

Acknowledgements

The chapters in this book initially grew out of work undertaken for a European Research Council Grant proposal in 2018/19, entitled “Digital Continent.” Its subtitle was “Metaphysics of Copiousness, Architectonics in the *Meteora*: A 21st Century Citizen Science Treatise on the *Conditio Humana* in the Anthropocene.” The grant proposal was not successful, and I would frame many things differently today. But the scope and promise I had set out still frame, virtually so, the chapters collected here:

How are we to think about an ethical objective for education in post-industrial societies? Where once ‘production’ occupied a central place in our analyses, this has been disposed of by data-processing; we need to switch to a paradigm based on communication. There is an unsettling complicity between modernity and nihilism, whereby citizen-subjects have turned into mere customers

of modern science. The lack of proper philosophical registers to address the era of data effectively serves to short-circuit discourses of science; precision in measuring processes accelerates all events in the 'real time' of the present.

This project offers a big picture to redress this impasse; I propose a metaphysics and architectonics for the Digital as a Continent, capable of countering the acceleration vector of scientific progress with one of a deceleration no less scientific, sophisticated, and progressive but tempering across a great number of different scales rather than along a line.

Nuclear physics has widely troubled philosophical discourses throughout the 20th century. But there is another stratum with respect to energy, equally abstract: photosynthesis. It is a synthetic inverse to the violent deconstruction of fission (molecular chemistry, photovoltaics). It, too, has been mastered but with markedly less fanfare, astonishment, and awe. It is photosynthesis that the project proposes to make central for a conception of architectonics in the '*Meteora*.' Anthropocentric nature is recast on the realization that we, like all things existent, organize, metabolize, and bank '*meteora* alloys,' cosmic and natural composites of energy, formality, and active intellection. How can we think of science with the recognition that knowledge can be interiorized just as plants eat light? The capacity for literacy should be recog-

nized in all things, as all things—from suns in the galaxies to plants in the meadows, pebbles in the river to ants and flies and crocodiles, and humans, of course—that communicate in material and embodied ways by receiving, sending, processing, storing and dealing with information. The project proposes to complement such a naturalization of literacy with a ‘becoming-literate’ of nature in a positive metaphysics for which code plays a photometric (transcendental) role.

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thropography” was first presented at the Society for European Philosophy SEP-FEP conference *Philosophy after Nature* in Utrecht, 2014, and was originally published in Rick Dolphijn (ed.), *Michel Serres and the Crisis of the Contemporary* (London, Bloomsbury Academic, 2017); the chapter “Photosynthesis: Meteora Alloys” was first published in a special issue titled *New Concepts for Materialism*, edited by Iris van der Tuin and Adam Nocek in *Philosophy Today* (Vol. 63, No. 4 Fall 2019); “The Alphabetic Absolute” was published with some changes and under a different title: “Ichnography—The Nude and Its Model. The Alphabetic Absolute and Storytelling in the Grammatical Case of the Cryptographic Locative” in Vera Bühlmann, Ludger Hovestadt, Vahid Moosavi (eds.), *Coding as Literacy—Metalithikum IV* (Birkhäuser, Basel 2016); “In Medias Naturae” was written for and published in the journal *mt Media Theory* edited by Simon Dawes (Vol. 5, No. 1, 2021); “The Instrumentation of Space: Time, Cosmos, Politics” was originally published in *Architecture, Futurability and the Untimely*, edited by Ingrid Mayrhofer-Hufnagel (transcript, 2022); and “Entwurf of the Method and Ethics of its Discourse” was first presented at the conference *Re-imagining Europe*, at Koninklijk Nederlands Instituut in Rome in 2019, organized by Bart Zantvoort, Georgios Tsagdis, Rozemund Uljée,

in a slightly different version and with a different title: “Europe and its two mothers: Impersonal Logos and the Optical Unconscious. A Geographical Récit of Descartes’s Fable, ‘The World,’” and it will be published in a forthcoming book by Suny Press (New York) on the conference theme, edited by the conference organizers. Finally, “Once Upon the Autonomy of Words” was published in Mihye An, Ludger Hovestadt (eds.), *Architecture and Naturing Affairs* (Basel, Birkhäuser, 2020).

