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TRAJECTORIES OF PRODUCTION LABORATORIES

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- Now the laboratorium is a skein of interwoven architectures: arhcitectures of software, and managerial structures of unruly complexity; dispersed architectures of “post-studio” non-sites, and elusive architectures of influential images, texts, and data distributed over networks of film and type. In confronting this world in which the arbitrariness of the perimeter is apparent, we would do well to reflect upon earlier moments of apparent centered-ness and stability. Perhaps we should return to those older laboratories or studio functioned on the premise of an isolated self-sufficiency, that premise need not be taken at face value. The site of the Cavendish Physics Laboratory or the Parisian painter’s garret under the stars might be mere nodes in a network of relays among industries, training grounds, educational systems, and social hierarchies that enabled empirical or artistic work. Perhaps the laboratory and studio were always already dispersed and we have only now been forced to confront that possibility. (Gallison and Jones, 210)

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Peter Galison and Caroline A. Jones, “Trajectories of Production Laboratories/ Factories/ Studios” in Laboratorium, (Antwerp: Dumont: Antwerpen Open: Roomade, 2001).