

Urban Correlationism: A Matter of Access

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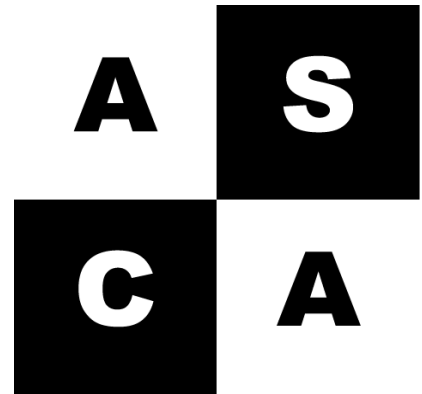
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Machinic Ecologies

Annual National Deleuze Scholarship Conference #5
May 20th 2016



In *A Thousand Plateaus* Deleuze and Guattari discuss their concept of the war machine in relation to weapons and tools that are defined in an 'ecosystem' which is traversed by a 'machinic phylum'. Deleuze and Guattari see the machinic phylum as technological lineage (for instance, the iron sword descending from the dagger, the steel saber descending from the knife). Whether something becomes a weapon or a tool depends on the specific assemblages these metallurgical machines enter into. When Deleuze and Guattari speak of 'ecosystems' these are to be understood as the triply folded and complexly interwoven system of what Guattari has called the 'three ecologies' of environmental, social and mental ecologies. The connection and synthesis of these heterogeneous ecologies Deleuze and Guattari term 'machinic' (ATP 330) Therefore the metallurgical transformations of the machinic phylum have to be thought in ever changing and heterogeneous machinic assemblages, from materiality of the earth to our social life and collective and individual consciousness. We aim to get a deeper understanding of the power and necessity of Deleuze and Guattari's machinic ecosophy in a techno-permeated world.

The Annual National Deleuze Scholarship Conference is a conference intended to bring together scholars, students, activists, artists, and others working on the philosophy of Gilles Deleuze. Each year, the conference is hosted at a different university in the Netherlands. In 2016 the conference is organized by the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA) of the University of Amsterdam. This year the conference will revolve around the works of Deleuze's with Guattari and the transversal relations to Guattari's own work. We will specifically focus on topics concerning technology and its relation to the three ecologies of the environmental, the social and the mental.

The conference will consist of one day of panels and a keynote provided by dr. Alanna Thain (McGill University). The day prior to the conference, May 19th, there will be a public experimental workshop organized by ASCA's Deleuze Reading, wherein *What Is Philosophy?* (1994) will be problematized. Prof. Jeffrey A. Bell (Southeastern Louisiana University) will be present to guide the workshop. Organisers: Halbe Kuipers, Nur Ozgenalp, Patricia Pisters

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Urban Correlationism: A Matter of Access

If one is to provide an alternative account for the plurality of, intentional or other, morphogenetic processes that take place constantly within the urban field, then one has to examine the intricate relationship between the field itself and our access to it. Ontology, epistemology and the –urban-world are put forward in this paper. Throughout it I deal with the first of consequences that ‘urban correlationism’ entails; that of the primacy of a subjective access over a ‘hylomorphically’ malleable present. It is through an ecology of material- discursive practices that the apparatus of architectural thinking can be traced genealogically and posited as an abstract machine catalyzing a very specific image of thought. That of a meta-subject which privileges its access to a world bifurcated in primary and secondary qualities so as to trace the transcendental elements of its own justification.

My aim is to diffractively expose a genealogical line that runs from the first attempt to theoretically reflect on issues of spatial production, their later interpretation and critical transformation in defining the outlines of formal architectural qualities, to the combination of both under the premise of modernist emancipation. Vitruvius, Alberti and Le Corbusier will be considered as the ‘conceptual personae’ that highlight issues attached to spatial production while nevertheless expanding beyond it. Consequently, the question of access appears under the mode of a problem, forcing one to consider its implications on a population of heterogeneous fields. What most spatial theories seem to ignore is a quite simple fact; that a horizontally expanded experience is the phenomenon whose existence is more certain than the existence of anything else. It is on this premise that architectural theories, for the sake of their own persistence and individuation, should shift focus from the *relata* of the discipline to the relationships that precede them. I conclude this paper by arguing that if any architectural theory and practice is to aim in a break from the past then it is through the focus on the contingent actuality of a virtual state of affairs. The question therefore for any architecture to come, is whether space can topologically afford and be afforded the virtual; afford the non-neutralization and the non-confinement of desire.

Keywords *Architecture, Correlationism, Material – Discursive Practices, Bifurcation of Nature, Panpsychism*

& Robert Alexander Gorny

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A Flat Theory of Modernization: Toward a Genealogy of Apartmentalization

Post-Foucauldian theories have facilitated architects largely to recognize and utilize the performative aspects of the built environment through a process-oriented understanding of material formations. Converging with discourses on environmental transformation, their recent development into new materialist, or agential realist theories during the last decade, however, increasingly challenges the ontological status of this agency in a much more historical sense. In this perspective my doctoral study is concerned with an ethico-aesthetic problem regarding modernization and environmental transformation in general: