Digital Political Theater 11.18

* General
  + Talk on Thursday with Beltran and Marcos
* Poster
  + Citizenship is perhaps not adequate for the digital age
    - Critique of the nation state
      * Citizenship is not possible along the lines of the nation since the internet is a border less place that can’t be regulated
    - Critique of the universality of citizenship
      * Western concepts and principles don’t have an adequate line of critique
      * West represents the forces of imperialism and globalization that it can’t shake
        + If they imposes human rights and citizenship at the same time of extraction politics then it is its own imposition
        + No longer viable or productive way of thinking of rights
    - Consumption and political activity
      * With technology, two concepts of conception and politics have merged
      * We interact directly with politics through consumption
  + Politics as Consumption
    - We become “consumer-citizen”
  + News and Entertainment
    - Collapse of these categories
  + 4 points of why citizen and rights of man may not work
    - Universality: faulty starting point
      * We need to think more about difference
      * Political systems need to take into account these differences
    - The Natural no longer exists as a realm of citizenship
    - Technology has “humanized” nature
      * Now, any principles must take up the social construction of the “human-machine” interface
      * We are now “human machines”
      * Thinking of a new subjectivity when we are online and offline at the same time
  + “planetary” democracy
    - No longer based on nation
    - A reaction against universality
    - Critique of Balibar
      * Balibar is trying to reconcile universality with particularity
      * Poster says that this term has too much baggage and try to get to a “planetary democracy”
    - Everyone has rights by living in the world
      * The practice of treating others as equals and systems of equality
      * No longer given by corporation or state or organization
  + Can you say this today?
    - Probably not, doesn’t consider those outside of the human
  + Netizen
    - Has the internet just become a spur of the conservatism movement?
    - There are forms of resistance that can only exist online
      * To Look At: Electronic Disturbance Theater
        + Made to interrupt the internet, does digital sit-ins, etc.
  + Closing: internet is not utopian, but looks at post-national reforms
    - New register of time and space, body to mind, new imaginary of culture to reality
    - Creates “planetary political subjects” through modes of collective information
    - VERY aspirational
* Review
  + Much more radical:
* CAE
  + Pf. Dominguez : Founder of CAE also founded the “Transport a Migrant” tool
    - The right wing folks went crazy over him
      * Accused him of using taxpayer money to assist terrorists
    - Had to fight to keep his job
    - Electronic Frontier: Group of lawyers that will defend rights and expression on the digital stage
      * Defended him!
    - They didn’t fire him !
      * Shows the power of performance, didn’t even have to do it because just talking about it was enough
    - In 2000 was thinking about what the digital could and couldn’t do
      * Thinking of the ways in which the analog and digital work together
  + They are one the groups that is mapping the movement from analog to digital
    - Compared to the epistemic shift from the oral to print culture with the Gutenberg Press (Diana wrote on this in “Save As”
    - We don’t know how to archive this yet, we haven’t lived it!
  + Katherine Hayles- she thinks we are going to call this the new dark ages
    - We’re not going to have a record of any of this stuff we created as we figure out how to archive these items
  + Hardware/Software and Wetware
    - We are becoming posthuman
    - They ways Trump plays with the news cycles and ubiquity-of the image, crisis driven, collapsing news an entertainment
      * We have a new political subjectivity that
  + Recombinant Theater
    - End the essay on an optimistic note
    - When the recombinant theater works, it contributes to a generative space and new politics emerge
      * Creating a theater of becoming
* Edwards
  + Logic of Digital Circulation
    - Thinking about Image economies as well
  + Simulacra Boardroom presupposes the cabniet room
    - Trump’s start as a celebrity was similar to Reagan’s rise to power
    - Establishment of credibly that allowed Trump to take the white house
  + Transfer of common sense as public to the formal figure of Trump in the Board room
    - Not necessarily “common sense” but the shared experiences of the world
    - Instead of creating the common sense of universalizing actions, we are able to shift a common visions of reality TV to reality
      * Notion of the digital logic of circulation to real world manifestations
  + Cult of the Personality (the star)
    - Everything is about HIM
      * Not about beliefs or systems, just the person
    - He isn’t even talking to anyone
  + Machines and interface
    - Modes of measurement have changed:
      * Enthusiasm of the base is the important element
      * Aided by the use of technology that creates a form of political coherence
    - How machines have become part of the voting block (bots on twitter) and connections to the polling machines
    - Voting machines are very easily manipulated
  + “At this moment, he became the president”
    - What does it mean that that makes him presidential?
  + Trump has mastered the art of Reality TV and mafia work
    - Brings these skills to the office
      * Are these stronger than the branches of the government?
  + Selfie-Determination
    - It is not just about *a* picture but about what the picture means
    - What would Azoulay say about the selfie?
      * Azoulay is more about responsibility
      * Selfie-culture is more about conversation
        + The selfie is also the creation of Self

The selfie with another person will be the performance of relationally

* + International Relations
    - Point of pride that it is perceived unevenly
* Starr review of Zuboff
  + Changes our political lives and emotions and politics
  + “We create the music and they dance to it”
  + Political Parties vs. Outsiders
    - Many of the most successful candidates have been outsiders
    - World of the digital in this is important!
  + Not just facebook or twitter
    - These modes can create new ways of influencing and modeling behaviors
      * AOC and Zuckerberg: we can now post fake news
      * So we are now guided how to act based on something that is not true
  + Where they place the stuff:
    - Experiment with 61 million users
      * News headlines at the top
      * No news headlines
      * News was hidden
    - 30% more people voted when at the top
  + Creates new forms of power and behavior modification outside of awareness and accountability
    - “New Priesthood”
    - Not static- algorithms constantly adding
      * Us versus them gets created
  + “No Future”
    - Americans are far from mere puppets…
  + Behavior Surplus
    - Information from google and they develop prediction products
    - Able to create massive expansion of intelligence
  + “Actuation”
    - What better way to predict than to teach them how to act
  + Surveillance
    - Not necessarily totalitarian, but the potential is THERE