here

jesz Murakami: That’s sad

Sorgaard Jacques: Still WE change depending on what the world does

VoyeurOne Baron: Or you could argue that the world is made up of what we do...

jesz Murakami: :(

Roberta Dalek: This is a good space to create autonomous sexual communities

Michael John Turner: What’s that Roberta?

jesz Murakami: Is faking sex autonomous?

Roberta Dalek: Second life is a good space to make autonomous sexual communities – much better than a MUD for example

Usagi Musashi: Well in a virtual world more than likely people involved in greek slavery are ones that would never even come close to do it in real life

Roberta Dalek: People can explore fetishes in a safe(r) environment

Sorgaard Jacques: True Usagi...still Second Life slavery is something in itself

Jayr Cela: I have no idea / I am happy / and will continue to enjoy this SIMM

VoyeurOne Baron: And maybe we need to expand our view on what sexuality is...

jesz Murakami: yes

Usagi Musashi: Environment factors like upbringing etc does come into play for those style of role playing

VoyeurOne Baron: I think it might be interesting to pick up on the thread started previously about which communities within Second Life are able to achieve a degree of autonomy...

jesz Murakami: But expansion can be of intimacy

Michael John Turner: How so Voyeur?

Usagi Musashi: Second Life slavery is nothing but from my experience people that want to control others based on their warped real life values

Sorgaard Jacques: Probably true Usagi

Roberta Dalek: Second Life is a space used for community self expression. Furries have had textbased spaces – furry MUCK, and lower quality graphical places. With Second Life's creation tools you can be the squirrel you feel yourself to be

Usagi Musashi: Yes only if the people you are dealing with are on sound mind otherwise it’s just another from

of mental control

Roberta Dalek: A BDSM mantra is “safe, sane and consensual”

jesz Murakami: Needs recognizing that second life has its own sensorium

Usagi Musashi: I heard that stuff before. But really, come on...

Michael John Turner: :)

VoyeurOne Baron: So in a sense what you are implying Roberta is that the groups involved in role playing activities might be able to form stronger communities that are less dependent on Second life as a specific platform. And therefore more autonomous in a sense?

Roberta Dalek: In Second Life you can have autonomy (if you have the cash) as you can have an island and you don’t have to be on the grid. You are not free of the Lindens however

Sorgaard Jacques: True Roberta

Roberta Dalek: Furries and BDSM online groupings have existed before Second Life and will exist afterwards

Roberta Dalek: People tend to move with others

jesz Murakami: Maybe just more enslaved

VoyeurOne Baron: So in a sense what you are implying... furries and BDSM could be said to be autonomous of Linden Lab... no?

Roberta Dalek: If Linden Lab banned them they would continue elsewhere

VoyeurOne Baron: Exactly my point Roberta

jesz Murakami: So is autonomy furry or funny

Usagi Musashi: Linden Lab wil never ban them because to them they are value of members

Funaria Moose: Ban who? The furries?

Roberta Dalek: Well sex and capitalism go hand in hand

Sorgaard Jacques: Right Usagi... and Roberta

Usagi Musashi: They accept everyone, no matter what their kick is. But they must lean to the rules of Linden Lab

Roberta Dalek: But Second Life is a good space to use for sexual roleplaying because of the high quality graphics etc

Usagi Musashi: lol, second life is basic on sex industriy!

Roberta Dalek: But there were BDSM communities in the sims online – despite there being no content to support it
Usagi Musashi: Think about this: Why didn't Linden Lab give us female and male parts? Well because they did not want to press the issue that this game is sexually high.

Michael John Turner: I found Linden Lab does not talk about sex in public in relation to second life.

Roberta Dalek: Well the teen grid is sex free. And they wouldn't want lurid headlines.

Usagi Musashi: Did you hear that at one point Philip Linden wanted to remove sex the game? There would be no way. That's not when they are getting into the adult game lol. Which is very often.

Sorgaard Jacques: Philip is a strange far out entity, I tell you...

Michael John Turner: So what changed his mind?

Usagi Musashi: Philip just sold what 40% of the company so there.

Roberta Dalek: I've not heard this before - sounds like a rumour..

Usagi Musashi: He did during one town hall meeting.

Jesz Murakami: I thought the teens were separate so as not to embarrass their elders with their greater experience.

Usagi Musashi: I found at least 3 under age and know of two others which I need proof before they get kicked out.

Funaria Moose: Did you know there's a place where teens celebrate their 18th birthday in Second Life? And join the mature grid.

Usagi Musashi: Well its getting to be dinner time here :) thank you for the great meeting!

Jesz Murakami: Getting to be sleep time here--even way past.

Sorgaard Jacques: Today's topics have mainly been LANGUAGE and the DIVIDE, SLAVERY (fill in).

Roberta Dalek: SL AUTONOMY.

Michael John Turner: LINDEN LABS context.

Sorgaard Jacques: Yes. All interesting issues.

Michael John Turner: SEX!

VoyeurOne Baron: indeed. Hope to see some more articles on the wiki soon. Maybe on the autonomy of sex in Second Life... someone...?

Roberta Dalek: I'll do some research on it. Get some locations, someone should take some pics of Ar (the Gorean town).

Funaria Moose: I'll try to picture some slaves :)

Sorgaard Jacques: Great!

Roberta Dalek: Be careful on anonymity.

Funaria Moose: Ok.

Roberta Dalek: They have written policies etc which would be good too.

Sorgaard Jacques: Autonomy anonymity.

Funaria Moose: Maybe an interview with one ... if he/she is allowed to speak ?

Roberta Dalek: Not voyeurism necessarily. St Pauls sub Clio is a good spokesperson. She's not gorean, but is a leading submissive figure.

Funaria Moose: ok. Wrote that down.

VoyeurOne Baron: cool to be leading submissive...lol.

Michael John Turner: :)

Funaria Moose: How do they say? The one-eyed is king of the blinds.

Michael John Turner: I've found submissives very strong here.

Roberta Dalek: submissives are strong in real life as far as I know.

VoyeurOne Baron: That's interesting... the strong slave...

Michael John Turner: lol.

Jesz Murakami: In the kingdom of the deaf the one eyed man is blind... Or is it kingdom of blind, one eyed is deaf.

Sorgaard Jacques: lol jesz...

Michael John Turner: lol.