Editors: LAKESHA BRYANT and SAQUAN SCOTT

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THE SPIRIT OF **OPEN MICROPHONE #9**



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Bronx, NY Tuesday Chance of Storm

82°F1°C

Precipitation: 40% Humidity: 65% Wind: 10 mph

Temperature Precipitation Wind

OPEN MICROPHONE #9 - 9.1.2013















GRAMSCI SONG

OPEN MICROPHONE #9 - 9.1.2013

GRAMSCI DOES

Gramsci was staying in the Bronx
Gramsci could see the barrio breathing
Gramsci could see the working families
He's making sure that we're still dreaming
See the bags of the bodegas
Gramsci's eating his rice
Drinks some Minute Maid concentrate
Now he's feeding the mice

The world was twerking he was working with it Gramsci was The world was drinking he was thinking about it Gramsci was Gramsci was

Gramsci was in the Forest Houses Gramsci was taking off his boots Gramsci was fighting off the fascists Rising up across the earth A communist and a journalist Sardinian in the Bronx Organic intellectual Found his boogie down

The world was struggling and Gramsci was smuggling Gramsci was The world was giggling and Gramsci was scribbling Gramsci was

He was right about it, no doubt about it Hegemonic twilight zone No time to joke, this planet's crowded No time to sing this song alone Gramsci was Hoy hoy hoy hoy

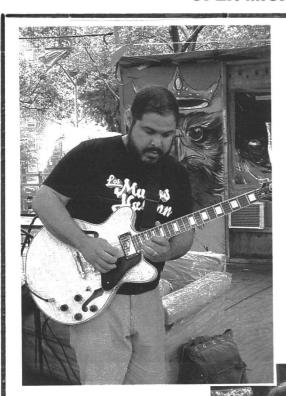
Gramsci critiques modes of production Gramsci's produced by Thomas Hirschhorn His was a people's revolution Yells in his notebook from a prison ... go go go!

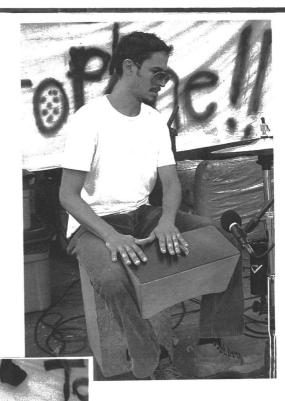
Hoy hoy

The world is shopping he fights power popping Gramsci does The world is *falso* but he's dancing salsa Gramsci does Joining the world of present persons Gramsci does Present enough to feel alright Gramsci does Gramsci does!

URAYOÁN NOEL & EDWIN TORRES, 9/1/2013

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GRAMSCI SONG





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Poem by Urayoan Noel



hi-din sites

(body slam)

How many dias in your diaspora? How many spores in this melodía? Viral, recombin-ante repli-cante sing the proles proliferative zip-drived aggregate of cuerpos bodies usb'd (some still floppy from the days of la colonia) a colonography: what else's there to write since 1492? what other site a big hose up the new world's rear qué rico!! (not nearly as big as it thought it was) exploratory surge unperfumed, this colonia

Today to riposte repost the founding text as spam as scoreless slam to mic the font to splay the layout we're decibelletristes of the bella y triste isla that goes: Bx PR mainland island no X no PBR only mainline to the vein las venas demasiado abiertas

u no, tú sabej, glo-ball neo-gliberal
littoral with swinging doors
and rocking chairs with no committee
only derrieres al ritmo
del expect-a-culo
el óculo
the isle's panoptic
to rhyme in situ
to write the me-too

back in the '90s
Gómez-Peña rocked
the border brujo
but by now the brujos
are made-to-order
and the border sells at BordersTM

besides borders
aren't just metaphysics
or crossing sites
they're also the impasse
between bodies, the untouched skins,
unchecked assumptions, desires,
dreams of setting fire
to the self, the order,
the embrace

I propose a new border not the incommensurable, the trendy gap sold at The GapTM all Muzak-souled no, instead I call for the TM not transcendental but to i'm. the i.m. possible tomorrow the space between the TO (become) and the MORROW/MARROW (contingent, provisional) becoming's provision, that is what we are islands in jet stream, always taking off the skin between the T and the M until we're empty, MT, montanas out of mole mellow mentes funciones del ambiente (aplaude ahora) speak fluent Torresian

almost AmbienTM but not quite
resisting
we keep the TM to ourselves
as subjects of colonia marked by trade
mark my tirade
we are the no-lony of colony
incólumnes
undoing the columns of calumny
re-siting the commons
no comma
cómo?

dotcomatose, the border corps have trafficked, smuggled our transnation, translocal are the bankers too rob from the Bx and give to offshore tax dodge getting bailed out planting veiled doubts that this is "our place" anymore or ever was can't spell "city" with a "y" these days the "i" not Greek but Latin as if to show they're "down wit" Latin-nation (whoever that is) whomever's datos info-containment is the order of the day buey, ecua-hey but let's not talk about them (olv-idem-os) instead tead these destellos

in one's pants and scare the citizens and rally the planets, no copay, compai full coverage, in the wreckage of discourse is the instant the now não in all tongues non-mono-ricua mono a mono the mono significante knows no gates negates as it affirms and vice(tergi)versa craps! no dice! si dice! I'm just sayin' ahora es el momento de decir la hora de la dicha (bien o mal) the minutest minuto el sagging segundo (minutemen in El Segundo?) the instant without "in" puro sin puro stance the national's relational me late que we're not too late for passion fate's refashioning pass ions to the body next to yours charged, charred next to ours, hours we're mute instruments din from within as energy, as instincts of a specious species per di do en el es pa cio es paz en el caos is the "s" that never plurals is the dry-erase mural that remains the shared singular of sing the continente's ting counting gente cuenta en la cuneta y canta no cant just

П

Let's make some noise the semi-silent type loud in its "yo is!" "I soy!" an otherwise non sequitur (no sé quitarme de esto... lo que es), no sequel just the current playlist the one attuned (I guess) to the reggaetonal shifts of barriles de bomba juggling knots juguetonal nota to self: no self today except as analog of Africa with looped tracks those cyborg moves are so passé like model burgs with moccafés giving way to blisters, blight of blurbs

and remote servers in the exurbs meanwhile here we do the dance of the sí-borg in a no-burg the no-bard in a sea of sí come out meet your neighbors your nosy, noisy neighbors with their chismes ("noooo!" y "siiiil") in that nosi dialectic oral viral transmitter the site's secretion the moment matters as it's shared the self's accretion crawling to momentous shores to plant the si-no flag (it is/isn't insignia'd) supplant the empire's flags with our sino unflagging our casi-no royale our people unflagged the flagon's passed around

the streets and beachfronts everyone drinks from it its' not a PR or NY thing or a dark horse trojan flogged on blogs because we're all people of empires expired we dance around their pyres por ahora because it's the now that matters the no-e-si the yo-a-ti the poets-y the moment muttered and its amplified composition by fields of cane americane put the no in americano so give it up for these hi-din sites where polis leaks into the ether (secret police go take a leak) our secret's shared, is shard charred word our hide no hiding any longer das ding of street pump up the volumes of prose and you still won't match these megahertz of silence on mute trans/commute mutations per metric foot don't count just encounter en contra-sentido is what

1110

we do

What we need here is a body a poetics a bo-po found, gestated, or prosthetic the Bildung and its remains the Dichtung and its domains without a server, non serviam no sirve, o sea doesn't function is defunct but alive in its futility in its spatiality in its relation (give up solo da funk) to other pointless bodies

the oom-pah-pah of polka at the krump club: somewhere here un papi con su drunk schlub persona is drawing in the mamis (and their papis) so boringly Freudian so ford-assembly-line macho scratch that!

> car song to myself instead: i trans therefore i am transambienting the iamb!

somewhere normaTIVO
is letting out its mating call
thru the digital wilderness
the bleat and gleam and beat of signal
but we're still here/hear
where the only poetics left
of where we are now is WE
we're left-of-center
square and its monuments
with no misgivings
(not giving it up for the MC's crew)
the toy timbales player takes a bow
laughtrack, rimshot

gold-toothed and arch, the McMC drops out and leaves
the stage to us
(no pro-tool'd claves)
going public with our freak, our glamguage
not our alterity (that goes
without saying)
but with what we go without
in our struggle to mean
something more than "We go"
to go not postal (par qué tale)
but post-declarative:

a post-declarative poetry wouldn't de-clare (that is, it would make clear our no-clarity de-familiarize the nuclear! chloroform the clarion! the carrion must fit under the beat in front of you!) prescribing the Clearasil without the clear the silliness comes through (in other words pop it!) just like Brasil (without the bra) or Metamucil (be-mused meta-poetics? you can keep Musil, Musiel, Muzak...) and bring it back here to the ventana/sill of self defenestrated that is where the body's at on the way down... (like the krump club again?) weighed down with "hoy" and "ahora"

the unrepresentative ones
but unrepentant
the cropped and crappy, crip and queer,
flopped and failing, flailing, hopeful ones
the ones that make the night what it is, our blessed ruin
the accentual eccentric music of biorhythm
toss the bio and the blurb
and touch the nerve
the very vervy/nervy/pervy verb:
volver: to return here, to meaning
(less the self?)
to ritual writ and unto the erratic wit

l'asprit raté du corps que expira...espérate...
(on flat rates with or without flatmates)
to float mute in the strata of bodies' dissolution
only to re-volver

we are what the mind makes what the body allows the cosmos and the chemistry the error and the errancy who knew these nomad particles, this fragile circuitry? never ending nerve endings: irreverendings! so what if today the body can't?! no motion social cues folded into the ambiento (sic) that we still share (the hugs minus the sinus) death as daily affair like orange and like orgasm like sky and like sinew like dross and floss yet survival is daily

a poetics of the quotidian would make the most of ether (matter and its muttering) no "either/or" because bodies attract and repel (Q: Is there another person? A: None like you, each one another) no one in particular particle board of self another evening's come to this...what's left?

outside a fatal crash
on the front page:
spammed politics, e-newsletter
now the terms of fatalism are being rethought:
a hi-density conception of the self:
untracked and social
attract and set aside
adrift and usual in its meander

in its twisted figurations
thankfully too difficult to score
no dismount
only spectacle of skin
and our release from it
of sound and our rejoice in it
of pain and our response to it
appended to each other's story:
unreadable
no plot device
no deus ex in this machination
this rupture is our one way out
out two way in

the many ways that we begin
to make this music
this mawkish morning
when the storefronts should be closed
and the wounds should start to heal
today at last we are revealed
the shuffle of the city
finally becomes us





CHANTAL MOUFFE

It is through the question of *political* identity that I have decided to approach the theme of this conference on "identity." More precisely, I intend to ask the following question: "What kind of political identity should a project of 'radical and plural democracy' aim at constructing?" and I am going to argue that such a project requires the creation of new political identities in terms of radical democratic "citizens."

I want to make clear at the outset that my reflections will be inscribed within an antiessentialist theoretical framework according to which the social agent is constituted by an ensemble of subject positions that can never be totally fixed in a closed system of differences. The social agent is constructed by a diversity of discourses among which there is no necessary relation but a constant movement of overdetermination and displacement. The "identity" of such a multiple and contradictory subject is therefore always contingent and precarious, temporarily fixed at the intersection of those subject positions and dependent on specific forms of identification. This plurality does not, however, involve the coexistence, one by one, of a plurality of subject positions, but the constant subversion and overdetermination of one by the others that makes possible the generation of totalizing effects within a field characterized by open and determinate frontiers. There is thus a double movement. On the one hand, there is a movement of decentering that prevents the fixing of a set of positions around a preconstituted point; on the other hand, and as a result of this essential nonfixity, there is an opposite movement: the institution of nodal points, partial fixations that limit the flux of the signified under the signifier. But this dialectical movement is possible only because fixity is not given beforehand, because no center of subjectivity precedes the subject's identifications. For that reason we have to conceive the history of the subject as the history of his or her identifications, and there is no concealed identity to be rescued beyond the latter.

After having specified those theoretical concerns that are necessary to grasp the nature of my reasoning, I will now proceed with my argument about citizenship. My main thesis is that we need a new conception of the citizen that

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and as citizens in a way that does not sacrifice one to the other? The question at stake is to make the fact that we belong to different communities of values, language, culture, and others compatible with our common belonging to a political community whose rules we have to accept. As against conceptions that stress commonality at the expense of plurality and respect of differences or that deny any form of commonality in the name of plurality and difference, what we need is to envisage a form of commonality that respects diversity and makes room for different forms of individuality. I believe that the crux of the problem lies in the way we conceptualize the political community and the way in which we belong to the political community, i.e., citizenship. In the brief time allowed to me, I can only indicate the main features of the solution to that problem, as I see it.

First, the political community should be conceived as a discursive surface and not as an empirical referent. Politics is about the constitution of the political community, not something that takes place inside the political community. The political community, as a surface of inscription of a multiplicity of demands where a "we" is constituted, requires the correlative idea of the common good, but a common good conceived as a vanishing point, something to which we must constantly refer but that can never be reached. In such a view the common good functions, on the one hand, as a "social imaginary": that is, the very impossibility of achieving full representation gives to it the role of a horizon that is the condition of possibility of any representation within the space that it delimits. On the other hand, the idea of the common good specifies what we can call, following Wittgenstein, a "grammar of conduct" that coincides with the allegiance to the constitutive ethico-political principles of modern democracy: liberty and equality for all. Yet, since those principles are open to many competing interpretations, one has to acknowledge that a fully inclusive political community can never be realized. There will always be a "constitutive outside," an exterior to the community that is the very condition of its existence. It is crucial to recognize that, since to construct a "we" it is necessary to distinguish it from a "them," and since all forms of consensus are based on acts of exclusion, the condition of possibility of the political community is at the same time the condition of impossibility of its full realization.

Second, with respect to citizenship, we find that the previous considerations have important implications for the understanding of our identity as citizens. The perspective that I am proposing envisages citizenship as a form of political identity that is created through identification with the political principles of modern pluralist democracy, i.e., the assertion of liberty and equality for all. By that I mean allegiance to a set of rules and practices that construe a specific language game, the language of modern democratic citizenship. A citizen is not, in this perspective, as in liberalism, someone who is the passive recipient of rights and who enjoys the protection of the law. It is a common political identity

is different from both the republican/communitarian and the liberal ones, which are at the moment the only existing alternatives. I believe that the terms of the debate today are far too restricted and that such a situation is at the origin of many false dilemmas and political misunderstandings.

On one side we have those who defend a communitarian view of politics and citizenship that privileges a type of community constituted by shared moral values and organized around the idea of "the common good." On the other side is the liberal view, which affirms that there is no common good and that each individual should be able to define her own good and realize it in her own way. The communitarians want to revive the civic republican conception of citizenship as the key identity that overrides all others, and their approach runs the risk of sacrificing the rights of the individual. For the liberals, on the contrary, our identity as citizens—which is restricted to a legal status and to the possession of a set of rights that we hold against the state—is only one among many others and does not play any privileged role. Politics for them is only the terrain where different groups compete for the promotion of their specific private interests, and the very idea of the political community is thus put into question. In this case it is the citizen that is sacrificed to the individual.

Many communitarian critiques have rightly pointed to the disintegration of social bonds and the growing phenomenon of anomie that have accompanied the dominance of the liberal view. But while it is indeed true that the liberal view has had many negative effects for modern democratic politics and that the current disaffection with political life in Western democracies is one of its products, we canot accept the solution put forward by the communitarians, for their attempt to recreate a type of gemeinschaft community cemented by a substantive idea of the common good is clearly premodern and incompatible with the pluralism that is constitutive of modern democracy. If it is necessary to criticize the shortcomings of liberalism, one should also recognize its crucial contribution to the emergence of a modern conception of democracy. It is therefore important to acknowledge the specificity of modern democracy and the central role played in it by pluralism. By this I mean the recognition of individual freedom, that freedom which John Stuart Mill defends in his essay "On Liberty" and which he defines as the possibility for every individual to pursue happiness as he sees fit, to set his own goals and to attempt to achieve them in his own way. Pluralism is therefore linked to the abandonment of a substantive and unique vision of the common good and of the eudaemonia that is constitutive of modernity. It is at the center of the vision of the world that might be termed "political liberalism," and it is therefore important to understand that what characterizes modern democracy as a new political form of society is the articulation between political liberalism and democracy.

I think that the problem that we are facing can be formulated in this way: How are we to conceive the political community under modern democratic conditions? Or also: How are we to conceptualize our identities as individuals

Citizenship and Political Identity

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differing conceptions of the good, but who accept submission to certain authoritative rules of conduct. Those rules are not instruments for achieving a common purpose-since the idea of a substantive common good has been discarded—but conditions that individuals must observe in choosing and pursuing purposes of their own. I consider that the reflections on civil association developed by Michael Oakeshott in On Human Conduct are very pertinent here because they can help us formulate the kind of bond that should exist among citizens in a way that reconciles freedom with authority. For Oakeshott, the participants in a civil association or societas are linked by the authority of the conditions specifying their common or "public" concern. These consist in a manifold of rules or rulelike prescriptions that he calls "res publica" and that specify not performances but conditions to be subscribed to in choosing performances. According to such a view, what is required to belong to a political community is the acceptance of specific language of civil intercourse, the res publica. The identification with those rules creates a common political identity among persons otherwise engaged in many different enterprises and communities. This modern form of political community is held together not by a substantive idea of the common good but by a common bond, a public concern. It is therefore a community without a definite shape and in continuous reenactment.

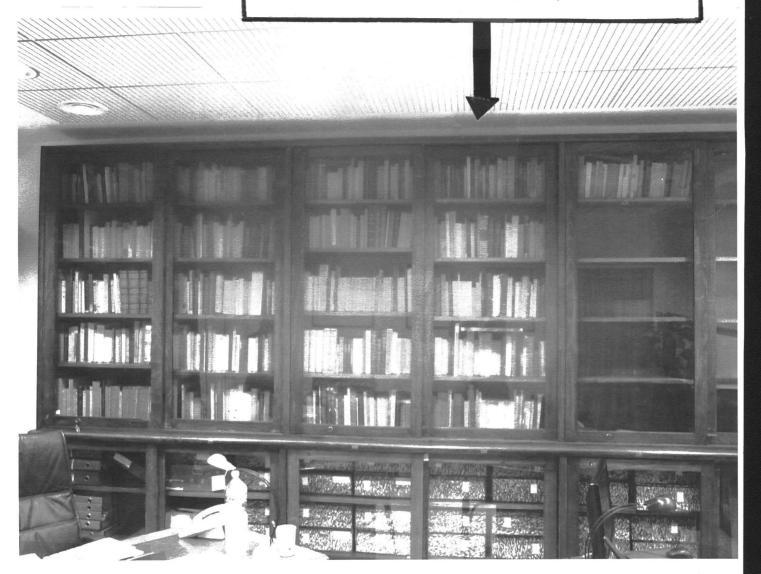
If we try to put together Oakeshott's views with what I said earlier concerning the principles of modern democracy as a new regime, we can say that in a liberal democratic regime, the res publica is constituted by the political principles of such a regime: equality and liberty for all. If we put such a content in Oakeshott's notion of the res publica, we can affirm that the conditions to be subscribed to and taken into account in the process of acting as citizens are to be understood as the exigency of treating the others as free and equal persons. It is evident, however, that this can be interpreted in many different ways and can lead to competing forms of identification. For instance, a radical democratic interpretation will emphasize the numerous social relations where relations of domination exist and must be challenged if the principles of liberty and equality are to apply. Therefore citizenship as a form of political identity cannot be neutral but will present a variety of modes according to the competing interpretations of the res publica that construe that identity and the type of articulation that is established among different subject positions of the agent. The creation of political identities as radical democratic citizens, for instance, depends on a collective form of identification among the democratic demands found in a variety of movements: those of women, workers, blacks, gays, the ecological, as well as against other forms of subordination. This is a conception of citizenship that, through a common identification with a radical democratic interpretation of the principles of liberty and quality, aims at constructing a we," a chain of equivalence among their demands so as to articulate the

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relation of equivalence does not eliminate difference—for that would be simple identity. It is only insofar as democratic differences are opposed to forces or discourses that negate all of them that these differences can be substituted for each other. That is, the "we" of the radical democratic forces is created by the delimitation of a frontier, the designation of a "them"; it is not a homogeneous "we," predicated on the identity of its components. Through the principle of equivalence, a type of commonality is created that does not erase plurality and differences and that respects diverse forms of individuality.

Such a view of citizenship is clearly different both from the liberal and the communitarian ones. It is not one identity among others, as it is in liberalism, nor is it the dominant identity that overrides all others, as it is in civic republicanism. It is an articulating principle that affects the different subject positions of the social agent while allowing for a plurality of specific allegiances and for the respect of individual liberty. In the case of a radical democratic citizen, such an approach allows us to visualize how a concern with equality and liberty should inform her actions in all areas of social life. No sphere is immune from those concerns, and relations of domination can be challenged everywhere. The distinction between private and public is maintained as is the distinction between individual and citizen, but these do not correspond to discrete spheres; every situation is an encounter between private and public because every enterprise is private while never immune from the public conditions prescribed by the principles of citizenship. Wants, choices, and decisions are private because they are the responsibility of each individual, but performances are public because they have to subscribe to the conditions specified by citizenship. The identities qua individual and qua citizen are preserved, and none is sacrificed to the other; they coexist in a permanent tension that can never be reconciled. But this is precisely the tension between liberty and equality, which is constitutive of modern pluralist democracy and whose resolution would lead to its destruction. Between the logic of complete equivalence and the logic of pure difference, the experience of a radical and plural democracy should therefore consist in the recognition of the multiplicity of social logics along with the necessity of their articulation.

<u>Gramsci's personal books</u>: Antonio Gramsci read these books while he was imprisoned from 1926 to 1937. (prisoner's number 7047) (Property of the Fondazione Istituto Gramsci, Roma)

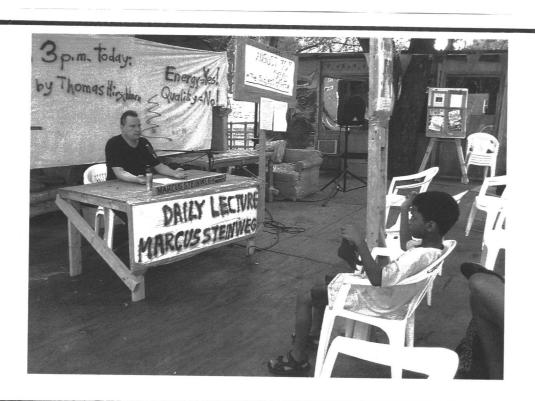


A DAILY LECTURE BY MARCUS STEINWEG

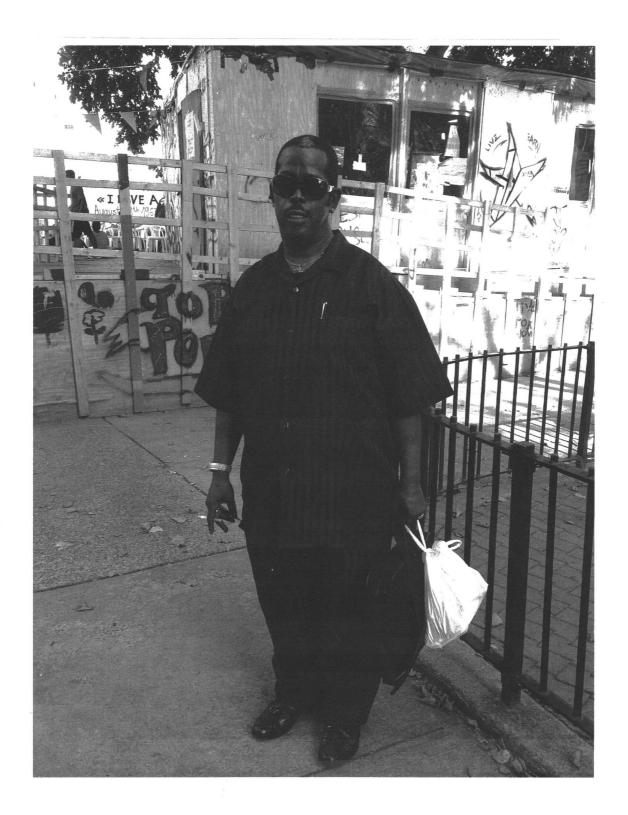
65th Lecture at the Gramsci Monument, The Bronx, NYC 3rd September 2013 TOUCHING NON-SENSE Marcus Steinweg

- Philosophy, insofar as it represents a European event, the event of a culture of logos that has lasted two and a half millennia, associated itself from the outset with light (with the platonic sun, the Christian *lumen*, the *enlightenment*, the *Lumières*, the Husserlian evidence and the Heideggerian Lichtung).
- 2. It was ignited at its origin as a metaphysics of light, from Heraclitus' all-steering lightning, Plato and the Neo-Platonism of Plotinus, Proklos and Porphyry, via Augustine up to Robert Grosseteste, Roger Bacon, Bonaventura and Albertus Magnus in order, from the declining Middle Ages, to dominate the entire modern age, the metaphysics of cognitive self-transparency, the search for incontrovertible certainty (certitudo), of the self-grounding or self-founding in the evidence of self-consciousness.
- 3. As if the Western subject from its very dawning had stood under the dictates of a light that condemned it to articulate itself and its world in the concepts of what is obvious, of clarity, of visibility and openness, that is, of a certain logical evidence: "For two and a half millennia everything that is and becomes appears in the light of the logos: through the logos and as logos."
- 4. And yet it is *clear* that a component part of the subject of light is the contact to a darkness which darkens the light of evidence.
- 5. The subject of light is accompanied by the threat of its darkening.
- 6. It experiences the efficiency of this darkness in all its stirrings and acts.
- Thinking exists only in relation to the limit that indicates the impossibility of thinking.
- 8. Touched by non-sense, every thinking must bring itself to assertions of sense.
- Only in touching non-sense do freedom, reason, responsibility make sense as a condition of possibility of self-elevation.

- To think the childhood of philosophy, Greece, means not much more than pointing to the Mediterranean and to the peoples which triumphed over it.
- 11. Of the philosopher it can be said what Hegel said of the Hellenic people: that they are at home on the water of the sea, that the "nature of their country" (Deleuze and Guattari speaker of Greece's "fractal structure: every point of the peninsula lies so close to the sea, and the coast is so uncommonly long") induced them into an "amphibian existence" which caused them to spread out "freely over the land", that this "out to sea from the restrictedness of the soil" gave the Greeks are kind of Mediterranean ecstasy by giving them the "idea of the indeterminate, unlimited and infinite" and that whoever tries to become at home in the "most dangerous and most powerful element" has to struggle with the deceptiveness of oceanic illusion.
- 12. The philosopher puts his hopes and passions, his "property and life itself in danger of being lost".
- 13. He is exposed to the constant incalculability of oceanic powers.
- 14. As long as the subject is afflicted by the unconscious, the contingent and any kind of darkness, the body of concepts slouches and relaxes in the thalassic element
- 15. Nothing is more certain than this water, that there is no beyond to the water, and no secured shores, no land spared flooding.
- 16. Each and every shore must be invented, and even when such inventions succeed, the oceanic chaos encloses the individual concept like an island threatened with imminent subversion again by the next tide.



RESIDENT OF THE DAY



BUTCH FERNANDEZ