

COMN 3393

*gender, media & technology
feminism, women, image*

- a/r/tography
- processing the course to date
- Bring your book next two weeks – we will be working with it in class

agenda

I. The problem of knowledge and body:

Science arose in a time when the body was
“too present” (pain, disease, wars)



a/r/tography

I. The problem of knowledge and body:

Science arose after the grammar of the sentence through the printing press became the new "heady" technology:

The idea of the parts of a sentence as a way to sort out world took off. The world was parsed into its parts: identifying the subject and object of the world's big sentences became a big deal.

a/r/tography

I. The problem of knowledge and body:

The world was parsed into its parts: subject and object became a big deal.

This idea of the sentence allowed the subject to have some action or power (but not to much the writer had more).

The role of writer, painter, maker, thinker was in some ways thought of as akin to a God location. Only some people could have it. Most were either allotted the role of reader or even less powerful role of object...

a/r/tography

I. The problem of knowledge and body:

In the rise of science, math, physics and the high arts: the idea of looking at and studying an *object*, was highly influenced by the idea of dealing with religious texts;

In being purified for this work, Bacon animated the rise of modern science when he clarified the reapplication of a formerly religious principal called *detachment*

In (what we now call) eastern thinking, detachment had been practiced for years

a/r/tography

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In (what we now call) eastern thinking, detachment had been practiced for years,

In eastern thinking detachment was a means of focusing ones attention, by looking back at the body, the mind, one's thoughts, the ways of the world....and simply observing these....not trying to change these things, modify them, make them what one wanted...simply observing them

a/r/tography

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In eastern thinking detachment was a means of focusing ones attention, by looking back at the body, the mind, one's thoughts, the ways of the world....and simply observing these....not trying to change these things, modify them, make them what one wanted...simply observing them....today this observing is the kind we might do if we had a camera and could take pictures of our thoughts, pains, desires, etc and simply notice or document them...

a/r/tography



Detachment imagined another viewing position than being immersed in the pain or desire or event

Detachment as a practice is the continuous act of moving to this "observational position"



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He reinterpreted, detachment: a practice of observing - but not as a relationship to ones own interior and life experience but as a relationship to the object



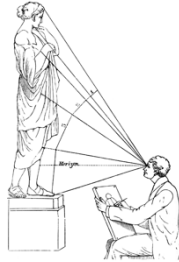
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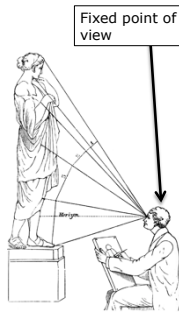
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detachment = constantly re-evaluating ones relationship to the object as "objective"

purifying oneself of subjectivity



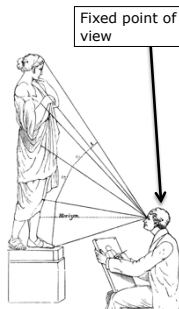
growing technology of perspective:

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purifying oneself of subjectivity

fixing to the object as a source of certainty, grounding practice of science

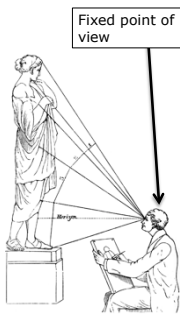
the technology of the eye



*growing technology of perspective:
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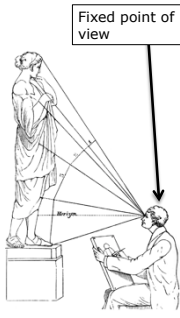
The technology of the eye
hand is the servant of the
eye
HEAD/eye is all
Body is servant of head
(lots in western religion
reinforces this idea)



Fixed point of
view

*growing technology of perspective:
detachment = constantly re-
evaluating ones relationship to the
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oneself of subjectivity by fixing to
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The technology of the eye
hand is the servant of the
eye-HEAD/eye is all
Body is servant of head
Eye/I configuration = the
head the place of knowing
as focused on observing
purified by its fix on the
objective



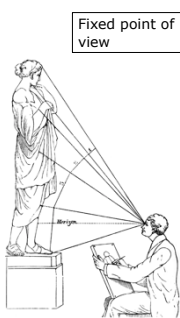
Fixed point of
view

*Detachment ends up being
the practice of detaching
from the body*

*In the dynamics
surrounding the rise of
modernism*

*This technology of
objectification
and perspective*

*Work to focus on the head
Alienate the body*



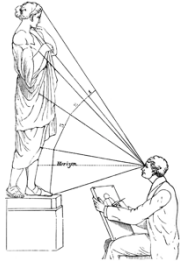
Fixed point of
view

Fixed point of view:

Body is not reliable

Expression is best oriented to the object or the objective

Detachment ends up being the practice of detaching from the body

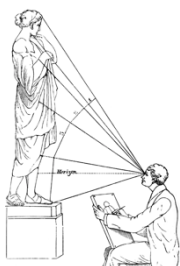


Fixed point of view:

Body is not reliable

The role of the subject is to observe the objective

Detachment ends up being the practice of detaching from the body



Fixed point of view:

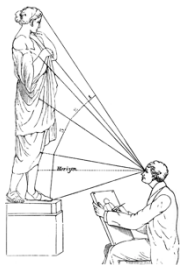
Body is not reliable

Anything "too body" is not reliable.

Detachment ends up being the practice of detaching from the body

Move away from anything too "subjective"

Reading is about reading objects, Reading subject(s) increasingly cast as fiction, as suspect, as luxury, as condimental to task of knowing

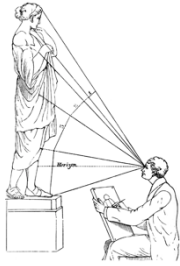


Fixed point of view:
Body is not reliable
Anything "too body"
is not reliable.

The idea of head
The idea of godhead
The idea of hierarchies of knowledge

The fixed point of view turns out to be male, white, educated, western oriented: In the configuration with capitalism, this point of view becomes affiliated with who counts, is the figure who does the counting.

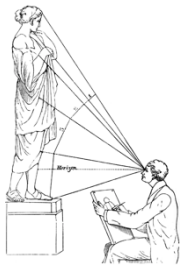
Certain very "bodied" people become defined as objects



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Certain very "bodied" people become defined as objects, as things to be owned, contained, mastered.

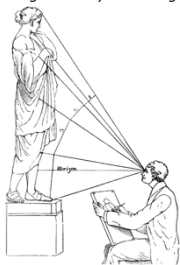


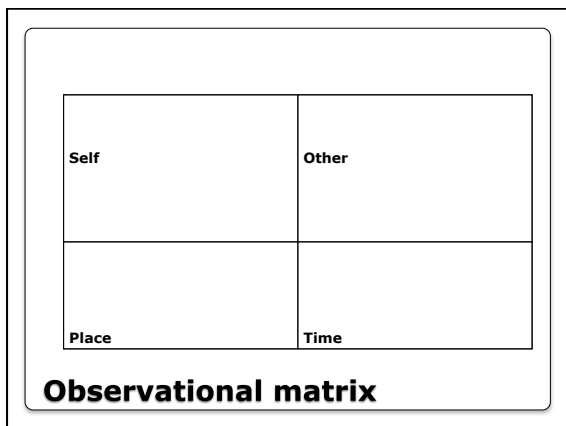
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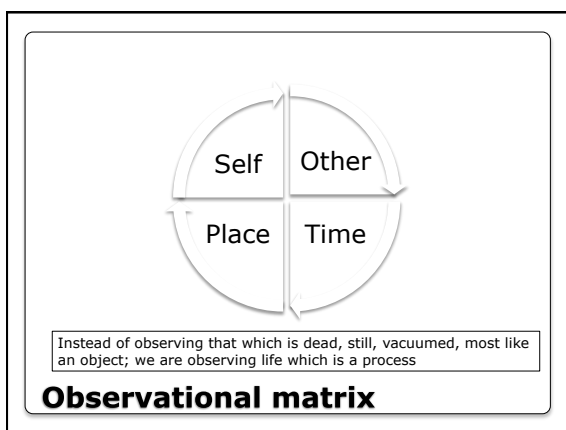
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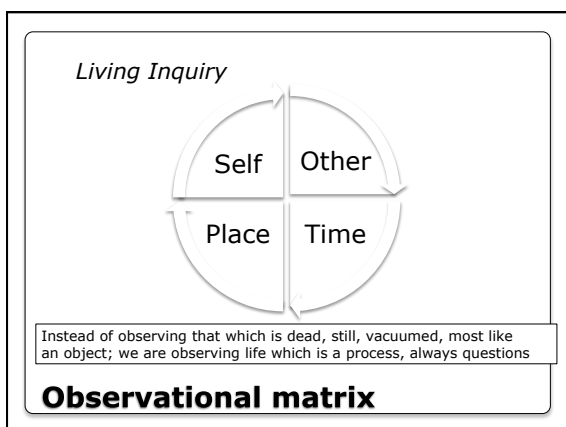
Certain very "bodied" people become defined as objects, as things to be owned, contained, mastered.
Women are objectified, such that they are given the power of the object as contained in the gaze
John Berger's Ways of Seeing 2

Berger's: Way of Seeing











Observational matrix

Observational matrix



Observational matrix



Somethings have changed:
We can imagine movement
being observed.

We can see the limits of the
object as a means of describing
the living subject

We can imagine other holding
the camera

How ever this objectified
worldview has permeated
Western culture, and as
Western culture has been
dominating, has become
reified.

Observational matrix



Thus though progress has been made it there is still a filter by which certain things are "allowed to become part of legitimate knowledge" and others are marginalized: not allow to be the center of language, the screen, the page, unless they conform to certain codes.....

Observational matrix



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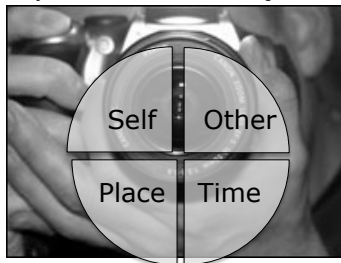
In light of these codes: they are OTHER'd; contained somehow marked as "not quite in power"

- Things that have been other'd in western culture: *(there are more than I have listed here)*
 - senses other than eye (touch)
 - arts
 - women, women's ways of experiencing the world
 - expression
 - other than white
 - other than dominant religion, culture, language
 - other than normative (sexual, body shape, body ability, etc.)

A/R/Tography is a response to this othering

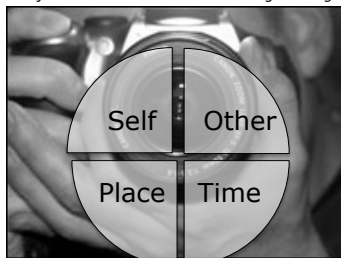
Observational matrix

What if instead of trying to focus on observing "purified" by the object.....we notice some other things



Observational matrix

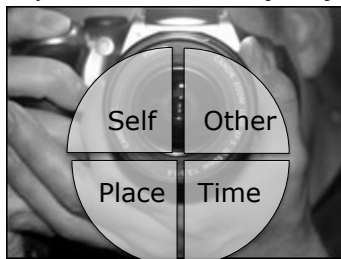
What if instead of trying to focus on observing "purified" by the object.....we notice some other things: *Living Inquiry*



Step 1: Living Inquiry

Observational matrix

What if instead of trying to focus on observing "purified" by the object.....we notice some other things: *Living Inquiry*



Step 1b: Living Inquiry as relational

Observational matrix

What if instead of trying to focus on observing "purified" by the object.....we notice some other things:



Step 2: Notice the hands (body) holding the camera

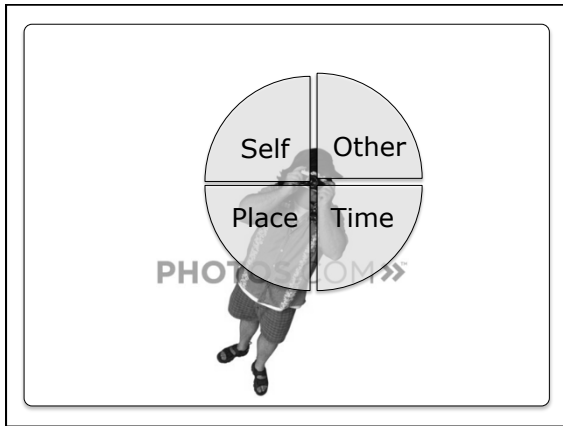
Observational matrix

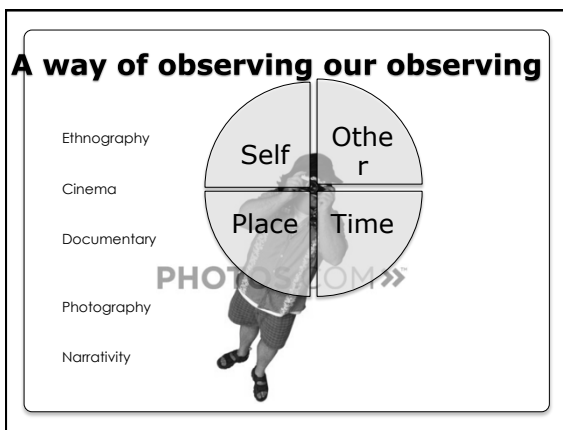
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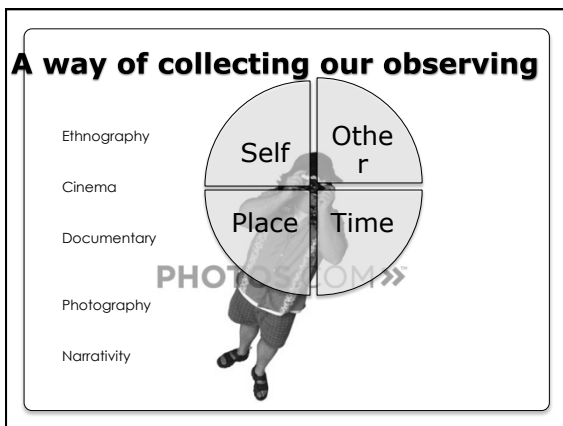


Step 2: Notice the hands (body) involved in creating the view









A way of collecting our observing

Ethnography	}	Scrapbooks
Cinema		Blogs
		Journals
Documentary		Video data
		Audio data
		Albums; Digital and Physical
		Designed collection vehicles
		Official collection sites
		Unofficial collection sites
Photography		Stories
Narrativity		Field-notes

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		Unofficial collection sites
Art making		Stories
Photography		Field-notes
		Data kinds
		Images/Music/Poetic/Ritual
		Quantitative-numerical-scientific
Narrativity		Qualitative- ephemeral/ethos/social/

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A way of organizing our collecting our observing

Ethnography

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A way of organizing our collecting our observing

Ethnography

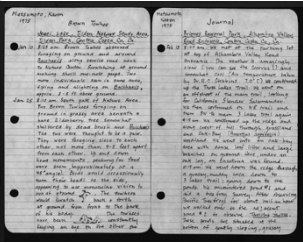
Cinema

Documentary

Photography

Narrativity

Journals/visual journals



A way of organizing our collecting our observing

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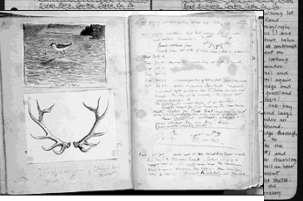


image courtesy of the American Museum of Natural History

A way of organizing our collecting our observing

Ethnography

Cinema

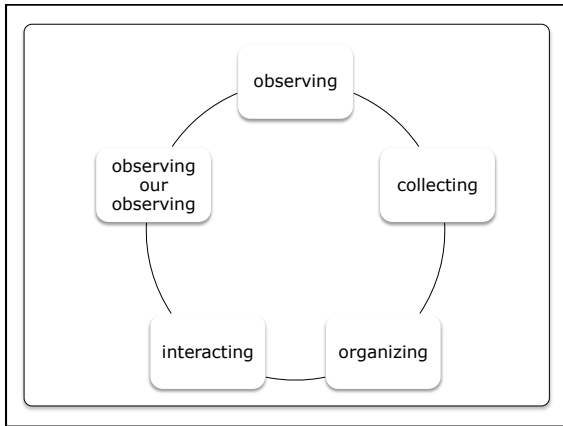
Documentary

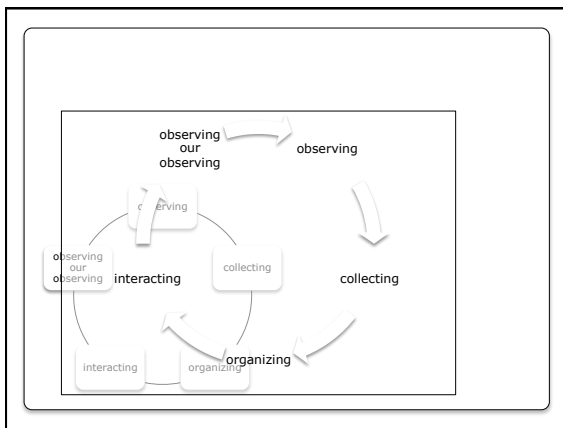
Photography

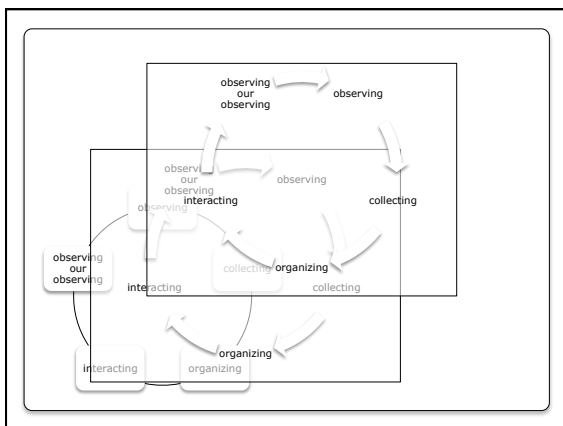
Narrativity

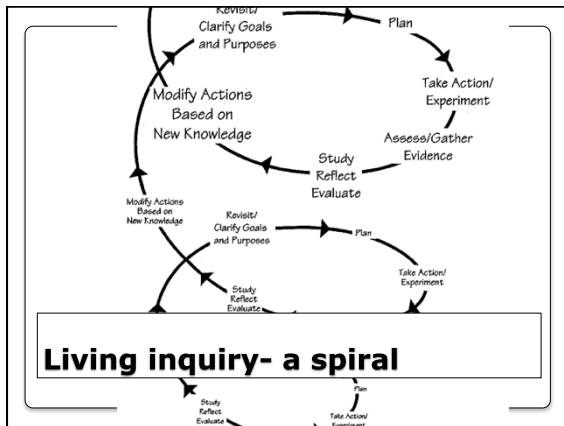
Video/video journal/diary











- Method attentive to other
- Particularly as it occurs in text/image interchange
- Method attentive to process

A/R/Tography

- Method attentive to living inquiry (thus to the matrix of other/self/place/time and...)
- Particularly as it occurs in text/image interchange
- Method attentive to process
- Method attentive to multiple
- Method attentive to feminist
- Method attentive to making (technology)

A/R/Tography

- ▣ Interact with "texts"
- ▣ Text can be written, made, installed, filmed, sung, poetic: thus can be art, play, music, movie, audio clip, verbal, danced, sung, rapped, graffiti. Text is that which we give our attention to, try to hear, try to hear beyond self, try to receive as respected other – text is something we read and witness simultaneously

A/R/Tography

- ▣ Interact means effort to listen/attend/hear/give weight to
- ▣ Hear your voice/give weight to your voice
- ▣ Hear other voice/give weight to other voice
- ▣ Though analytical and critical, chooses inquiry, listening and witness first as a position
- ▣ Witness means witness

A/R/Tography

A/R/Tography

- ▣ A/R/Tography is a form of inquiry that works with the multiple positionings

A/R/Tography

▣ of artist/researcher/teacher

A/R/Tography

▣ A = artist: maker

▣ A/r/tography observes or making as much as it observes everything else – our own making/that which has been made.

A/R/Tography

• A/R/Tography is a form of inquiry that works with the multiple positionings of artist/researcher/teacher. Example 1:

Layer 1:
Gather and comment
on made images and their
meanings

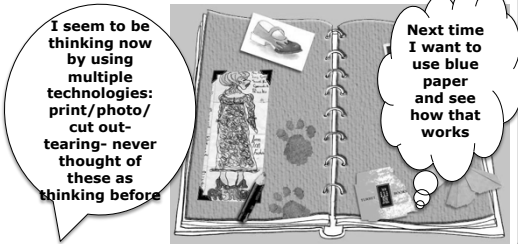
Perhaps as response
to a text (article)

Layer 2: Come back
Maybe with post it note
Also comment on the
making you have done
in bringing these images together



A/R/Tography

- A/R/Tography is a form of inquiry that works with the multiple positionings of artist/researcher/teacher. Example 1:



A/R/Tography

- A/R/Tography is a form of living inquiry that works with the multiple positionings of artist/researcher/teacher
- R = researcher: We are always making inquiry as we move through the world. A researcher is someone who becomes attentive to this process.

A/R/Tography

- ▣ A/R/Tography is a form of living inquiry that works with the multiple positionings of artist/researcher/teacher
- ▣ T = teacher. Teaching has to do with the public voice of knowledge.