

Part Four - Territory, memory and subjectivity

The borgesian map — Deleuze and Guattari cinematic approach — The construction of space and the physical environment — The “non-lieu”

Short Panorama

The hypothesis that we advanced in the previous lectures was that we can only think’ and ‘see things’ in terms of space. And a paradox of that hypothesis is expressed in the text of Borges I recommended. Therefore, concepts like territory, memory and subjectivity became important because of the ‘spatial role’ they play in our understanding. Deleuze largely discussed the idea of territory, a great deal of authors the notion of memory (Ricoeurs, Levinas, Virilio, etc.) and not less the notion of subjectivity (Foucault, Lacan, Derrida, Žižek, etc), however what remains as a constant defeat of the analysis is the fact that if we can no longer trust the idea of representation and certainly not a sort of psychological notion of images, then, the only possibility to express this space is in terms of cinematography.

The problem of how we construct our space (and how from it we elaborate some concepts) is not the only problem, for meanwhile we live in a present that has the form of a ‘no place’: everything is in transit, nothing is fixed, everything is made in relation with a expectation that is not in the present but in the future. This is what ironically Marc Auge calls ‘surmodernité’. On top of this we should also consider the existence of the physical world. In short: the fact that reality is no longer associated with the matter does not mean that the physical systems disappear, quite the contrary, due to the lack of reality they suffer, they become a problem.

Target

The purpose of this lecture is to see how we understand space or, better, how we can

express space in relation with our understanding of our environment.

Key Questions

Using the graphic placed below try to express Borges' idea of cartography and also the sense of space behind the plot.

Using the same graphic try to discuss in your own words the explanation offered in the lecture and its relation with the point expressed above.

The Borgesian Map – Geo-epistemic Chart

