

Tr4ns1ts/ Tr4nsm1ss1ons

by CATHIE BODENHORN & SARA COLEMAN

התאחדות המורים

—מקסימליזם-ליקליח-ול-ט"ו

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Sara

8/25/2020 at 21:08



← 58/62

CHATS



Sara C
Iguelli



Sara IV
Que



Sara B
Best

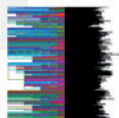
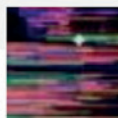


Oscar
Ohhh...

CONTACTS



Oscar



Added

Text(ile) modes

"The "textile" is less an object than that which
moves from the domain of plastic form
to the temporal folds of
concepts, societies, and economies."
[T'AI Smith]

Three centuries have passed from the Jacquard loom to the computer as the "spinning jennies"
of capital continue to morph.
[Freund]

Textiles are the binal modes of capitalist production. Textiles effect capitalism's codependent
modus operandi: "on the one hand sweatshop labor, and on the other
the matrix of the immaterial economy of the Internet."
[T'AI Smith]

The disciplinary society is explicit in the grid, a pattern that carries within its form a sense of
order,
repetition-and-division
and is produced by the efficient economy of the heddle.

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01100101 01100011 01101000 01101110 01101111 01101100 01101111 01100111 01111001 [S. Plant]

Textiles are *operative potential* in the control society -a flexible-mesh- *like a sieve*
"transmute from point to point. (...)
the factory was a body that contained its internal forces at a
level of equilibrium, the highest possible in terms of production, the lowest possible in
terms of wages; but in a society of control, the corporation has replaced the factory,
and the corporation is a spirit, a gas." [Deleuze]

Are we in the midst of new textile modes?

Transsiliconvaleys' technodigital-objects

Objectiles

Digitalized artifacts

vaporized

contagions

aerosols

gas

immatter

modulations

that render the disciplinary as a form of programmed obsolescence where

"(m)an is no longer man enclosed, but man in debt." [Deleuze]

Data-bodies "that produce information in self-reform"

[Freund] continual

postscripts

What are the new textile modes in dark silicon era?

Apple just unveiled the company's new products: AppleWatch, iPad and Apple One: "the ultimate collection" of fitness, entertainment, information, communication and productivity services. As both Moira and the West Coast burn, the event -under the tagline 'Time flies', - took place as a virtual conference, pre-recorded at the green and gleaming Apple Park. The compound looked brilliant under a bright and sunny sky.

"The future of health is on your wrist,"

is the slogan for the new *Series 6 Watch*. It comes packed with all sorts of services like fall detection, heart-rate monitoring, sleep oversight, automatic hand-washing detection, and a blood oxygen sensor that background measures blood oxygen saturation (SpO2), even during sleep. Full-blown biometrics directly on one's wrist tunes into contemporary anxieties and fears. *The Health* app stores health records, patient-generated data, medications and past medical history, so doctors have a "more holistic view" of their patient's health -"democratizing healthcare" and "streamlining information sharing between patients and caregivers."

The future of health is on our wrist thanks to *Neural Engines* capable of processing 11 trillion operations per second. Unprecedented machine learning capabilities in Apple's (A14) bionic chip. Dubbed the *Covid 19 Purpose*, new data-sharing agreements posit Apple, Google and other corporate interests aggressively pushing into the healthcare and pharma industry, through various partnerships and acquisitions, the selling millions of personal medical data, and contact-tracing apps, all in the name of fighting coronavirus outbreaks.

"The future of health is on your wrist."

Under this paradigm
why even think about a well-funded,
universal or affordable health care system?

Predictability and mechanized profiling to ensure our health and wellbeing.
New assemblages of political and economic power:

opaque forms
of
labor extraction survive,
indeed thrive within the current pandemic context.

It is these structures of power that produce these nightmarish
retractive forms.

As the corporation continues to shrink silicon, both become more and more amorphous. Capital leaps to neuromorphic chips -synaptic softwares in self-learning machinery that emulate brain-like behavior and compute neural activity -entirely new affective and material modes that sidestep programming.

The delayed demise of the disciplinary industries: hospitals, schools, prisons, museums refashioned as the creative-and-cultural industries, the health system, "the educational system, the armed services (...) metastable states coexisting in one and the same modulation, like a universal system of deformation." [Deleuze]

Not a blissful future utopia, nor the dream of organic and non-organic cohabitation in a universal neuroecology; but new morphogenetic iterations of digital materiality in the hands
of neurosynaptic dark-silicon capital.

What is at stake in these predicaments underway?

Tr4nsm1ss1ons

"Nextstrain is an open-source project to harness the scientific and public health potential of pathogen genome data. We provide a continually-updated view of publicly available data with powerful analytics and visualizations showing pathogen evolution and epidemic spread. Our goal is to aid epidemiological understanding and improve outbreak response. Nextstrain.org aims to provide a real-time snapshot of evolving pathogen populations and to provide interactive data visualizations to virologists, epidemiologists, public health officials, and community scientists. Through interactive data visualizations, we aim to allow exploration of continually up-to-date datasets, providing a novel surveillance tool to the scientific and public health communities."

[nextstrain.org]

We first heard about Dr Antonio Salas and his colleagues' research sometime in May. We talked by phone on May 30, 2020, after reading his article that explains the spread of SARS-CoV-2 through "super-spreaders." His GenPoB Research Group at the University of Santiago Compostela has been working non-stop for the past few months. Dr Salas is very generous and open with us. He talks about his affinity for collaborations between art and science.

Dr. Salas specializes in population genetics. He forwards us a preliminary article narrating "the journey through time and space of this 'tiny particle'" - as he calls it - "that has spread throughout the world." He studies movements of people throughout history; tracing migrations and encounters between different populations. Flows, transits and transmissions that leave traces in everyone's DNA.

For months now Dr. Salas and his team focused on the spreading pattern of SARS-CoV-2, analyzing its genomes and the slight mutations in individual hosts that carry it. "My job is to squeeze data," he says - "we are witnessing, first-hand, and in real-time a huge global experiment." They had analyzed close to 5,000 SARS-CoV-2 genomes and the thousands of associated meta-data; retrieved from public data-repositories. He describes this human pathogen as a "ridiculous microscopic particle" whose genome has "only 30,000 letters. Compared to the human genome, this particle is only 70 millionths of a millimeter; a bit ridiculous if it weren't responsible for the major pandemic of the 21st century."

Cynthia Bodenhorst
25/8/2020 a la(s) 13:07

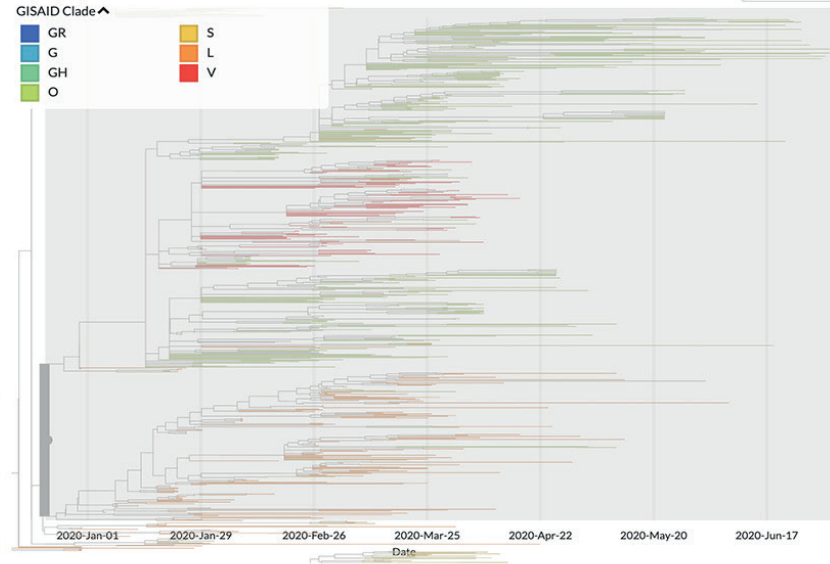
Showing 0 of 3914 genomes. Filtered to [Dec 2019 to Dec 2019](#).

Phylogeny

GISAI Clade

GR
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GH
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S
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V



We were in fact in the midst of a researching frenzy; thousands of scientists from all over the world dedicated to
collecting,
sequencing
and
sharing COVID-19 data
in unprecedented numbers
and at unprecedented speeds.

By June, one of these databases, GISAID, contained "samplings" of 4672 genomes collected since December 2019.

We take a look at the databases. Genomic data is rendered as parallel colorful threads, perfectly arranged as if organized through the efficient economy of a heddle. There is nothing waiting at the end of the trajectories; only endpoints.

All is distance between the threads.

All is distance.

Scientific databases have gone viral.

What exactly are we witnessing?



You

6/9/2020 at 11:39



Search or start new chat

Que texturas! Y el sonido entre la piedra era bueno? Se escucha muy bien!

Genomic epidemiology of novel coronavirus - Global subsampling

Maintained by the [Nextstrain team](#). Enabled by data from [GISAID](#)

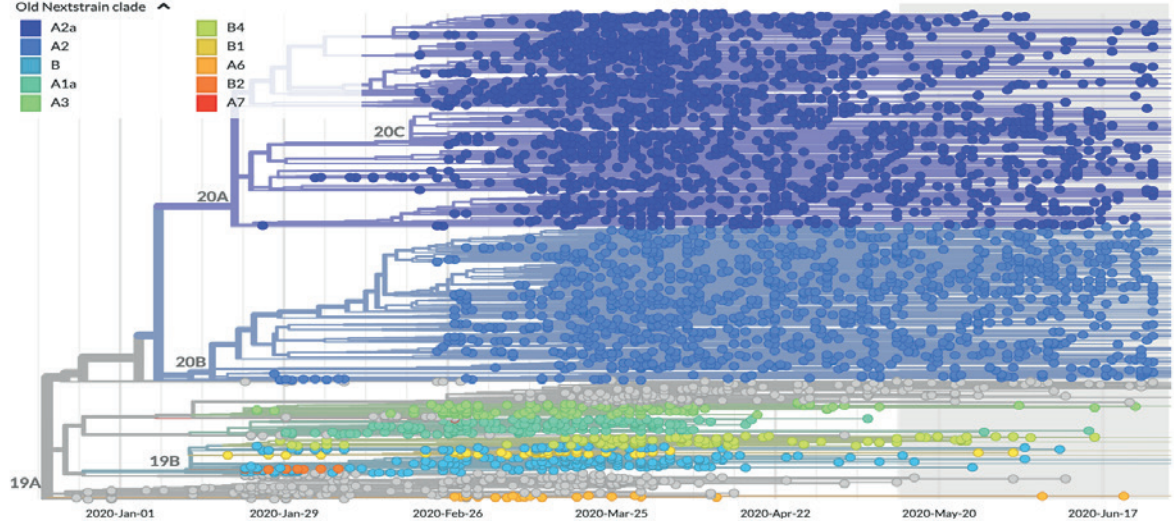
Showing 4347 of 4347 genomes sampled between Dec 2019 and Jun 2020. Filtered to [Dec 2019 to Jun 2020](#).

Phylogeny

Old Nextstrain clade ^

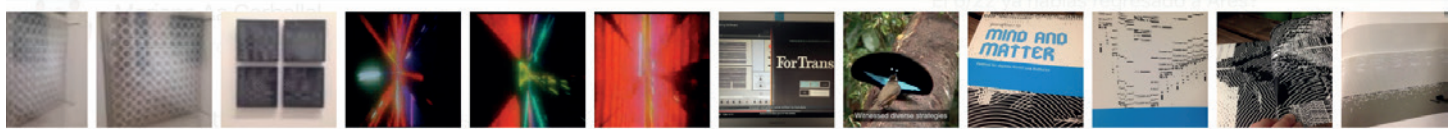
- A2a
- A2
- B
- A1a
- A3

- B4
- B1
- A6
- B2
- A7



Programa de...

+34 834 74 42 65: Nadai



The story of SARS-CoV-2 is a story of transmissions.

The story of SARS-CoV-2 is a story of parent clades and its
descendants.

The story of SARS-CoV-2 is data sampled, analyzed, rendered, shared at high speeds.

The story of SARS-CoV-2 is data squeezed to data.

The story of SARS-CoV-2 is a story of access to Big Data (5,000 + samples, 150 + million letters).

The story of SARS-CoV-2 is a story of transmission patterns rendered
visible.

The story of SARS-CoV-2 is a story of novel hosts species and host shifts.

The story of SARS-CoV-2 is a story of genetic codes on a battlefield.

The story of SARS-CoV-2 is a story of host cells living marks on viral genomes.

The story of SARS-CoV-2 is a battle of genetic coding.

A virus is software.

Viruses lack the biological machinery for self-replication.

Viruses infiltrate host cells, hijack and reprogram organisms.

A virus is a co-designing process.

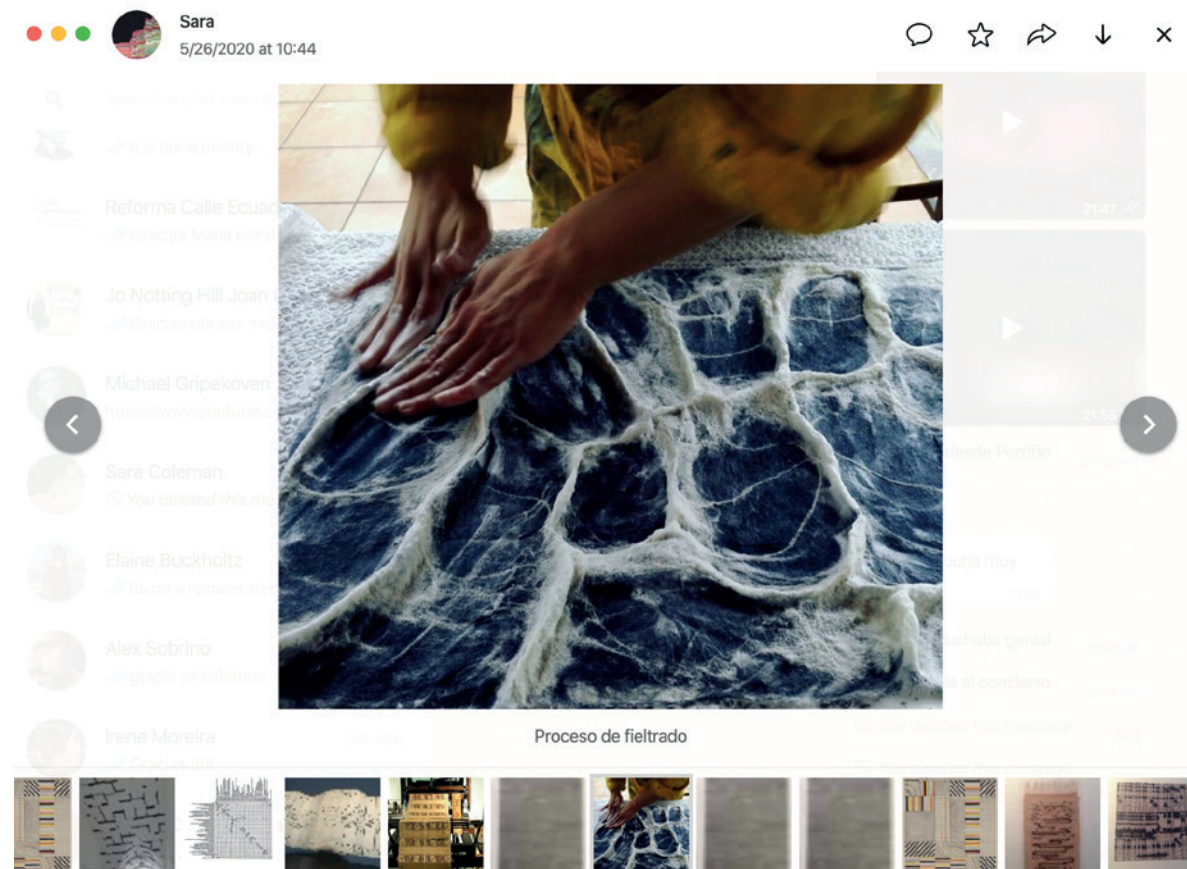
Viral genomes are software; a set of instructions for self-replication.

Viruses slip through biosecurity membranes and some cause neurological infection.

SARS-CoV-2 shows neurotropic behaviors.

Tr4ns1ts

"It is always on the edge,
the in-between strands,
in the lines
between the ocean and the land
that the mutations begin to occur and new activities start to emerge.
Drops of water,
grains of sand,
oceans and deserts,
the very wet and the very dry, make connections of their own". [S. Plant]



"Humanity knows the matrix only as it is displayed, which is always a matter of disguise. It sees the pixels, but these are merely the surfaces of the data net which 'hides on the reverse side of the screen.'"

[McCaffrey]

Screens are the matrix through which all viric operations are displayed.

Data on COVID-19 is all over. Everywhere graphics, charts, numbers, curves. The necropolitical policies of neoliberalism -mainstreamed through years of destroying healthcare systems and selling opioids- now pile up as horrifying graphs.

The virus is data.

The infection has moved freely along the pathways of capital exchange and global trade. Financial capitalism relies both on confinements and on data mobility.

Some neighborhoods of Madrid scapegoated as "multicultural dunghills" with high contagion rates.

COVID kills especially in these racialized communities where migrants and informal-economy workers live and work, reduced to extractive resources. We read how COVID-19 is not a pandemic, but a

syndemic

that kills especially in the forgotten dunghills-of-the-world where the detained, the expelled, the imprisoned, the dispensable live.

In what Arundhati Roy compared to "a chemical experiment that suddenly illuminated hidden things," megacities and towns in India began to force out millions of their working-class citizens "like so much unwanted accrual."

Since the beginning of the pandemic, exoduses have increased forcing thousands of migrant workers,

turned into refugees overnight, to flee from starvation in lockdown cities ruled by right-wing Hindu nationalists.

Pandemic populisms.

D4t4

In the last few months we have been living between contained anger, fear and an increasing perplexity; wondering why and how the graphs, the reports of deaths, the curves of infection, can slowly become dull.

Wondering how power acts behind this programmed dullness.

The great-pandemic-of-the-21st-century coincides with the appearance of sequencing technologies -(i.e. Next Generation Sequencing or NGS)- and supercomputing systems, capable of processing hundreds of thousands of data.

This is not a coincidence.

We live immersed in meta-narratives and Big Data.

A reality in which the mega capitalists, the owners of robotics, biotech and information technologies appear to have fully merged. Only in such a foundry could someone like Bill Gates imagine interventions in entire ecosystems, like what he has in mind with the Solar Radiation Management Governance Initiative (SRMGI).

Alienation is structure. [Tomsic]

Software operations are rarely fully-accessible to us; they possess a different kind of materiality,
a time and scale that is opaque
and exacting
in their structure.

Display graphics are expressive bypass. Visual representations are created for people -use familiar and compelling patterns- coded through ever more sophisticated computer-generated programs.

Visual data is dependent on source data
but
perceptually independent from it.

We are coded through subtle and opaque algorithmic models:
the choice of filters we use on Instagram images
or the endless cookie-policies, privacy management,
and "personalized content" pages.

We never really get to fully opt-out,
as opting out is constitutive while (being) productive.

Do we prefer analog, digital, an explorer-look or an artist-personalized watch face?
Customizable watch faces and screensaver designs, programs, and apps are technodigital
objects -entanglements of interaction + hardware + software- within the aesthetics of
surveillance capital.

Data-mining forages for particular pieces of information. It is guesswork as well as a stock
market operation. If the properties of the data are yet-to-be-discovered, then design and
visualization graphics have little to do with retrieval, with monitoring, or communication.

Data is analytics,
real-time snapshot extractions;
speculative and surveillance projects.

Data visualization has yet to have a taxonomy.

Successful visuals become scientific standards or improved technodigital objects.

The direction is not anastrophe
but catastrophe-from-below.

From that "creative dark activity (that) refuses to be productive for the market, (and) remains
linked however diffusely and ambiguously, to an archive of resistent practices—past, present,
and to come—that Fredric Jameson called a "political unconscious," and that theorists Oskar
Negt and Alexander Kluge described in more literal terms as a counter-public sphere made up of
dissident affects, re-appropriations, and fantasies." [G. Sholette]

The ethical is also a
retractive direction
and points back to the collective,
to alienation as structure to account for
a politics of separation.

"What takes courage is to operate in terms of a different durée to that imposed
by the law of the world." [Badiou]

To
remember the eugenic experiments that Nazis carried out through those elaborate databases or
the very recent genetic wars developed by racist laboratories that used people's DNA.
Not to conspire,
along,
but to speak truth to knowledge;
to the nonsensical structuring gap in the Big Other.

Data articulates the structuring gaps.

Take for example [@yoha.co.uk/lungs](http://yoha.co.uk/lungs), a memorial project where the YoHa collective computed,
from Nazi records, the vital lung capacity of slave workers that worked in the
ex-munitions IBM factory in Karlsruhe, Germany.

The program calculates the vital lung capacity
of each worker and emits a "breath" of air. Each time the viewer activates the machine, it emits
through an audio system one last breath of air of one of the workers. [YoHa, formerly Mongrel, work
on socially active transmedia aesthetics]

Trillions of data extracted; interdicted in scopic regimes.

What are the discontinuities between
the databases and
their source data?

Piercings surrealist "who countered the realist eye that cuts and pierces with another orb,

the eye,

neither totally blind nor all-seeing, that weeps with memory in face of violence."

[A. Feldman]

All this data, and much more, driven by epistemological convictions that a (viral) pandemic is quantifiable and can become an epistemic object. Processes to be

measured,

calculated,

discursively

and visually mobilized

for the transformative aims of a cure.

Pandemic populisms.

Pathogen sequence data is currency;

an investment that demands the production of R+D profit.

Pathogen data (visualized) can

only

propagate.

Superspreaders

"Any remaining distinctions between users and used, man and his tools, nature, culture, and technology collapsed into the microprocessings of soft machines spiraling into increasing proximity: molecular lives downloading themselves into software systems, intermingling with the microprocessors and the bugs in the systems of machine code, finding new networks on which to transmit their instructions and codes, parasites and their hosts learning from each other, pickling up tricks, swapping information."
[S. Plant]

"It is remarkable that a few haplotypes
are disproportionately represented
in continental regions or in particular countries,
appearing abruptly in a few days' period."

[Gómez-Carballa A.
Bello, X.
Pardo-Seco, J.
Martín-Torres F.
& Salas, A.]

What makes a superspreader?

A genetic code that allows someone to remain asymptomatic?

A friendly genetic code? One that cooperates to cause a genomic shift?

A genetic code that triggers a variation of the virus genome,
so it can disperse through other regions?

We have all these questions when we speak to Dr Salas.

Cynthia:

I recently read about a book by Shoshana Zuboff entitled Surveillance Capitalism. It talks about a form of digital capitalism that declares private human experience as free raw material for translation into behavioral surplus products. I am very interested in this in relation to your research because, if I understand well, there are people who are superspreaders of COVID-19. This is very interesting because it is a bit like influencers, that spread the virus on a large scale. It is as if this virus is replicating a type of behavior that predominates in young people's life-in-the-hive. Massive-scale contagion is very much part of being an influencer.

Antonio Salas laughs:

Yes, it is known that there are people with a very high viral load that are responsible for a large number of COVID-19 infections; this corresponds to a form of super-contagiousness where new infection events caused by a superspreaders are more likely to be highly infectious. The patterns of genetic variability are compatible with the figure of a "super-spreader." Specific strains of the coronavirus that spread more than others. This is easy to see, as a genome that is repeated many times around a person who is the epicenter. During the first month of COVID propagation in South Korea, there were few, two to three reports of new infections per day. However, all of a sudden rapid spread began after one case that was linked to 3,900 secondary cases. In these taxonomies, it is evident that the virus strains, unlike in other viruses, has a very heterogeneous way of transmission through these super-spreader individuals.

C.B:

It is also very interesting from a material point of view. You have to process huge amounts of data.

A.S:

Indeed, sequence taxonomy implies a way of quantifying diversity, through software and phylogenetic reconstruction. You have to go backwards. And we handle millions of data. It's a computing issue in this sense.

The implications of the relationships between superspreader hosts and SARS-CoV-2 are particularly interesting to us. Capital and contagion spread through similar (proprietary) data flows that rely on predictive signals and predatory economies.

Viruses work in the a priori and simultaneous existence of data structures:

viral
human
D4T4

"The occurrence of superspreaders may not be at random and may depend on other superspreaders. It is proposed that infections caused by contact with superspreaders are more likely to result in new superspreaders than those caused by transmission from a less infectious individual. A case with a high intensity of infection has the potential of being a superspreader due to high viral shedding" [Beldomenico] and may therefore result in a new potential superspreader.

The tale of superspreaders is the tale of the propagation pattern of COVID-19.

The tale of superspreaders is the tale of social media as a viral product.

The tale of superspreaders is the tale of behavioral surplus.

The tale of superspreaders is a virus resembles a digital age viral product; its transmission pattern is one-to-many-to-many.

The tale of superspreaders is that of pre-symptomatic-asymptomatic hosts that act as cookies and web bugs.

The tale of superspreaders is that of unwitting suppliers continuously expanding contagion.

The tale of superspreaders is intensification of hidden processes to extract personal information and behavioral data.

The tale of superspreaders is the tale of cross species 'jumping genes.'

As machinic discourse algorithms -and viruses- maintain an imperative,
yet dubious relationship to material reality;
they operate transversally,
on themselves,
on machines,
and on living organisms.

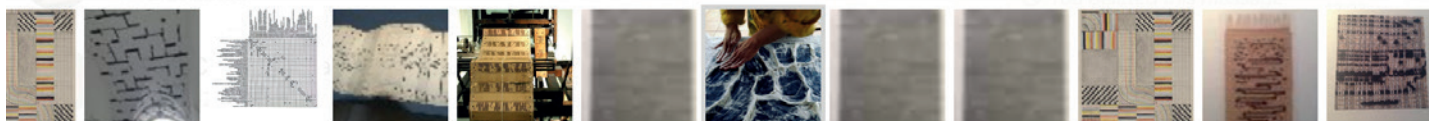
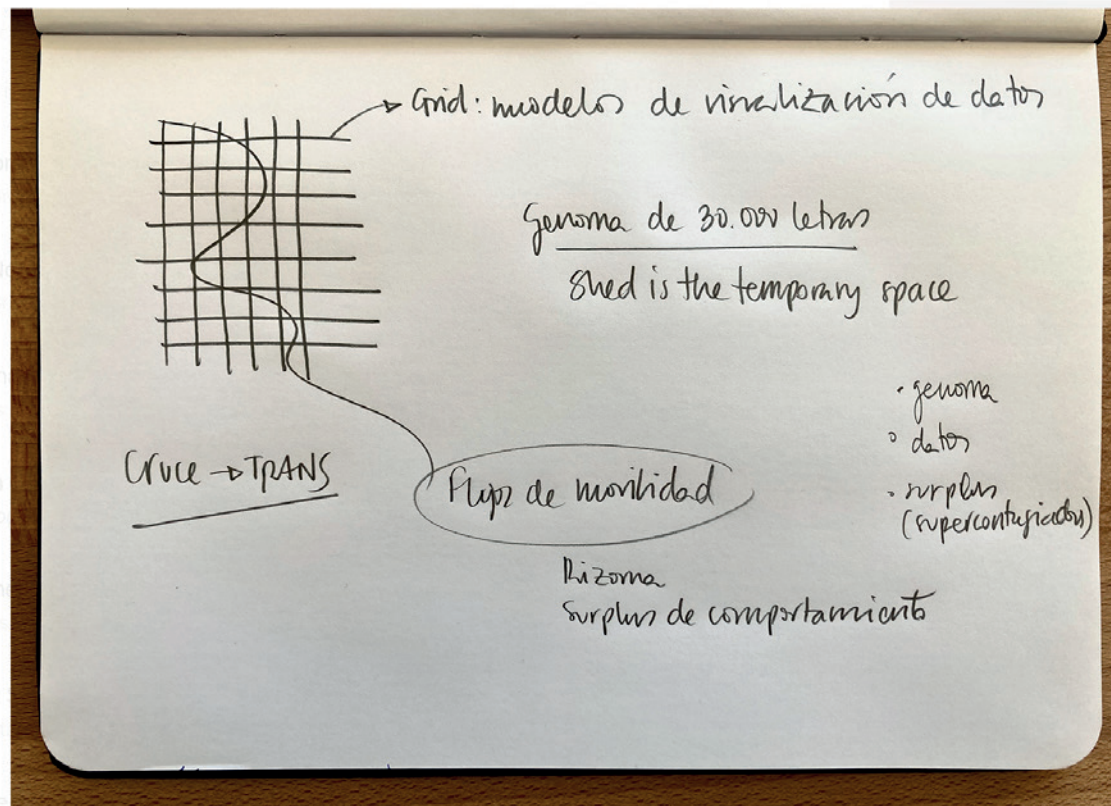
Cookies and web bugs are such mechanisms- bits of code to bypass computer users; invasive, proprietary algorithmic contrivances.

"Behavioral surplus was necessary for revenue, and secrecy would be necessary for the sustained accumulation of behavioral surplus." [Zuboff]



Sara

5/26/2020 at 10:44



Just as in Google's operations, its growing success relies on a "hiding strategy",
on behavioral surplus value and on the production of surplus
behavior.

COVID-19 is a viral product akin to the viral products of surveillance capitalism.
Just as Facebook's social graph represents the largest proprietary source of
behavioral surplus in the world;
society represents the entirety of COVID's live data source of surplus
behavior.

Now the question is whether the pandemic will become the uncontested scenario for ubiquitous
surveillance capitalism and its ideology of engineered inevitability.

Facebook's Graph API amounts to the largest global mapping of everybody and everything
including non-human objects like photos, pages, events and how they related to each other.
Eric Schmidt, Alphabet's Executive Chairman, along with its subsidiary Sidewalk Labs -that
improve life in cities "from the Internet up,-" has been given the green light to "reimagine" the
State of New York after the coronavirus pandemic. Telehealth, remote learning, and expanding
broadband access will give Schmidt a foot into the control of education and other social services;
something he has been after for decades.

Shoshana Zuboff writes:

"Silicon Valley is the axis mundi of inevitabilism."

But it is precisely the knowledge of inevitabilism that constitutes
the driving force of the user's relationship to that from which he cannot escape.

The tech industry uses terms like "expanding user base", "user experience", "user engagement."

"There are only two industries that call their customers 'users':

illegal drugs and software."

[Edward Tufte]

The tale of superspreaders is also the tale of the production of surplus as lack-behavior.

Surplus Lack-behavior

Shoshana Zuboff's portrayal of "Surveillance Capitalism" feels very much like a day during the COVID-19 pandemic, as if we were immersed in this nightmare long before all hell broke loose:

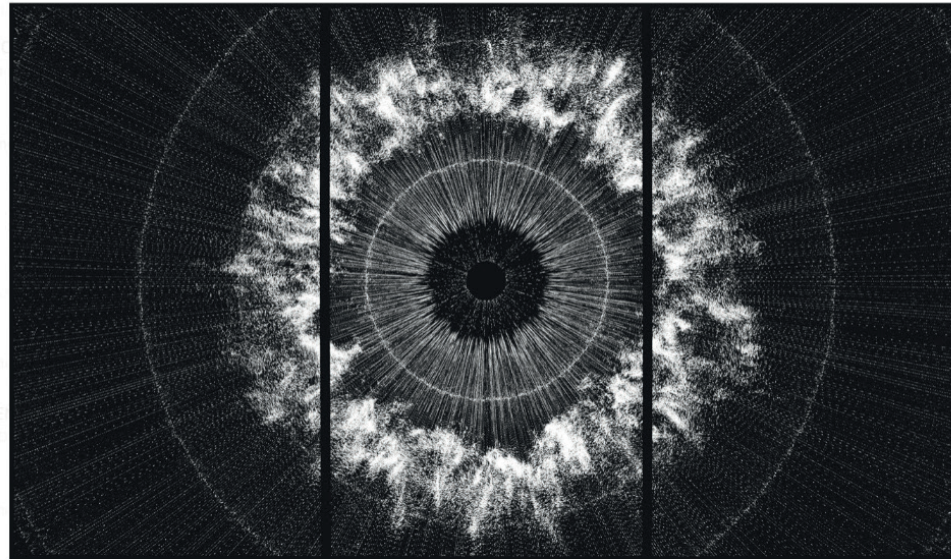
" (...) surveillance capitalism is a new actor in history,
both original and sui generis.
It is of its own kind and unlike anything else:
a distinct new planet with its own physics of time and space,
its sixty- seven-hour days, emerald sky,
inverted mountain ranges,
and dry water." [Zuboff]

The COVID-19 pandemic occurs at this moment within surveillance capitalism; a new world order based on unilaterally claiming "human experience as free raw material."
Zuboff writes that once computed, analyzed and bundled into behavioral "prediction products," our "behavioral surplus" is then traded and sold in "behavioral future markets."

Our everyday routines,
spacial and virtual
-the contents of our shopping basket,
our commuting routes,
our facial expressions,
the words we choose while text-messaging,
the time we wake up and go to bed-
most our lives relentlessly tracked, recorded and readily available
to an extractive system made up by every interface,
smart or connected device that
surrounds us.

Through deeply undemocratic and exploitative operations, our behaviors serve to adjust marketing parameters based on predicting and inducing all of our needs. Market-share led not only to the collection but to direct behavioral manipulation.

Cynthia Bodenhorst
ayer a la(s) 12:07



Leo Villareal, *Floating Bodies*, 2018. OLED monitors, electrical hardware, custom software, 145.1 × 248.6 × 16.5 cm.



The capitalist-drive soon made it necessary to produce "behavioral surplus" as a commodity in its insatiable demand of production-for-production-sake.

One could say that for Zuboff, alienation in digital capital is this surveillance structure, that produces behavior as surplus value. That is so if we remain within a logic that accounts for structure as alienation, where the production of behavioral surplus is equivalent to the endless repetition of an "opting out" behavior (one "opts out" to be able to "opt out" again and again and again).

The "flip side" of the capitalist production of surplus, as Tomsic argues "is the production of lack"; thus surveillance capitalism produces on the one hand, click-through data, one element of surplus information, that opens up a "lack": namely, the new market of predictive analytics. On the other hand, it must also produce

the subject as "user"

by the way of producing surplus as lack-behavior.

Capitalism, cognitive, produces lack-behavior as an excess.

To account for "lack" is also to account for the productive potential of "lack", for the palpable resistance of what remains "in lack" in the user; that is the gap where we might start to envision an "opting in" potential, as the production of lack-behavior is both constitutive and productive of the subject.

The internet is plagued with sites anxious about *shopping cart abandonment*, offering "The ultimate guide to shopping cart abandonment", "13 Proven Tactics to Battle Shopping Cart Abandonment," and all sorts of personalization and *reengagement* tips to counter this growing phenomenon. Like carts full of products abandoned in the allies of large retail stores, left behind by impoverished middle-class families who undergo the ritual of shopping together for things they desire and can no longer afford, in e-commerce, the statistics of the "just browsing" behavior are staggering.

Data gathered by marketing companies from the onset of COVID reports a sharp increase of 94.4% in cart-abandonment. While small-scale businesses suffer, large internet companies still profit from this surplus lack-behavior. They might even encourage it to consolidate their click-through strategies.

The act of putting items in a shopping cart might have positive effects. The process itself produces rush, excitement and expectation.

Perhaps these singular acts are not completely futile
actions and speak beyond capitalist consumptions.
It may even be satisfying to give up on a sweet deal, even if only unconsciously negating retail
companies of some extra profit.

Could we think of shopping-cart abandonments as indicating integral
expulsions
to the production of *lack*?

At the expense of small companies profits, it might just turn out to be that the repeated
activities of abandonment-shopping, within uneven transactional relations, are not mere
incidents to the dismay of marketing strategists, but the very nature of their existence.

Speculative 000bjects.

Within the senselessness of these
existing-intents
awaiting a targeted discount coupon
might there be glimpses of breaking points?
Emancipatory gestures
intent on taking "a walk on the side of nothing"
Moments of the mundane
that "have been lived"
fantastic Afrofuturisms
"complicit(ies) with anonymous materials"
invitations to contribute
dreams of an audience
undercommon grounds
because "nothing forces one to do so."

[Jacques-Alain Miller and Reza Negarestani quoted by Peter Freund in Allocution]

Cynthia Bodenhorst
8/9/2020 a la(s) 14:13



C4pit4l cont4gions

Does COVID-19 conform, use or manipulate surplus
lack-behavior?

COVID-19 seems programmed to work within the same logic and display the same
structural contradictions,

impasses and dead ends:
transmission while-being-social.

Socialized contagion.

If instrumentarian surveillance power relies on the control over the means of behavioral surplus
production, as viral-drives, where

(...)

"no produced surplus is surplus enough" [Tomsic]
it requires control over the means of behavioral modification.

COVID-19 spreads exponentially through people's surplus lack-behaviors.

We run the risk that the increasing

precarity of life

intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic may

predispose us to maintain capital contagion.

Corporate cybernetics increase an existential sense of bewilderment and fear. Addicted to the
positive reinforcement of consumption,

we are the deluded agents of abstracting mechanisms;
the complacent participants of dubious alliances,
of promises of efficient and interactive futures.

Capital contagions.

We, the junkies of lack-behavior.

Our productive behaviors and predictive patterns temporarily interrupted and fine-tuned by the
Covid-19 pandemic.

Temporary interruptions
have exacerbated retractive behaviors while also enabling the fine-tuning of
extractive operations.



Pandemic retractions have also sharply accelerated market absolutization through the
"digitization of everything"

education, health care, and other social services seem to be shifting hands,
as capitalisms continue to swallow labour and social infrastructures.

Digitization, yet another neocolonial expectation.

The capitalist unconscious,

Lacan's 'ideal worker'
"because, unlike the conscious worker,
it never seems to go on strike,
raise protest,
or sabotage the production
in any way at all."

[Tomsic]

Retraction here is framework: it enables and renders visible the
spread of contagion.

Yet, both contagion and capital, like *clickthrough rates*,
depend on the fluids of their very fleshy hosts.

It is in these hijacking operations
where both viral and human futures
will be ultimately traded.

Biopolitical transmissions

"(...) emergent microbial activities ... have broken the most fundamental tenets of modern biology and developed "the ability to outwit or manipulate the one microbial-sensing system Homo sapiens possess: our immune I systems." (...) "We form a rhizome with our viruses, or rather our viruses cause us to form a rhizome with other animals."

[S. Plant]

"If digital future is to be our home, then it is we who must make it so. (...) the tendency toward psychic numbing is increased when we regard the critical issues examined here as just so many abstractions attached to technological and economic forces beyond our reach.

We cannot fully reckon with the gravity of surveillance capitalism and its consequences unless we can trace the scars they carve into the flesh of our daily lives."

[Zuboff]

COVID-19, is the viric mode of this moment of biopolitical capital.

The pandemic has brought closer than ever the capitalist realization of full-scale contagion, creating "the perfect storm" to consolidate its all-encompassing (pipe) dreams.

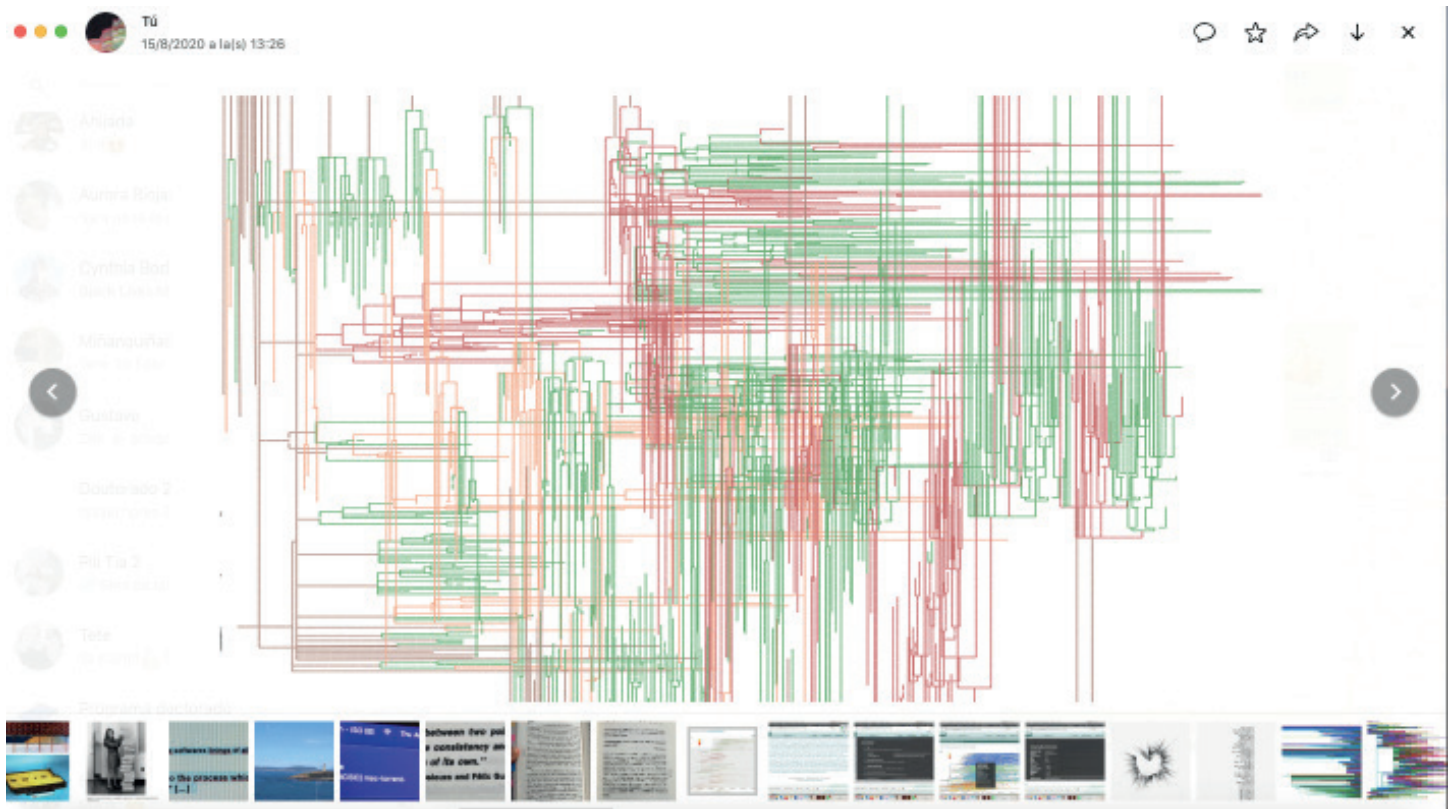
Biopolitical capital,

a reality business model operating at the level of homes and bodies through unprecedented power-knowledge asymmetries.

Google launches a free augmented reality game during the pandemic, where you can bring wild endangered species into your home and turn it into a virtual zoo.

Never have the processes of hegemonic control over life and death been so clearly unveiled as deployments of biopower.

Never have our bodies been so clearly the interface for free-trading operations.
Never have our societies been so clearly defined through (immuno)logical control.



We are in the midst of a full-blown sovereignty struggle.

Never has our world gone so viral.

COVID-19 is a market form,
an algorithmic logic-in-action,
manifested through visualization technologies;
consolidated through digitization.

COVID-19 is code infestation; neurotic drive to maintain circulation.

COVID-19 is surplus lack-behavior production.

COVID-19 is capital.

COVID-19 is concrete and abstract capitalism in its continuous and neurotic drive to produce;
repeated so endlessly as to be a truly "bad infinity." [Hegel]

As a market form, surveillance capitalism is a
"logic in action and not a technology" although
"surveillance capitalists want us to think that their practices are inevitable expressions
of the technologies they employ." [Zuboff]

Surveillance capital will unequivocally tap into the pandemic moment
to consolidate even larger revenues.

The biopolitics of COVID-19 sharply reveal the continuation of conditions of
exclusion
that structure our societies:

"In Roman law, immunity was a privilege that released someone from the obligations shared by
all. He who had been exempted was immunized. He who had been de-munized, conversely, had
been stripped of all community privileges after having been deemed a threat to the community."

[Preciado]

In the Black
Lives
Matter

demonstrations in the US, the police don't use face-masks.
They spray teargas, detain protesters and take pleasure in unmasking detainees.
Actions to spread (respiratory) disease.

Biopolitical management operations behind seemingly innocuous visual data that produce
and reproduce immunological profiling

the immune,
the asymptomatic,
the evicted,
the sacrificial,
the excluded,
the expendable.

Immunological management mechanisms are at work long before a vaccine gets developed; long
before a pandemic arises.

The pandemic legitimizes and extends the dominant immunitary acts
already present in our societies.

Algorithms have material effects on end-users; whether connected or not.

"The new necropolitical frontier has shifted from the coast of Greece toward
the door of your home.

Lesbos now starts at your doorstep. (...)

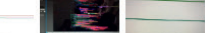
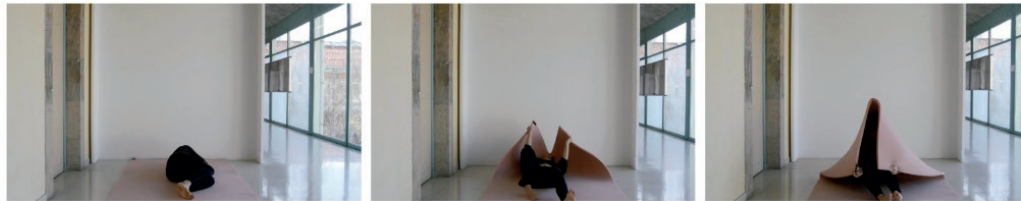
The new frontier is the mask.

The air that you breathe has to be yours alone.

The new frontier is your epidermis.

The new Lampedusa is your skin."

[Preciado]



Immunological retractions are the capitalist acts par excellence.

The proliferation of open-access and free-of-charge data enables
capital flows,
metrics of value
and mass image circulation.

This is not an incomprehensible monster. But it has the potential of becoming something worse:
the result of cynical, fascist, denialist and commodified neglect.

Retreat and retraction remain the prevalent directions of capital.

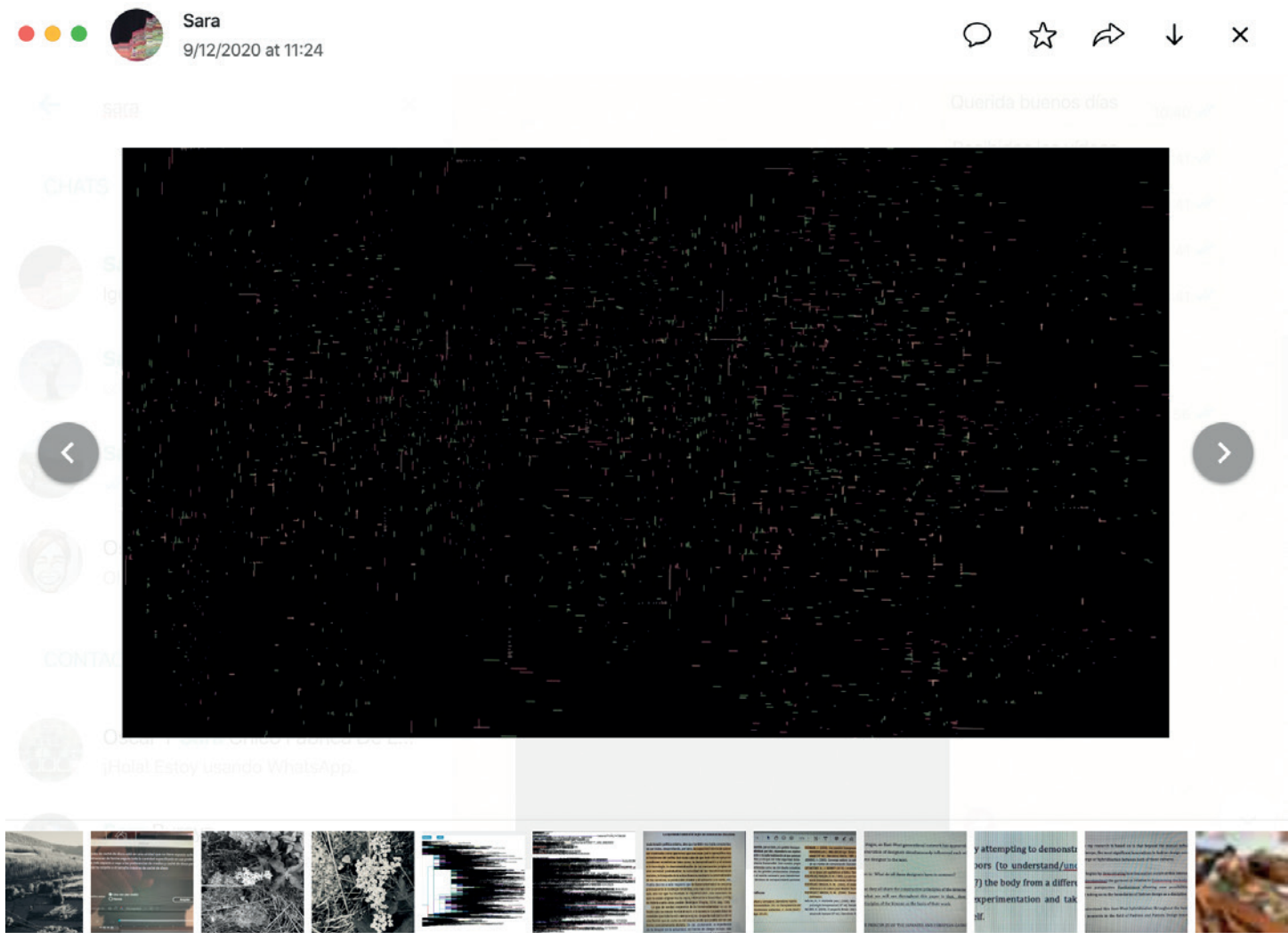
Surprised the US realizes now, for the first time, that it was the South that won the Civil War as
the country faces cultural, social and political bankruptcy.

The continuum of falsifications.

What is absent when everything seems instantly visible?

Data remains optical.

The logic of capitalisms have become
mortally vivid.



To we4ve (1n) D4rk M4tter

"What usually remains intact in the epochs of petrification and foreordained doom
is the faculty of freedom itself, the sheer capacity to begin,
which animates and inspires all human activities and is the hidden source...
of all great and beautiful things."
[H.Arendt]

And, the images that emerge from the process are textile images.

Textile images are "never imposed on the surface" like paint, or charcoal on "the passive
backdrop" of a canvas or a paper.

Textile images are "immanent" patterns that materialize "from an
active matrix
implicit in a web
which makes them immanent
to the processes from which they emerge."
[S. Plant]

What conditions of life and matter do we want to see materialize in this world?

Do we have, in this here-and-now an opportunity to remake the conditions of what a livable life
should be?

What is to become of this pandemic if not a critical moment to
question and reimagine
the conditions of our lives lived-together?

Are we amidst a reality that demands dark-matters "as radical as reality itself?" [Lenin]

Cynthia Bodenhorst
15/8/2020 a la(s) 14:26



Alhijada



Aurora Rojani

Cynthia Bodenhorst

Miñanquiñas

Gustavo

Doutorado 2+

Pili Tia 2

Tete

Programa doctorado



The pandemic has intensified realizations that
the entirety of life is being hurt: ecosystems, homes, spaces of refuge(es), systems of care,
cyberspaces.

Just about everything.

We can survive viral pandemics.

We cannot survive low-costed

(mono)cultured epidemiologies

digital capitalism's opaque in

algorithmic practices

for exacting,

lossless objectives.

Lives dispossessed.

The world cannot survive pandemic capital.

Despite ecumenical lockdowns,

people gather in Black Lives Matter protests, riots, performed organizings

resisting, strugglin racisms, fascisms, policing-states

all intersecting forms of inequality.

To break up the spell of helplessness and numbing.

To break open the allure of adriftness.

Refusing to justify unintelligibility,

capitalism's opacities,

radical indifferences or foreordained dooms.

We cannot remain desolate.

Nor tolerant.

The lines in data charts represent

singular

people.

People whose lives remain legible.

Not specimens, samples, or collateral damage.

These are not production lines.

Nor operations to flatten-the-curve.

Nor a community of cyber-users

or the uneventful cybermatter of technocapitalist cybernetics

mediated through Zooming, FaceBooking prostheses.

Nor the dystopian fetish of networked information.

Nor horizontal lines that describe
distance
absent deaths.
Us.

Not viric-shifts hijacking our lungs.
We are not samples, numbers, specimens, clads.
Briefing opps on prime-time TV.

Abstracted data to serve bidding wars hoarders of tests,
vaccines,
votes.

We are THE DATA.
The "X" in Malcolm X.

Loss.
People remain legible, through loss.
Extracted events
of the People
where struggling takes place.

Life and death.
We are THE DATA.

The uncomfortable excess.
The cognitariats
unpopular.

Are we among new text(ile) modes?

Digital textilities, ambiguous transsiliconobjectiles?

Textile imaginings.

Not hylomorphic forms that impose a form literally upon dead matter.
But a materiality possessing a nomos.

An actant materiality.

Alternative, non-cognitive visualizations
strained tensions

retractive
to maintain the connection to the databases.

Refusing
the muteness of bureaucratic records
statistical
exclusions, erasures,
systemic extractions
into the darkest of matter.

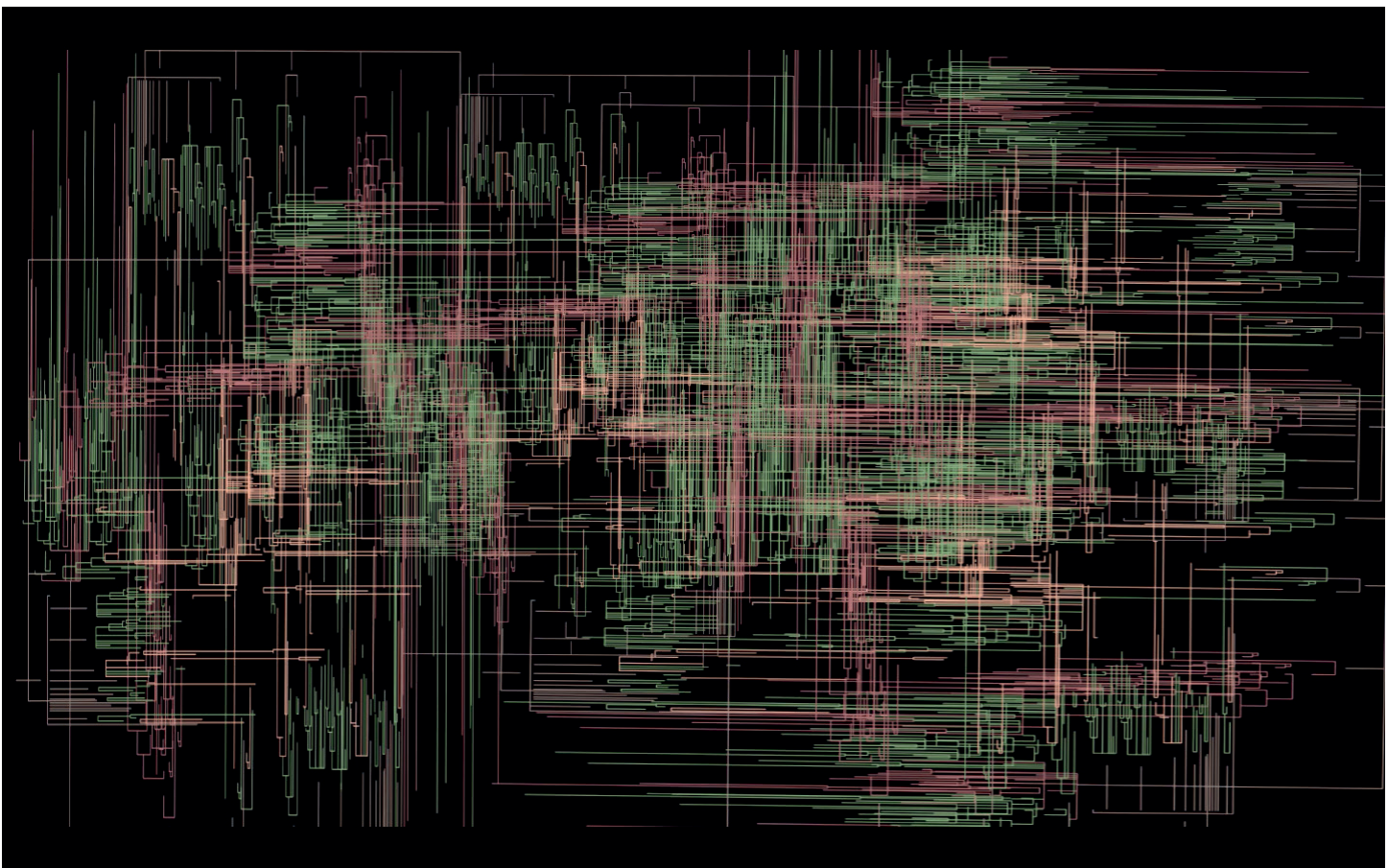
Retractions into dark matter;
the matter that holds everything together
otherwise.

Are we made up of remembrance matter?

We live in arrested societies;
an aesthetics of the commons can,
perhaps,
only emerge from these grounds;
from the voids,
from holey spaces.

In failing,

S&C



4Illocution

"Where lived experience depends on the image,
the routine passage of time elides the gap
if only as an extended daydream,
underlying the image that propels
lived experience
forward.

Involuntary memory, by stark contrast,
the elision abruptly reopens
by intervening in a quotidian moment.

Whether it is felt as a joyous or disturbing repetition, the memory interrupts
the present moment
with the hole that supports its guiding pedestrian image.

The trace of a
lost existence
that is irretrievably withheld in and by the image
comes urgently to the fore
in a reverse time lapse.

Memory that is otherwise encountered as a willfully retrieved experience gives way to an
implosion of time itself.

The present moment
is blown open by a second image,
both familiar and uninterpretable,
such that the moment of memory is encountered as
the hole of this other image,
that is,
the image as hole."

[Peter Freund]

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Peter was directly responsible for all the ‘spinning jennies.’

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