The Psychopathologies of Cognitive Capitalism: Part One

brings together philosophers/critical theorists, media theorists, scientists and artists to discuss the state of the mind and brain under the conditions of contemporary capitalism, in which they have become the new focus of laboring.

How do the transformed conditions of labor—more specifically the fact that so much contemporary labor is immaterial, affective, and cognitive—transform the role of emancipatory politics and education today? In the switch from the body to the brain/mind as the major sites of normalization and instrumentalization, the machinic intelligence of the assembly line has been transformed from the hardware of industrial production to the workings of the self, through the linking (for instance) of attention with new regulatory conditions such as branding and social networks.

Do these new conditions have ramifications for the brain and mind? Did the social, political, economic, psychic and historical conditions which led to the production of the modernist subject create its own psychopathologies like neuroaesthenia and hysteria, which required specific remedies like talk therapy and dream interpretation? Did these psychopathologies find their raison d’être in the conditions of the brain’s neurobiological architecture? And furthermore, did these changes also produce artistic actions that feedbacked and recalibrated the cultural landscape as a form of therapy? Could the same be said today? Are attention deficit disorder (ADD), panic attacks, and depression a result of the infosphere’s excess of the mutating political/social/cultural conditions of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries that overtax and overstimulate the worker? What artistic forms, procedures and species of critical thinking have arisen in response? Might the answers to these questions be found in linking these new conditions to the fundamental shaping of the neuroplastic potential of the brain/mind?

The conference begins on Friday, November 9th at the Goethe-Institute (5750 Wilshire Blvd.) with a keynote address by Franco “Bifo” Berardi (introduced by Sylvère Lotringer) and continues on Saturday, November 10th and Sunday, November 11th at the West Hollywood Public Library (626 N. San Vicente Boulevard). Speakers will include Jonathan Beller, Jodi Dean, Tiziana Terranova, Patricia Pisters, and Bruce Wexler.
THE PSYCHOPATHOLOGIES OF COGNITIVE CAPITALISM: PART ONE

Moderated by Arno De Breeer

“Collective Desire”
Jodi Dean

“Proletarianization of the Brain”
Tiziana Terranova

“Madness, Miracles, and Machines”
Patricia Pisters

“Neuroplastic Sensitivities and Embodiment of Constructed Realities”
Bruce Wexler

“Disrupted Subjectivities and Phronesis in Aesthetic Labor”
Kuan Hwa

“Digital Dandyism: Narcissism and the Politics of the Facebook Aesthetic”
Seth Stewart

“Pedagogical Fields of Resistance To the Pathologies of Cognitive Capitalism”
John A. Tyson

For the most current information, please visit our website at: aestheticsandpolitics.calarts.edu/conferences
Cognitive capitalism is a coherent system and a dynamic. Process. The last chapter may have given the impression of gathering up a scattering of bits borrowed from a variety of different theories. My intention in this chapter is to make clear the coherence of the emerging reality of this third capitalism in relation to the other large classic blocs. - for those who are interested in defining a 'historical capitalism' (L. Özalerstein). 'Cognitive Capitalism is a tour de force of the science of country level differences in cognitive ability. It raises important questions about the role of cognitive ability for culture, health, economics, education, technology, immigration and government. The theory of cognitive capitalism promises to inform our understanding of country level differences just as Darwin's theory informed our understanding of individual differences.' Thomas R. Coyle - University of Texas, San Antonio. Aa.