

Zer0 Books Reading Group: *Flatline Constructs* by Mark Fisher

Monthly, Sunday at either 2100 or 2200 GMT

January: Introduction: Cybernation and Its Discontents

Reading: Flatline Constructs: Introduction (pages 1-8)

Section 1.1-How An Android Must Feel (11-19)

Section 1.2-Cybernetics, Postmodernism, Theory-Fiction (20-26)

February: Cybernetic Exchange and Death: The Principles of Gothic Materialism

Section 1.3-Flatlines (27-34)

Section 1.4-Constructs (35-37)

Section 1.5-Second Naturalism (38-46)

March: The Body Without Image: Gibson, McLuhan, and the Aesthetics of Cyberspace

Sections 2.1-2.6 (pages 50-70)

April: The Tactile and the Catastrophic: From *Videodrome* to *The Atrocity Exhibition*

Sections 2.7-2.12 (pages 71-96)

May: Xerox and Xenogenesis: The Cybergothic and Surplus Value

Sections 3.1-3.4 (pages 100-125)

June: Propagation, Replication, and Reproduction: *Neuromancer* and Schizophrenia

Sections 3.5-3.7 [your copy may erroneously name two '3.6' sections (pages 126-135)]

July: Black Mirror: Hypernaturalism, Hyperreality, and Hyperfiction (part 1)

Sections 4.1-4.4 (pages 138-159)

August: The Decline of the Shadow: Hypernaturalism, Hyperreality, and Hyperfiction (part 2)

Sections 4.5-4.8 (pages 160-182) [End of the Book]

September through December: William Gibson's *Neuromancer* with ancillary texts and guests (dates TBD)

Acid Horizon Reading Group: *A Thousand Plateaus* (January-May)

January 28 at 7PM EST / January 29 at 2PM EST / 7PM GMT: "The Postulates of Linguistics", pp. 75-110

February 25 at 7PM EST / February 26 at 2PM EST / 7PM GMT: "On Several Regimes of Signs", pp. 111-148

March 25 at 7PM EST / March 26 at 2PM EST / 7PM GMT: “Becoming Intense, Becoming Animal” (Part 1), pp. 233-272 (up to but not including “Memories of a Molecule”)

April 29 at 7PM EST / April 30 at 2PM EST / 7PM GMT: “Becoming Intense, Becoming Animal” (Part 2), pp. 272-309

May 27 at 7PM EST / May 28 at 2PM EST / 7PM GMT: “The Geology of Morals”, pp. 39-74

Acid Horizon Reading Group: *Nietzsche and Philosophy* (June-December)

June 24 at 7PM EST / June 25 at 2PM EST / 7PM GMT: “1. The Tragic” pp. 1-36

July 29 at 7PM EST / July 30 at 2PM EST / 7PM GMT: “2. Active and Reactive” pp. 39-71

August 26 at 7PM EST / August 27 at 2PM EST / 7PM GMT: “3. Critique” pp. 73-103

September 23 at 7PM EST / September 24 at 2PM EST / 7PM GMT: “4. From *Ressentiment* to the Bad Conscience” pp. 111-145

October 28 at 7PM EST / October 29 at 2PM EST / 7PM GMT: “5. The Overman: Against the Dialectic” pp. 1-36

November: Laruelle’s Nietzsche with Jeremy R. Smith and Klossowski’s Nietzsche (two episodes with reading group guests)

December: *Nietzsche and Philosophy* wrap up episodes with reading group guests.

Acid Horizon Reading Group: The Accursed Share Volume I, II and III (Fall 2022 through 2023)

“... *it is not necessity but its contrary, “luxury”, that presents living matter and mankind with their fundamental problems.*” - Georges Bataille, *The Accursed Share: Volume I* (Pg. 12)

“... *the forms of social production, like those of desiring-production, involve an unengendered nonproductive attitude, an element of **antiproduction** coupled with the process, a full body that functions as a socius.*” - Deleuze and Guattari, *Anti Oedipus* (Pg. 10)

Following our Bataille In Context summer reading group we will now begin to work through the text that Bataille is perhaps most known for, *The Accursed Share*, which will take us through a historical account of ecology, expenditure, scarcity, and what Bataille calls the “general economy”. Here Bataille attempts to close the (perhaps theological) divide between the “gift” societies of anthropology and “monetized” societies of economics by highlighting the refrain of expenditure throughout both in history. In the book we will explore Native American, Muslim, and East Asian societies as well as what Bataille considers to be the origins of capitalism and its relation to the protestant reformation up until the more recent era, where we will look at the Soviet Union and the United States’ Marshall Plan.

The stakes for this group will continue over from the Bataille In Context reading group - the political decisions of scarcity, the necessity of expenditure, and the important relation of both to kinship and civilization as a whole. We will attempt to answer some leftover questions from the previous readings: *How do we create a community? How can we become sovereign? Do we need myth? What on earth is "erotic philosophy"?*. The book will ultimately prepare us to take up Bataille's *The Accursed Share Volumes 2&3*, which expand upon the premises laid out in the first volume but take us closer to his political and theological projects.

### **Structure //**

The sessions will be broken up into the same 5 sections that Bataille breaks his book out into in addition to secondary readings taken from anthropology, sociology, economics, and history that either compliment or provide tension with Bataille's major claims. We will still deal with similar topics as the last reading groups: excess and luxury, scarcity and utility, transgression and taboo, limit-experiences, eroticism, community and communication, sovereignty, religion, and many more.

### **Readings //**

Readings include the main text of *The Accursed Share* with **supplementary** papers to help guide the discussion or highlight major examples. Papers are taken from recommendations made in the discord, Noah's exposure to resources in the Mimbres School seminars, and general research in and around the realm of critical theory. **ALL READINGS WILL BE POSTED IN THE DISCORD AND RELEVANT SESSION'S READING FOLDER.**

#### Session 1 - Theoretical Introduction (~ 45 pages) - Sunday, October 16th

**The Accursed Share** - Georges Bataille - Preface, The Meaning of General Economy, Laws of General Economy (1-45)

**Solar Politics** - Oxana Timofeeva - Introduction, Chapter 1 ,Chapter 2 "General Economy" (1-78) ~79 pages

On the New Batailleans - Gregk Foley 2021  
<http://gregk.co.uk/general/on-the-new-batailleans/>

#### Session 2 - The Historical Data I - Sacrifice and Potlatches - (~45 pages) - Sunday, November 13th

**The Accursed Share** - Georges Bataille - Sacrifices and Wars of the Aztecs, The Gift of Rivalry: Potlatch ~40 pages

**The Gift:** The form and reason for exchange in archaic societies - Marcel Mauss - Chapter 1 (Pages 10-24) ~14 pages

**"Critique of the Gift"** - Alain Testart - ~8 pages

Extra:

Bataille, **Theory of Religion**. \*Part One.\*

Traylor, Anthony D. "Violence Has Its Reasons: Girard and Bataille." *Contagion: Journal of Violence Mimesis and Culture* 21 (May 1, 2014): 131–56.

Session 3 -The Historical Data II - Islam and Lamaism (~35 pages)

**The Accursed Share** - Georges Bataille - The Conquering Society: Islam, The Unarmed Society: Lamaism (81-115)

**The Challenge of Islam** - Norman O Brown - Lecture I (1-11), Lecture 6 (64-82)

**The Mongols and Tibet: A Historical Assessment of Relations Between the Mongol Empire and Tibet** - Author unknown, ~35 pages

**Tibetan History before the Fifth Dalai Lama** - Dr. Alexander Berzin - Part 3 mainly, but most would be good context

<https://studybuddhism.com/en/advanced-studies/history-culture/buddhism-in-tibet/tibetan-history-before-the-fifth-dalai-lama>

Session 4 - The Historical Data III - The Reformation and Bourgeois (~60 Pages) (January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

**The Accursed Share** - Georges Bataille - The Origins of Capitalism and the Reformation, The Bourgeois World

John H. Munro, 2011. "**Usury, Calvinism, and Credit in Protestant England: from the Sixteenth Century to the Industrial Revolution**," *Working Papers* tecipa-439, University of Toronto, Department of Economics. - 30 pages

Session 5 - Present Data - Societ Industry and Marshall Plan (~50 pages) (February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

**The Accursed Share** - Georges Bataille - Soviet Industrialization, The Marshall Plan ~50 pages

**Economy and the Future: A Crisis of Faith.** Dupuy, Jean-Pierre. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 2012. Chapter 1 (20 pages) (Chapter 3 optional)

Bau, Natalie. 2021. "**Can Policy Change Culture?** Government Pension Plans and Traditional Kinship Practices." *American Economic Review*, 111 (6): 1880-1917. DOI: 10.1257/aer.20190098 -

(Do not worry too much about the methodology, focus on the cases and the overviews as well as additional results and conclusion, which are most relevant for our purposes)

**Solar Politics** - Oxana Timofeeva - Chapter 3, Conclusion (79-122) ~40 pages

**Industrialisation of the country and the Right Deviation in the C.P.S.U.(B.) - Stalin's  
Speech 1928 ~24 pages**

*\*Volume II and III syllabus forthcoming*