

Joint PHD Colloquy 2017

Tuesdays, 9.30-12.00 am

ATTP Main Space

Starting Tuesday October 10th.

Semiconduction, and The Language of Many Portals. Reading Michel Serres, *The Parasite* (1980)

"If the "guest" is a tax-collector, in the broadest sense, I consider him to be a parasite in the political sense, in that a human group is organized with one-way relations, where one eats the other and where the second cannot benefit at all from the first. The exchange is neither principal nor original nor fundamental; I do not know how to put it: the relation denoted by a single arrow is irreversible, just takes its place in the world. Man is a louse for other men. Thus man is a host for other men. The flow goes one way, never the other. I call this semiconduction, this valve, this single arrow, this relation without a reversal of direction, "parasitic."

[...] The system constructed here beginning with a production, temporarily placed in a black box, is parasitic a cascade. But the cascade orders knowledge itself, of man and of life, making us change our terminology without changing the subject. It is an interesting circuit which we shall follow in order to understand one thing, various landscapes, sever epistemologies. Maybe polyphony is in order. I call the language of many portals "philosophical."

Michel Serres (The Parasite, 1980, 5/6)