

Deviating mapping as an approach to liquid planning - complexity, adaptation and change

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Abstract:

The existing planning regime lack flexibility for rapid change, and has on the contrary proven to restrict innovative planning. We therefore need better investigation methods, and more dynamic measures adaptable to the changes to come.

Through practice I have gained substantial experience with *deviating mapping* and *radical planning*, and will use planning projects, competition entries and conducted master studios as empirical basis to develop new understanding and theory for experimental research and potentially more operative planning. These are experiences that challenge well known ideas about landscape approach and, which in turn question ecological and democratic aspects of the latest decades of extreme urbanization and landscape consume.

My research will form around several concepts, which imply experimentation and confrontation with internalized methods. A core concept is the DeleuzeGuattarian *Rhizome*¹, which indicates a nonhierarchical approach to complex systems, appreciating any knowledge or experience without bias. Related to other radical concepts it can develop through a *schizoanalysis*² finding ways to process complex information, and to better understand the different schism, which often affect the planning process.

I will strive finding operational methods for the plan to be a continuous *work in progress*, rather than a static law. A *progressive–regressive*³ method, which always keeps the planning process informed and tested, can be highly applicable as a dynamic approach. The regressive part implies mapping of relational information in space and time, and the progressive part points at a new understanding of a comprehensive ecology.

¹ 'unlike the trees or their roots, the rhizome connects any point to any other point, and its traits are not necessarily linked to traits of the same nature; it brings into play very different regimes of signs, and even non sign states. (...) Unlike the graphic arts, drawing, or photography, unlike tracings, the rhizome pertains to a map that must be produced, constructed, a map that is always detachable, connectable, reversible, modifiable, and has multiple entryways and exits and its own lines of flight.' (Deleuze&Guattari, A Thousand Plateaus,1980: 23)

² 'Schizoanalysis rejects reductionist modifications in order to pursue complexification and processual enrichment towards the consistency of its virtual lines of bifurcation and differentiation' (Felix Guattari, Chaosophy, 1995: 61)

³ The method is in its nature transversal, and is inspired by Lefebvre's understanding of spatial production and the transformation of economic, political, technological and social categories, and Sartre's notion of a didactic relation between man and it's social and cultural context