

ARCHAEOLOGIES OF THE PRESENT: A Hybrid Seminar and Workshop

Tom Leeser tlesser@calarts.edu

Dan Bustillo dbustillo@calarts.edu

(Note: we may adjust this syllabus, based on the directions of the class discussions, and the evolution of our research and process)

Description:

This class is a cross-disciplinary graduate seminar and workshop focusing on our contemporary cultural condition through in-depth analysis, discussion and art making.

What is it about sleek and all-implicating technological prosthetics that seduces us into subservience at the cost of a greater sense of agency? How does this affect the present, past, and future? In this class, we will excavate “smart” bodies in networked landscapes and examine the tools used for contemporary surveillance culture. We will look at information as a primary instrument for societal control and at how memory, privacy, and difference are valued in the *technopticon*.

Together, we will unpack some of the social implications of surveillance and we will collectively develop various artistic and critical tools in creative research, analysis and historical/genealogical investigations. These tools will be introduced to the class and then articulated through student projects and presentations (for example, how to apply methods from anthropology, sociology and social history to the visual arts, cinema, video, social networks, etc.).

We will define the outcomes according to how students apply these content creation tools, to effective discussions, creative prototypes, media presentations and exploratory essays. The students will investigate sociological and historical strategies that will support and may even invalidate their approach to creative practice.

Schedule:

1.11 The Networked Body in the Possible Present: An introduction to the topics of the class. What is an archaeological approach to the present? Are there such things as a future or a past that can be defined beyond a fictional narrative?

1.18 MLK Day NO CLASS

1. 25 The Networked Body in the Possible Present continues...

Assigned Readings:

- Michel Foucault, <http://imlportfolio.usc.edu/ctcs505/foucaultPanopticism.pdf>
Didier Bigo, Globalized (In)security. The field and the Banopticon:
<http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~ces/conferences/muslims/Bigo.pdf>
Jeremy Bentham, Panopticon; or The Inspection
House, <http://cartome.org/panopticon2.htm>

2.1 Guest Lecture: The Rational Dress Society http://www.maurabrewer.com/?page_id=59

2.8 Guest Presentation: Michael Mandiberg + Class conversation: Sousveillance, Informatic Opacity & The Body Topologic

Assigned Readings:

- Steve Mann, Jason Nolan and Barry Wellman, Sousveillance: Inventing and Using Wearable Computing Devices for Data Collection in Surveillance Environments.
<http://www.surveillance-and-society.org/articles1%283%29/sousveillance.pdf>
Zach Blas, Informatic Opacity, <http://www.joaap.org/issue9/zachblas.htm>
Sandy Stone, 'Split Subjects, Not Atoms; or, How I Fell In Love With My Prosthesis'
Jaron Lanier, You are not a Gadget (selected excerpt)
Brian Massumi, "Buildings, Biograms, and the Body Topologic," Parables for the Virtual

2.15 President's Day: NO CLASS

2.22 Class conversation: Infrastructure and Regimes of Visibility + Presentation of Journal Notes

Assigned Readings:

- Keller Easterling, 'Broadband,' Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space
Brian Holmes, Security Aesthetic = Systems Panic,
<http://rhizome.org/editorial/2009/aug/26/security-aesthetic-systems-panic/>
Yasmin Jiwani, Violating In/Visibilities, Honor Killings and Interlocking Surveillance(s),
Feminist Surveillance Studies
David Lyon, Surveillance as Social Sorting: Privacy, Risk and Digital Discrimination
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/75971341/David-Lyon-Surveillance>

2.29 Class conversation: Infrastructure and Regimes of Visibility + Presentation of Journal Notes + Tom talks about the future

3.7 Screening: Citizen Four

3.14 L.A. Cryptoparty! A role-playing workshop in the STAT-US trailer on encryption techniques

3.21 SPRING BREAK

3.28 Presentations

4.4 Presentations

4.11 Presentations

4.18 Presentations

4.25 Presentations (Final Papers Due for all CS students) + Screening: Bifo “[After The Future](#)”

5. 2 Studio Visits

5. 9 Studio Visits

Requirements:

1. Participation – active listening and questioning
2. Attendance – 3 absences permitted
3. Completion of all assignments and presentations.
4. Students are expected to keep a journal and present their notes on specific days.

Assignments:

1. An essay, 1200 words responding to the readings and class work (CS students)
2. A project or performance, responding to the readings and class work— supported by a 500 word written description (IM students)
3. Timely contributions to a class initiated index—the index is a list of topics and sources that will function as a document of our collective research and explorations.
4. A final presentation based on the student’s essay or project designed to initiate discussion and response to class work.
5. A total of two presentations of journals.

Essential Texts and Reading Material:

Michel Foucault, **The Archaeology of Knowledge**

<http://www.michel-foucault.com/concepts/index.html>

<http://imlportfolio.usc.edu/ctcs505/foucaultPanopticism.pdf>

Jeremy Bentham, Panopticon; or The Inspection House, <http://cartome.org/panopticon2.htm>

Didier Bigo, Globalized (In)security. The field and the Banopticon:

<http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~ces/conferences/muslims/Bigo.pdf>

Steve Mann, Jason Nolan and Barry Wellman, Sousveillance: Inventing and Using Wearable Computing Devices for Data Collection in Surveillance Environments. <http://www.surveillance-and-society.org/articles1%283%29/sousveillance.pdf>

Brian Holmes, Security Aesthetic = Systems Panic, Rhizome, August 26, 2009. <http://rhizome.org/editorial/2009/aug/26/security-aesthetic-systems-panic/>

David Lyon, Surveillance as Social Sorting: Privacy, Risk and Digital Discrimination, <http://www.scribd.com/doc/75971341/David-Lyon-Surveillance>

Yasmin Jiwoni, Violating In/Visibilities, Honor Killings and Interlocking Surveillance(s)

Zach Blas, Informatic Opacity, <http://www.joaap.org/issue9/zachblas.htm>

Sandy Stone, Split Subjects, Not Atoms; or, How I Fell In Love With My Prosthesis

Keller Easterling, "Broadband" Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space

Brian Massumi, "Buildings, Biograms, and the Body Topologic," Parables for the Virtual

Jaron Lanier, You are not a Gadget

<http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/we-asked-a-cultural-historian-are-apple-stores-the-new-temples>

Relevant for additional research:

<http://viralnet.net/>

<http://rhizome.org/>

<http://www.ctheory.net/>

<http://www.e-flux.com/journals/>

<http://www.eastofborneo.org/>

<http://www.altx.com/home.html>

<http://nonstop-future.org/discourse>

Tom Leiser and Lea Rekow: http://viralnet.net/radicalcosmologies/interviews/rekow_leiser.html

James Bridle, <http://booktwo.org/notebook/new-aesthetic-politics/>

<http://new-aesthetic.tumblr.com/about>