76th Lecture at the Gramsci Monument, The Bronx, NYC: 14th September 2013 WHY UNIVERSALITY MATTERS Marcus Steinweg

- 1. Philosophical universalism does not have anything in its hands.
- 2. It attempts to grasp the ungraspable.
- 3. It defends this lack of property as its only possession.
- 4. The subject of propertylessness is the subject of self-acceleration.
- 5. Self-acceleration is self-unbounding.
- 6. The subject of self-acceleration comes into contact with innocence, with incommensurability and the unliveability of life.
- 7. The unliveability of life means its contingent character, its ontological arbitrariness.
- 8. Only in opening up toward this arbitrariness is the subject free.
- 9. When deceleration accelerates the subject beyond the compulsions to accelerate in the sense of capitalist efficiency (that is, of a very uncourageous, very restricted concept of efficiency), then this deceleration could represent a form of self-acceleration of the subject that prevents it from bending to the demands of the economies of facts.
- 10. That is the paradox in the experience of self-acceleration, that it uncovers for the subject its freedom and its unfreedom in equal measure.
- 11. Because I am not free, I am free.
- 12. In the space of my unfreedom, everything still remains to be done.