



Conception and organization: Alessandra Ponte

The globe, I argue, is a humancentric construction ; the planet or the Earth system, decenters the human.

Dipesh Chakrabarty, *The Climate of History in a Planetary Age*, 2021.

Our task was to analyze mixed states, assemblages [agencements], what Foucault called devices [dispositifs]. It was necessary, not to go back to points, but to follow and disentangle lines: a cartography, which involved a micro-analysis (what Foucault called micro-physics of power and Guattari micro-politics of desire).

Gilles Deleuze, *Pourparlers*, 1990.

During the first two decades of the twenty-first century, increasingly and inexorably, we have been confronted by the ominous realization of the profound alterity of the planet and of its indifference to human concerns. The awareness of the incommensurability of scales and processes separating planetary geo-biological history and human history has progressively permeated and transformed philosophical, anthropological, and political discourses, dramatically recasting our thinking about nature, technology and the relations between human and non-human life on planet Earth.

Voicing alarm about the governance of worldwide phenomena as climate change, pandemics, oceans pollutions, species extinction, or reckless dynamics of materials extraction, political economists, activists, politicians and other intellectuals are currently advocating novel forms of policymaking addressing the planetary scale. Given nation-states blatant failure to respond to present-day urgent challenges, what is now being

projected are networked planetary governance systems involving multiple actors at different scales (subnational government, business, civil society, international organizations and nation-states) or forms of poly lateralism (agents of global civil society together with subnational government intervening when nation-states falter).

In the age of planetary reason, the proposed novel assemblages of governing actors together with the reassessment of their agency, techno-scientific authority and legitimacy compellingly suggest the reappraisal of the Foucauldian idea of *dispositif* together with concept of *agencement* developed by Deleuze and Guattari.

The term *dispositif*, translated in English as “apparatus” or “deployment” defines a configuration or arrangement of elements and forces, practices and discourses, power and knowledge that is both strategical and technical. In Foucault’s words “[*dispositifs*] is a thoroughly heterogeneous ensemble consisting of discourses, institutions, architectural forms, regulatory decisions, laws, administrative measures, scientific statements, philosophical, moral and philanthropic propositions—in short, the said as much as the unsaid. Such are the elements of the apparatus. The apparatus itself is the system of relations that can be established between these elements”.

Agencement from the French *agencer* “to organize, arrange, lay out, piece together, match”, does not have proper equivalents in English. Translated as “assemblage” it loses the connotation of process to signify instead an outcome, while in the translation “arrangement” the idea of agency is lost. In *Dialogues* Gilles Deleuze and Claire Parnet, (1977) define the *agencement* as, “.. a multiplicity which is made up of many heterogeneous terms and which establishes liaisons, relations between them, across ages, sexes and reigns – different natures. Thus the assemblage’s only unity is that of co-functioning: it is a symbiosis a sympathy. It is never filiations which are important, but alliances, alloys ... An animal is defined less by its genus, its organs, and its functions, than by the assemblages into which it enters.”

For the 2021 edition of the Phyllis Lambert international seminar, that will take place on December 4, the proposal is to bring together designers, architects, landscapers and scholars to reflect on the creative, operational and political potential of re-thinking design as form of multi-scalar planetary assemblage of humans, non-humans, technologies and resources.

Speakers:

Andrés Jaque, Office for Political Innovation, New York, Advanced Architecture Design Program at Columbia University GSAPP
Being Silica

Kabage Karanja, Stella Mutegi, Cave_bureau, Nairobi
Tales from the Anthropocene Museum

Elise Misao Hunchuck, MLA, Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL, London
Landscapes After Nature

Fadi Masoud, John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design,
University of Toronto
Terra-Sorta-Firma and the Littoral Archeosphere

Amaia Sánchez-Velasco, Jorge Valiente Oriol, GRANDEZA, University of
Technology Sydney
Seven Allegorical Micro-Fictions for the Pilbara

Jeffrey S. Nesbit, Texas Tech University, Lubbock
The Invisible Wilderness for Departing Earth

Karen Lee Bar-Sinai, Aaron Sprecher, Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa
Territorial Potentials in Robotic Fabrication

Giovanni Bellotti, Alessandra Covini, Studio Ossidiana, Rotterdam
The Design of the Encounter

Dorothee Brantz, TU Berlin, Ignacio Farías HU Berlin, Sandra Jasper HU Berlin, Laura
Kemmer TU Berlin, Jörg Stollmann, TU Berlin
*Re-scaling Global Health. Human Health and Multispecies Cohabitation on an Urban
Planet*

Marco Ferrari, Studio Folder, Milan
Cartographic Inquiries

Moderators :

- **Christina Contandriopoulos**, Département d'histoire de l'art, UQAM
- **Alice Covatta**, École d'architecture, Université de Montréal
- **Salmaan Craig**, Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture, McGill University
- **Albert Ferré**, CCA, Montréal.
- **Thomas-Bernard Kenniff**, Design de l'environnement, École de design, UQAM
- **Theodora Vardouli**, Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture, McGill
University

9:30 – 18:00, via Zoom or Room 1120

Pavillon de la Faculté de l'aménagement

2940 chemin de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine, Montréal QC H3T 1B9

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