

## MOVING CRITIQUE:

problems and possibilities in materialist methodology

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These lectures will explore four linked dimensions of contemporary cultural materialism (virtuality, temporality, displacement, and illustration). Each one represents specific methodological problems in reading globality today, but the idea is to encourage a reflexive and differentiated geopolitical consciousness in interpreting culture rather than assume a critical apparatus remains the same for each case study.

**Meta Fiat.** The first case study focuses on the macroeconomics of financial circulation; specifically, how to theorize cryptocurrency as a new object of exchange. We will explore the extent to which the transmutation of money represents a subsumption, culturally and economically, within or beyond capitalism as such. While it is true the abstractions of the new money form offer openings to displace sovereign currency, they also lay bare some of the limits in representational aesthetics (coins, wallets, ATMs, etc.) and the virtuality of cultural presence.

**Out of Space.** The second lecture is concerned to think of the changed metrics in understanding narrative time/space or chronotopicity. I especially want to assess the implications of a Bakhtinian methodology against a backdrop of an even greater annihilation of space by time, seen for instance in Accelerationist theory. This is about the tension between how to tell time, and what time is available for telling. What are the implications of the contradiction between narratives of the instant, and instantaneous narrative?

**Out of Place.** If the first lecture is primarily economic in spirit, and the second, philosophical, the third is sociological, especially in its reading of new formations of urban experience constructed by migrants and migration. How does film, for instance, render these movements across the planet? Is part of the dilemma of the migrant linked to visualizing movement, displacement, transience, and trauma? Do these slip identity and identity papers? What is actually being crossed, or crossed out, by the production of an elsewhere with the intimacy and the uncanny of the Unheimlich?

**Graphing/Grafting.** The fourth lecture is more speculative regarding materialist methodology but, like the others, takes up the dialectical challenge of how to narrate the perquisites of, in particular, revolutionary desire. To what extent does change pivot on the ability to narrate the transformation it attempts? I will take up this problem via a discussion of graphic materialism and picturing radical theory and practice. In part, this is about legacy building via narrative innovation, but it also concerns the “drawing out” of utopian impulses. If the revolution is not being televised, is it yet being drawn?

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Tópico Especial em oferta no PPEUR – Programa de Pós-graduação em Estudos Urbanos e Regionais, com 1 crédito (15h/a), UFRN.

Requisito: boa compreensão da língua inglesa.

Local: AUDITÓRIO 1 do PPEUR/DPP, no CCHLA-UFRN.

Horário: da segunda, dia 7, à quinta, dia 11 de outubro de 2019, das 19:00 às 22:00.

Obs.: Alunos/as de graduação e outros interessados podem participar e se inscrever como ouvintes, no local e horário das aulas. É só comparecer e permanecer.