Worlding (31957)  
Spring 2014  Th 1-4  SAC 124  

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office hours  

All readings are on Blackboard.  

Worlding is a term showing up in philosophy, literary criticism, digital studies, cultural geography, cultural studies and anthropology. It is a way of approaching wholes, systems, networks or culture in ways that account for emergence, the assemblage of disparate entities, and the experience or situation of being “in” something. Worlding literatures approach globalization but also basic questions of form and event, new materialism, objects, and the body. Much of the work on worlding begins by opening the ontologies of subjects and objects by positing theories of worliding or being in the world. Middle range concepts such as rhythm, texture, the refrain, registers, moods, atmospheres, tempos, orientations and disorientations, transmutations, and states of attunement are proliferating.  

This course is organized as a writing workshop. We will all write 200 good words a week inspired by, but not exegetical of, some readings. Seminars will consist of writers reading their work and receiving comments. Each participant should have a project building through these short writings over the course of he semester (a chapter, an article, a series of experiments in how to proceed through a master’s thesis or dissertation or fieldwork).  

Once during the semester each participant will read a more extensive work and write a piece that is coherent and creatively engaged with the stakes and accomplishments of the reading’s approach. This writing (1-3 pages single-spaced) should be shared with the class in written form before the seminar. It will be discussed in seminar.  

Our readings, then, include exemplary pieces of writing that open questions of worlding, some programmatic attempts to lay out questions of worliding (Thrift, Berlant, Taussig, LaTour), short essays that use and articulate a major theorist (Ranciere, Badiou, Husserl, Heidegger, Haraway, Deleuze) and longer works that will be read and reviewed by one seminary participant (see list below.) Short sections of some of these books will also be on the syllabus.  

Possible works to be reviewed by one participant each week  
Jeffrey Cohen. *Prismatic Ecology. (not yet released)*  
Merleau-Ponty. *Phenomenology of Perception.*  
Tim Ingold. *Being Alive.*  
Claude Romano. *Event and World.*
McCullough, Malcolm. *Ambient Commons*. (or an article)
Rickert, Thomas. *Ambient Rhetoric: The Attunements of Rhetorical Being*. (or article on composition studies)
Sloterdijk, P. *Bubbles*.
Phillippe Descola. *Beyond Nature and Culture*.
Lauren Berlant. *Cruel Optimism*.
Jim Clifford. *Returns*.

January 16 Introductions
In workshop, each participant with establish/imagine this or her project for the semester and a number of its angles, singularities, experiments, potential iterations.

January 23
**Sloterdijk, P. Bubbles. (excerpt)**

January 30
Mark Jackson and Maria Fanin. Letting geography fall where it may – aerographies address the elemental. *Environment and Planning D*, 2011.
Ben Anderson. Affective Atmospheres.

February 6
Lesley Stern. A Frenzied Calm. Ms.
Paul Harrison. Corporeal remains: vulnerability, proximity, and living on after the end of the world. *Environment and planning D*.
**Tim Ingold. Being Alive. (excerpt)**

February 13
Bruno LaTour. An Attempt at a “Compositionist” Manifesto.
Stephen Muecke. *Joe in the Andamans* (selections)
**Nelson Goodman. Ways of Worldmaking. (Excerpt)**

February 20
Jason Pine. *Methlabs and Alchemical Ontology in the US Heartland*. (ms)
Tadashi Ogawa. The Horizontal Character of Phenomena and the Shining-Forth of Things.
Kathleen Stewart. Tactile Compositions.
Timothy Morton. *Everything We Need.* (excerpt)

February 27
Anderson, Ben and Paul Harrison. The promise of non-representational theory. In *Taking Place.*
Mike Crang and Stephen Graham. Sentient Cities: Ambient Intelligence and the Politics of Urban Space. *Information, Communication, and Society.*
**McCullough, Malcolm. Ambient Commons.** (excerpt)

March 6
John Urry. Small Worlds and the new ‘social physics.” *Global Networks.*
**Donna Haraway. The Companion Species Manifesto.** (excerpt)

March 13 (spring break)

March 20
Ben Highmore. Out of Place: Unprofessional Painting, Jacques Ranciére and the Distribution of the Sensible.
**Lauren Berlant. Cruel Optimism.** (excerpt)

March 27

April 3
Todd G. May. The Politics of Life in the Thought of Gilles Deleuze. *SubStance,* Vol. 20, No. 3,

April 10 (Katie may be out of town)
**Ananya Roy and Aiwa Ong. The Worlding of Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global.** (excerpt)

April 17
Maurizio Lazarrato. *From Capital Labor to Capital-Life.* *Ephemera.*
**Phillippe Descola. Beyond Nature and Culture.** (excerpt)
April 24 (Katie out of town)
Bruce Robbins. The Worlding of the American Novel (ms). 

May 1
Paul Simpson. Falling on Deaf Ears: a postphenomenology of sonorous presence. *Environment and Planning A.*
Merleau-Ponty. *Phenomenology of Perception.* (Excerpt)