

Letter of Motivation

Current Studies: Experimental Publishing, Master of Media Design, Piet Zwart Institute. The program fosters critical research on technology as shaped and defined by society; the research content engages the public in forms of editorial production in open mediums such as self-publishing and shadow libraries. “The medium is the message”, we hope to rethink the definition of publishing in present living context.

Research Interest: How bodily qualities such as perception and attention are subjected by technology; are there ways to preserve our individuality and become free of subjectivation?

Readings: *Technique of the Observer* (Jonathan Crary, 1990); *Suspension of Perception* (1999); *Late Capitalism and Ends of Sleep* (2014).

In *Technique of the Observer*, Jonathan Crary examines the nature of observer and representation prior 1850, a period in which the nature of visuality is impacted by new modalities of visual representation, such as motor powered machines and optical devices. This period of time is considered to be a break from classical mode of seeing as shaped in the renaissance.

How will this topic be relevant today? Today, computer aided design, flight simulators, image recognition are few tools from informatics that are redefining visuality. The course of its definition is shaped by a multitude of factors and entities – military adaption of virtual reality in combat trainings; involvement of Amazon Turk labor in labeling image data for computer vision algorithm development, funded by platform capitalism; the diagnoses of medical patients being generated by machine vision reading medical imageries. This present condition calls us to define contemporary regime of vision.

Brian Massumi describes early stage of sensorial exposure as a preordered chaos. Throughout training process, an individual’s sensorial capacity is pruned to ordered correspondences. Synesthesia as understood by Massumi, is not a deviation from the normalcy, but rather result of a sensorial development pruned less fully. In *Suspension of Perception*, Crary critically contextualize this bodily process within context of western modernity from late nineteenth century. Using perception as center of research, he restores the word’s Latin resonance – taking captive. Being attended, taken captive, is a requirement to be productive in modernity. Think of our contemporary experience working in front of a computer, driving, experiencing cinema – to be able to engage in these activities requires attention. Within attention, our bodies become open to subjectivation by external entities such as education and work. As Massumi approaches conditions outside of the normative spectrum, Crary cites ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) as an example of attentive pathology shaped

by society.

Lastly, in *Late Capitalism and Ends of Sleep*, Crary continues to discuss sleep as a bodily capability to restore oneself and collective resistance to the 24/7 running capitalistic machine. However as vision and attention, sleep is becoming subjectivated, think of Amazon warehouse workers' working condition on the night of the recently passed Black Friday.

Throughout the *Parallel Curriculum*, I hope to address the above issues along peers as an attempt find solutions for possible freedom and humanity under the present day.