AMPLIFIED REALITIES

Spatial Practice and the Abstract Machine

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In present-day societies, mobile technologies make ubiquitous telecommunication possible and satellite-based radio positioning systems (such as GPS) enable global navigation, geolocation tracking and location-based responsiveness – as well as asymmetrical warfare by remote-controlled machines such as drones. Surveillance seems to become unconfined with the Internet of Things. Extensive infrastructural networks of undersea and underground cables and a proliferation of antennas, integrated circuits and processors facilitate the vast acceleration of data transference and circulation of capital. In addition, perception is modified by the juxtaposition of spatio-temporal frames, through recording and reproduction, and how this is interlinked with the aforementioned technologies for transmission, synchronization and processing.

Although the implications of electronic media are widely discussed in the current discourses on space, the *actual problem of control and the social realities produced by it* seem to remain just partially addressed. First, the increasing dependency on signal-processing machines and transmission networks, coupled with the decrease in clarity of their inner workings, which is in part inherent in their expanding complexity, may create yet unknown types of normalization and exclusion. Second, signal technology significantly modifies our sense of space-time. It allows for seemingly unconfined communication, navigation and localization (which in turn changes habit, perception and lived space-time) but simultaneously enables spatially diffuse or ubiquitous forms of centralized control. Third, the discrepancies between different theoretical and philosophical angles (in broad terms: new materialism and dialectics) seem to distract attention away from the actual problem of control and its social, spatio-temporal, politico-economic and environmental implications.

This paper sets out the first outline of a research into the relations between *signal*, *control* and *spatio-temporality* within the context of architecture and spatial practice at large. The research aims at a better understanding of the concrete entanglement between (and spectral complexity of) abstract space-time and social reality; abstract machines and social bodies; algorithms and rhythms. More specifically, it seeks to explicate *how signal technologies and architectures of control modify perception and vice versa*. The problem is approached through an in-depth theoretical research intertwined with research *through* spatial practice that focuses on sonic space and the agency of signal. Shifting notions of space and time are contextualized in connection with the advancement of signal transmission and processing from the late nineteenth century onward. The respective theoretical concepts and ontological dimensions are deeply explored through the design of sound installations and spatial compositions.

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PROJECT EXAMPLE – SITE-SPECIFIC SOUND INSTALLATION

DIAGRAM/TIMELINE – SIGNAL TECHNOLOGIES & CONCEPTUALIZATIONS OF SPACE-TIME