

Morphogenesis Of The Outside

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There are many ways to mix genres.

Hacking, blending, agitating, encrypting, intrincating, weaving, cyphering, entangling, percolating, dominating, over-representing, projecting, jamming, interlocking, exapting, knotting, blurring, smoothing, transforming the striated into the seamless, infinitizing...

And by genres, i mean genders, forms, categories, types, manifolds, cosmoses...

Genres are traditionally defined regarding different entities they resemble. They ex-ist out of these outsides. Their "shapes" are counter-forms. Therefore, investigating how they evolve and develop over time, space and scale would require an epigenetic **xenology**, the morphogenesis of the outside(s).

Accordingly an out-side implies an in-side. There is an inherent duality - dualness, dualism, difference, division, dissociation, diversion, dislocation - gravitating around genres. They are often perceived in our culture as **dimorphic** entities.

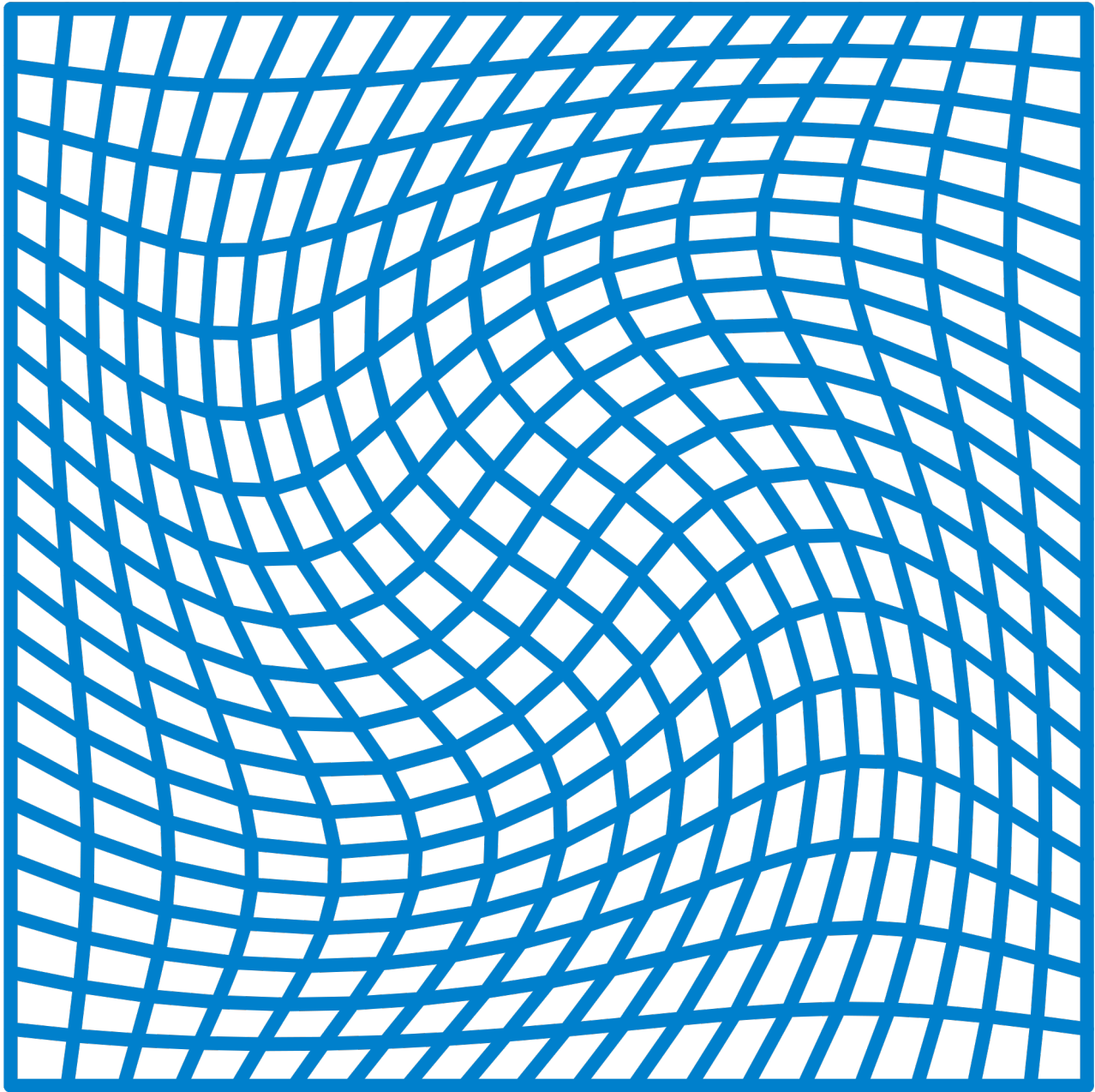
A cosmo-accelerationist remix of genres, a turbo genderfuck¹, would consist precisely in challenging sexual, conventional and traditional dimorphism. In that respect, i introduce libidinal and socio-cultural **diffeomorphism**. This term comes from a branch of mathematics called topology. A diffeomorphism - or differentiable homeomorphism - is an isomorphism of smooth manifolds. It is an invertible function that maps one differentiable entity to another.

Our hypothesis is double: this concept should help to understand how the "outside" could be seen as an homeomorph alterity, but also as a differentiable self. An **exaptive** recursive identity leading to a morphogenesis from the outside, an epigenetic feedback loop: a **diffeomorphogenesis**.

From a neoliberal perspective, there are many "outsides": fringes, marginal practices and people, avant-gardes, so-called 'peripheral' countries, but also off-shore islands, transnational corporations and of course plants and animals in the anthropocene. How do these articulate with established socio-political core systems ? Which strategies arise when negotiating with power structures based on asymmetric secrecy, governance lock-ins and generalized copyright ?

We'll answer by exploring some practical ideas for the creation of experimental places, creative environments and institutional experiences based on recursive governance and diffeomorphic strategies to cope with **cryptopolitical** insides.

1 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender_bender



The image of a rectangular grid on a square under a [diffeomorphism](#) from the square onto itself
[Oleg Alexandrov](#) - self-made with MATLAB - Source code ([MATLAB](#)) – License CC0 Public Domain

```
% Compute a diffeomorphism from a square to a square which leave
% the boundary fixed.

function main()

    N = 20; % num of grid points
    epsilon = 0.1; % displacement for each small diffeomorphism
    num_comp = 10; % number of times the diffeomorphism is composed with itself

    S = linspace(-1, 1, N);

    [X, Y] = meshgrid(S);

    Z = X; W = Y;

    % take num_comp compositions of the same small diffeomorphism
    for iter = 1:num_comp

        for i=1:N
            for j=1:N

                [Z(i, j), W(i, j)] = small_diffeo(Z(i, j), W(i, j), epsilon);

            end
        end
    end

    % graphing settings
```

```
    lw = 2;
    mycolor = [1, 0, 0.1];
    small = 0.1;

    figure(1); clf; hold on;
    for i=1:N
        plot(X(:, i), Y(:, i), 'linewidth', lw, 'color', mycolor);
        plot(X(i, :), Y(i, :), 'linewidth', lw, 'color', mycolor);
    end
    axis([-1-small, 1+small, -1-small, 1+small]);
    axis equal; axis off;

    figure(2); clf; hold on;
    for i=1:N
        plot(Z(:, i), W(:, i), 'linewidth', lw, 'color', mycolor);
        plot(Z(i, :), W(i, :), 'linewidth', lw, 'color', mycolor);
    end
    axis([-1-small, 1+small, -1-small, 1+small]);
    axis equal; axis off;

    function [z, w] = small_diffeo(x, y, epsilon);

        A1=epsilon*(cos(pi*x)+1)*(cos(pi*y)+1)/4.0;
        A2=epsilon*cos(pi*x/2)*cos(pi*y/2);

        A = (A1+A2)/2;

        z = x + (-y)*A;
        w = y + ( x)*A;
```

1. Xenology

The challenge with a proposition such as "the morphogenesis of the outside" is to establish which field or context is appropriate to frame it. It affords very different notions. Shape, space, time, scale, territory, philosophy, metaphysics, architecture, politics, biology, complex sciences, epistemology, inter-disciplines, but also pseudo-science, alchemy, theology, science of fiction, mythology.

The latter traditionally consider things, objects, entities outside of our realm. They preserve the integrity of the other, of the foreigner by treating it as a stranger, an hostile enemy or, as a guest-friend, depending on the flavor. They propose an extended discourse on the xenos, the distant friend, outside of the local philos. Xenia vs Philia. Accordingly, I propose to adopt a xenological point-of-view in addition to a philosophical one.

Consequently, this leads to outsidings philosophy itself from our thinking. And, as a preliminary gesture, proceeding to its retreat. Allowing to recognize that if we want to immerse ourselves into the outside, we might operate first what religious poets call a TsimTsum, a dimensional contraction. Avoiding the void in a contracted refuge. Neither chaos nor order but a single entity intrincating them. Philosophy as an aleph in a scalar horizon manifested by its **Xenology**.

2. Morphogenesis of the outside

2.1. *Short history of the terms*

Morphogenesis refers to the way a shape arises, a form evolves over time or a being expresses its structure for instance in embryogenesis. In 1952, Alan M. Turing describes in his article "The Chemical Basis of Morphogenesis" how "systems, although they may originally be homogeneous, may later develop a pattern or a structure due to an instability of the homogeneous equilibrium, which is triggered by some random disturbances".

Few years before him, in 1917, the Scottish mathematical biologist D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson published a descriptive book on the physico-structural influences on biological form. Also he criticized the evolutionist approach from Darwin, he challenged morphostasis through mathematical morphogenesis, using simple geometric rules. Thompson analysed for instance the polyhedral forms of Radiolaria (protozoa developing a siliceous exoskeleton) from the Challenger expedition drawn by Ernst Haeckel in 1904. He inspired Turing but also Conrad Hal Waddington, a british developmental biologist, paleontologist, geneticist, embryologist and philosopher who laid the foundations for systems biology and epigenetics.

Dutch sociocybernetist Felix Geyer places Morphogenesis as the foundational brick of Complexity ² : "In stressing this possibility for self-organization, for "order out of chaos", Prigogine comes close to the concept of autopoiesis. In modern societies, the mechanistic and deterministic Newtonian worldview - emphasizing stability, order, uniformity, equilibrium, and linear relationships between or within closed systems - is being replaced by a new paradigm.

2 <http://www.critcrim.org/redfeather/chaos/006challenges.html>

This new paradigm is more in line with today's accelerated social change, and stresses disorder, instability, diversity, disequilibrium, non-linear relationships between open systems, morphogenesis and temporality. Prigogine indeed calls it the science of complexity. It is exemplified amongst others by Prigogine himself, Maturana and Varela, Laszlo and "second-order cybernetics" in general: i.e. the (non-mechanistic) study of open systems in interaction with their observers."

Today, in biology, it's considered that animal markings, segmentation of animals, phyllotaxis, neuronal activation patterns like tonotopy, and predator-prey equations' trajectories are all examples of natural patterns constructed through morphogenesis. Similarly, in other scientific fields, phenomenas and entities such as Belousov-Zhabotinsky reactions, Liesegang rings, Bénard cells, Lasers, cloud formations in stripes or rolls, ripples in icicles, washboard patterns on dirtroads, dendrites in solidification, liquid crystals, solitons, sphere packing and cellular automata are examples of morphogenesis.

A side can be a flat outer surface of an object, especially one that is not the top, the bottom, the front, or the back; an edge or border of something; a place next to something. The out side is therefore an outside of something. Over its edge, beyond the next entity close to it or an alternate surface to its own.

This very short history would of course welcome a thorough philosophical assessment of the concept of Outside but also of Form, Evolution, Becoming, etc.. Nonetheless, I tried to register the terms in a different context than mine which we will see next is somehow distant to historicity and traditional philosophical linearity.

2.2. Short speculation on the terms

From a xenological point-of-view, morphogenesis is neither a bottom-up structural accretion nor a top-down theological revelation. It is a metaphora.

Outside of what ?

1. void -> tohu-bohu / tsimtsum / fiat lux
2. universe -> contingent metaphysics
3. a sheet of paper -> diffeomorphism
4. cybernetics -> self-referential cybernetics
5. masculine rational advantage -> xenology
6. verbal language -> iconic & enactive expression
7. cryptopolitical power -> supranatural propitiatory talent

2.3. What other concepts have been associated with it?

Camouflage

2.4. In what ways has this concept affected the lives of people?

2.5. How might this concept be changed to work better?

morphogenesis of an outside: epigenesis

morphogenesis from the outside: intrication, entanglement, co-constitution

3. By what kinds of evidence can the proposition be proved or disproved ?

4. What counter-arguments must be confronted and refuted ?

5. What are the practical consequences of the proposition?

5.1 Philosophical

5.2 Political

5.3 Socio-cultural

CONCLUSION