



STREAM

S15. Hexegesis, Ofs and Ons

STREAM ORGANIZER(S)

Eldritch Priest

Simon Fraser University
epriest@sfu.ca

David Ceccetto

York University
dcecchet@yorku.ca

Ted Hiebert

Toronto Metropolitan University
ted.hiebert@torontomu.ca

DESCRIPTION

As questions of truth and correctness are increasingly cast aside in favor of the brute forces of action, it might behoove us to delve differently into how language and action relate by attending to casting itself. Theories of performativity still hold, but still: what changes when we treat words as a kind of summons rather than a declaration—a way of affecting knowing to effect a doing? How, that is, might we focus less on textual exegesis and its attendant questions of interpretation, and more on hexegesis: how a text glamours its circumstances to happenstance an emergence of what is idiosyncratically a materialization of affect as effect?

In this, hexegesis describes a mood swing in full swing, one textually enabled by the ways in which a text casts a spell rather than spelling things out. However, if a spell defies understanding in favor of simply enacting its point as the point, hexegesis works instead by listening for echoes, daydreams, nightmares, hallucinations, and the myriad other things that aren't there but effectively and affectively are. This stream welcomes papers that explore and experiment with writing as a matter not of explanation but of incantation. This is not a call for a panel on the occult and affect theory, so much as an encouragement for papers that emphasize their method(s) as a way to conjure effects and atmospheres that can't help but affect us in their casting. In this respect, we seek papers that take knowledge and understanding as things to be, like art, worked out—or, as Étienne Souriau put it, instaured.

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Sound, scent, touch, and the ambiances of living;
- Daydreams, naps, nightmares and other unlived experiences;
- Other artificials and intelligences than AI;
- Injunctions, conjunctions, and alibis of reason;
- Citation as a conjuring act and the footnote as a summoning circle;
- Viral media as contagion;
- Infrastructure as incantation;
- The technology of the self as a hexegesis;
- The weather as injunction;
- Spatial hexeges;
- Text as sigil
- Vibration, resonance, and the infra-sonic;
- Phantom limbs, ghost signs, and urban hauntings.