WHAT IS THE RIGHT ONTOLOGY FOR THE ANTHROPOCENE?

POLITICAL METAPHORS

Verónica Mota Galindo ▹ X-Research Group

Coordinator: Dr. Elena Tripaldi

Picture: Oil Bunkering, in Nigeria.

Eduard Burtynsky 2016.

ONTOLOGY

▹ Fundamental Categories of Reality
▹ Nature of Being
▹ Existence
▹ Entities and Relationality

ANTHROPOCENE

▹ Geological Epoch
▹ Global Impact of Human Activities on Earth's ecosystems
▹ Impact on the Human and Non-Human
▹ Anthropocentrism (Human/Animal Location)

METHODOLOGY

PHASE I:

▷ Comparative Readings

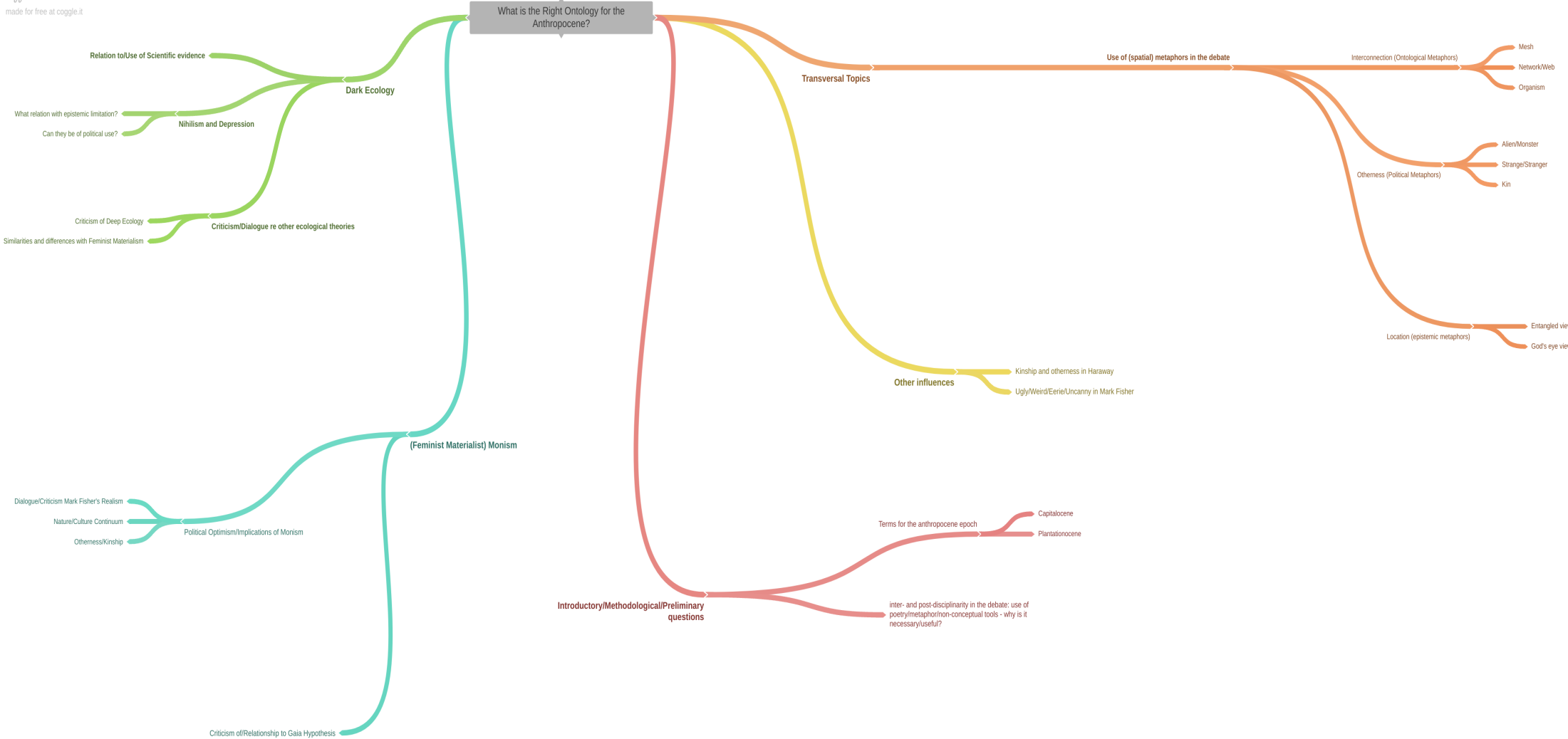▷ Collective Discussion

▷ Problem Finding

PHASE II:

▷ Choosing The Right Ontology

▷ Creating Cell-Groups focused on specific theoretical frameworks

▷ Writing text based on collective inputs and findings

PHASE III:

▷ Producing Radio Podcast (Text Recordings and Audio Editing)

THEORETICAL EXPLORATIONS X-RESEARCH GROUP

What is the Right Ontology for the Anthropocene?

Dark Ecology

Relation to/Use of Scientific evidence

Nihilism and Depression
- What relation with epistemic limitation?
- Can they be of political use?

Criticism/Dialogue re other ecological theories
- Criticism of Deep Ecology
- Similarities and differences with Feminist Materialism

(Feminist Materialist) Monism

Political Optimism/Implications of Monism
- Dialogue/Criticism Mark Fisher's Realism
- Nature/Culture Continuum
- Otherness/Kinship

Criticism of/Relationship to Gaia Hypothesis

Transversal Topics

Use of (spatial) metaphors in the debate

Interconnection (Ontological Metaphors)
- Mesh
- Network/Web
- Organism

Otherness (Political Metaphors)
- Alien/Monster
- Strange/Stranger
- Kin

Location (epistemic metaphors)
- Entangled view
- God's eye view

Other influences
- Kinship and otherness in Haraway
- Ugly/Weird/Eerie/Uncanny in Mark Fisher

Introductory/Methodological/Preliminary questions

Terms for the anthropocene epoch
- Capitalocene
- Plantationocene

inter- and post-disciplinarity in the debate; use of poetry/metaphor/non-conceptual tools - why is it necessary/useful?

QUESTIONS OF RESEARCH:

▹ Can feminist Materialism be the right Ontology for the Anthropocene?

▹ Are the theoretical frameworks of Donna Haraway and Rosi Braidotti opposite or can they complement each other?

▹ How can human und non-human justice take place within the Anthropocene from a feminist perspective?

FINAL CELL-GROUPS

▷ **Epistemic Metaphors in the Anthropocene**

How to overcome anthropocentric understandings of knowledge?

▷ **Ontological Metaphors in the Anthropocene**

How to capture interconnection?

▷ **Political Metaphors in the Anthropocene**

How to best understand (and interact) with Otherness?

▷ **Post-Disciplinarity/Interdisciplinarity in the Anthropocene**

How to overcome the anthropocentrism in traditional/philosophical/academic language?

POLITICAL METAPHORS

THESIS:

The Anthropocene is founded upon processes and dynamics of oppression, affecting both human and non-human organisms. The term itself sets up an ontological ladder.

THEORETICAL FOCUS

Donna Haraway (Biology/Philosophy) & Rosi Braidotti (Philosophy)

▹ History of Philosophy

▹ Feminist Materialism

▹ Otherness/Difference

▹ Historical Case Examples (Antisemitism/Colonialism/Misogyny/Extracttivism)

▹ The problem of 'Dialectical Oppositions' (Braidotti)

▹ Monism vs. Dualism

▹ Active concept of Monism (Braidotti/Leibniz)

▹ Critique to the concept of the Anthropocene (Haraway)

▹ Chthulucene & Capitolocene (Haraway)

▹ Sympoiesis (Haraway)

FINAL RESULTS

Five radio podcasts are scheduled for release on SoundCloud at the end of October

@VERONICA_MOTA_BERLIN