



# 1.1

“One side effect of NASA’s unmanned programs, particularly Viking’s initial probes to the surface of mars, is what Kim Stanley Robinson calls *comparative planetology*: the consideration of patterns and differences among astronomical bodies. . . . Now the special singularity [of the Earth as a unit of measurement] can be measured by variation among like and unlike cousins, each of which represents an alternative chemical reality from which or toward which our own perch might be distinguished or interpreted. . . .”

—Bratton, “On the Earth Layer: Governance of/with Computational Models of/for Planetary Computation,” pp. 130