

Joint PHD Colloquy 2017

Tuesdays, 9.30-12.00 am

ATTP Main Space

Starting Tuesday March 2nd

Gnomonics in the Digital. Reading Michel Serres, *The Origins of Geometry* (1993)

“In a violent but just reaction against perverse ancient ideas preaching a universal that’s almost always reducible to an imperialistic and invading domination, our discourses, for at least a half-century, have rumbled with our differences.

Dominant, the social sciences during this period of time taught us not only to love one another but to recognize and respect the rights of cultures, genders, sexes, languages and customs, others. We must be grateful to them for having opened up these varied multiplicities.

But by some perverse paradox, difference ends up imposing itself in turn as a universal dogma that everywhere and always forbids speaking forever and everywhere. Is it only the local that can be expressed globally?

This law without justice forgets geometry.

For knowing the differences, wanting to content ourselves with them and not overstep boundaries didn’t bring us peace: in the name of these same differences twenty wars are flaring and raging today in singular localities of the world, bringing as many misfortunes to men as the imperialist conflicts generalized to the entire world brought to our youth. We had thought we’d die from totalization; here it is that we can perish from splitting up. Everything happens as though violence was equitably dividing up its ravages.

Might it be universal like geometry?”

Michel Serres (Origins, 2017, 4)