

Thesis Plan

00 Intro - Metaphor 3k:

1-2 Sentence intro:

This Chapter aims to introduce the project and the different chapters that make up this thesis. It Also means to setup a foundation of metaphor as a radical tool and situate this work within cosiness as a radical metaphor for life affirming infrastructures.

Quick blurb:

This Chapter will introduce the projects approach towards the research, working with metaphor and practice to try to imagine alternatives to the current status quo of big tech infra and norms. It will introduce how the project aims to approach this through crip and trans*feminist studies as well as STS and software studies to negotiate what the status quo is to then think about how we can start to challenge and move beyond these naturalised norms. It will also explore how the project aims to use developing cycles of action research to bring about these different knowledges through separate but entangled lines of enquiry. It will also give an explanation of each of these chapters and how they mean to represent each of these cycles and a weaving of them together. It will finish off by introducing the work through a cozy metaphor that will set the stage for negotiating infra through life affirmation.

01 Disobedient Action Research Cycles (methodology) 3k (at 1k)

1-2 Sentence intro :

This chapter aims to develop an understanding of the projects methodology of disobedient action research cycles. This methodology aims to weave these tangents of action research together into one form, and creates a metaphor from [Alexis Pauline Gumbs](#) weaving of baskets and [Sara Ahmed](#)'s Table as a way of weaving and dancing new futures.

Quick Blurb:

In this section I explain my methodology of disobedient action research that aims to work through evolving non-determinate cycles to weave together new forms and metaphors, both linguistic and technically situated for us to imagine otherwise with. It also works with Alexis Pauline Gumbs M-Archive to form a metaphor of this process being a weaving of new rafts to float to freedom and justice on. Through this it aims to enable this trans*critique through a multiple of different avenues and approaches to be seen and negotiated as one entangled form. In reflection of this methodology I start to think through [Sara Ahmed](#)'s table as a figuring of direction and how this project has danced and wobbled down new paths and places

02 Accessible Academia, situating pedagogues of know-ability (working title) 5k

1-2 Sentence intro :

This chapter situates this thesis within the lived experiences and relations of the author as a crip and queer person within academia. In doing this it aims to initiate the first action research cycle as one that negotiates the foundations of where this research comes from and the frictions and challenges the author has been through to bring about these desires for life affirming knowledges.

Quick Blurb:

This Chapter means to introduce and situate this thesis within the first action research cycle, that is the experiences and relations of being crip and queer within hegemonic institutions. In situating this work within these dialogues the chapter aims to critique the foundation of this research and it's own fragility, working from*in*for places that do not validate or affirm anyone's lives, especially disabled and queer folk. In this section I will recall experiences and explore theoretically what these different strata of privileged, efficiency and accessibility within academia mean in reality for disabled, queer and marginalised people. It doesn't mean to provide any answers or solutions at this point just situate the research and contextualise what it means to work in academia from this position.

03 The layer cake of AI 10-12K (at 7k) ish

1-2 Sentence intro :

This chapter explores the metaphors of AI and specifically A(G)I as a cake through a new framing of analysis of metaphorical connotation and material denotation. Through this analysis I show how ideologically and materially these systems are not here to affirm or care for us and ask what sort recipe we want to make instead.

Quick Blurp:

The layer cake is the second cycle of action research and is an exploration into existing AI metaphors and beliefs. It does this firstly by creating an analytic framework of mass media messages through Hall's encoder decoder model and then crips with Kafer to create a new axis of connotation/denotation that aims to analyse the relation between hegemonic metaphorical connotation and material denotation.

It then goes through an oppositional reading of a silicon metaphor for A(G)I through LeCun's cake. Showing that between these sweet metaphors are many layers of discriminating and divisive histories. It then goes through the newly introduced axis of metaphorical connotation and material denotation. Working with [The TESCREAL bundle](#) to explore the connotations of these metaphors, seeing great sacrifice for a greater good as their key message. Then working with [Wendy Chun](#) and situated practical examples I have done to grasp the material denotations of the systems as the currently are.

I conclude by asking do we want to take a bite of this generalised and toxic recipe? can we bake our own? or do we want to start over?

04 Configure-able methods - main bit 6.5k+ (at 4.8k)

1-2 Sentence intro :

This chapter builds from the last and aims to create a place of reflection and refiguring of dynamics. To do this it formulates a crip reading of [Lucy Suchman's](#) Configuration with the help of [Alison Kafer](#) which aims to create configurations that are practised by those enabled by them, instead of being prescribed configurations that dominate them.

Quick Blurp:

This chapter takes the next step from the layer cake and starts to explore how we might want to start to tell different stories and figures of automation and decision making away from AI. It works between Suchman's configuration, exploring how the relations of sociotechnical systems and the hegemonic stories of those systems are deeply entangled. This goes through an analysis of a few of Suchman's examples looking at

modelling of medical systems of care and their organisational practices seeing how efficiencies undermine their connoted goals and aims.

Here I then move to explore how Kafer's crip definition of figuring as a situated practice enables a re*de-centring of configuration. This re-figuring of configuration to configure-able presents a key focus on how situating the imaginaries and materialities away from hegemonic terms and to the people enabled by that system is key as they are the only ones with the knowledges to transform these places.

This chapter then sets the stage for the collective practices chapter next, which gives examples of how I have been trying to practice these situated processes within collectives, workshops and communities.

05 Collective Knowledges 3k+(will split bits of current collective knowledges chapter so at roughly 1k)


1-2 Sentence intro :

This chapter expands from configure-able methods to discuss the situated collaborative relations and methods I have been a part of in this project and beyond. To do this I examine a round table conversation between in-grid members to reflect on how our roles, politics and protocols feel, and how we want to imagine these in future relations.

Quick Blurb:

This chapter will talk about the action research cycles for collective practices that I was a part of. In this recollection it will be through the framing of [Abolition Feminism Now](#)'s positive and generative way of understanding practice as a place of both success and failure, with both being teachable places. I will also work through [A World of Many Worlds](#) and [Helen Verran](#)'s chapter (and maybe) to think about how these groups and knowledges come together through power relations and knowability.

In this section I (will) do a focus group/round table with in-grid and maybe others we have collaborated with to discuss and reflect on our projects. In this session thinking through the texts and the ways we work through frictions and tensions, and in this section I reflect and analyse the transcription.

 **Note**

Do you think this is over ambitious, maybe do it aug and write up asap after. I have an ethics proposal for a round table so should be okay.

06 Re-saucing infra 2k+

1-2 Sentence intro :

This chapter aims to expand on the previous two by moving deeper into configure-able methods and beyond in-grids collective metaphorical connotations and into our material denotations through practising our infrastructure and relating outside of hegemonic big-tech terms. Through this it reflects on the experiences, both technical and affective, of crossing this boundary and the terms and tensions which lay on either side of the big-tech/foss and across both.

Quick Blurb:

This section aims to go beyond the metaphorical connotations of the collective knowledges chapter and into the material denotations of what engaging in the practices of re-configuring through configure-able methods means. In sharing these experiences the chapter aims to show the trouble of what leaving these infrastructures means, and whether it is possible at all. Reading from [Femke Snelting's A fish can't judge the water](#) it brings in the need for affective knowledges of coding and making infrastructures and in this way examines these projects. It does challenge this though aiming to question what are the boundaries and capacities we are able to take on in such a overwhelming task, and how can we work with others to enable these transformations.

It works through these different collective processes of in-grid starting to de-big-tech our own cloud infra and forming our own different foss software investigations. With these recollections I reflect on the eases, the frictions and the denotations of both leaving a dominative hegemonic "captive-market" and entering a gritty DIY hacker "sand-box". Thinking about how the divide between these spaces has been co-produced in many ways not only through ideological difference, but also in similarity, through exclusion, obfuscations and inaccessibility.

7. Conclusion 4K