

Haraway Bookshelf/ Carrier Bag Theory and Practice

1. Ergo-feminism d. Octavia Butler: Xenogenesis

29.05.22

West Den Haag (Hybrid)

<http://westdenhaag.nl/Harawiki/>

Fiction as philosophy

- Return to rhetoric and dialog (re-socratic)
 - Welcoming, beguiling, fascinating, feinting vs. Scientific exposé
 - Embodied and sociated subjects which exist in empathy / pathology
- Myth and allegory
 - Worldbuilding / legend / story (as opposed to argument) the strength of the argument is in its “humanity”
- Subjective / subjected politics
 - Ironically “escapist literature” issues a politics of no exit.

Human Being

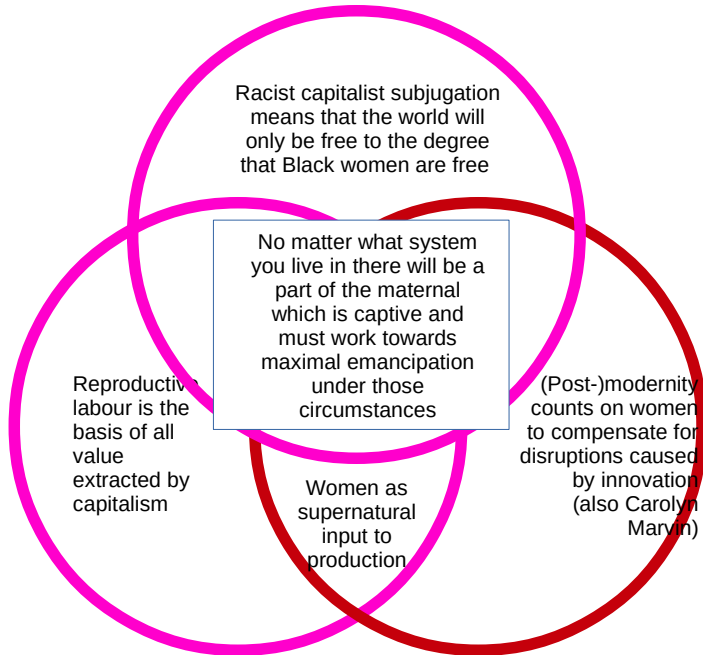
- Human being + rapid technological development = trouble
 - The apocalypse has already happened - It begins with literacy
 - It is too late to be anthropo-conservative
 - Human hierarchical tendency + scientific power = disaster
- Transhumanist horizons
 - We have already altered our bodies “unnaturally”, and have rendered our habitat almost unlivable. The appropriate response would be to attempt to adapt to ourselves in this sense and intensify alterations in our bodies to make them more adaptable and more survivable... ut
 - What makes us “human”, our limits, our symbiosis with the planet, can these be transgressed without us becoming alien to ourselves. “inhuman”?

Xenogenesis

- The Ship: Technosymbiosis
 - The “correct way” to technological development is not top-down but “through”, exchange or “trade” within a material mesh which does not distinguish between “species” or even between life and non-life,
 - Trade and trade-off
 - Organisms are assembly of other material valencies and are also themselves valences of macro-level beingnesses
- Ooloi – the “3rd sex”, queer genetic engineers – towards greater diversity
- Oankali -wish to “trade”/synthesize with humans as vital to their (and human) survival.

Schwartz-Cohen ⇔ Federici

⇔ James



Intensification of capitalist exploitation preys on social reproduction and forces it to reorganize/compensate for each innovation of extraction. This new compensation strategy is subsequently subject to extraction

Butler – imagination/
Einbildungskraft

Feminist + post-feminist
- strong and autonomous female characters, often trapped in inescapable exploitative circumstances, but not always by patriarchy/capitalism, and not through their weakness or empathy, but in a way that is entirely also shared by masculinity as well.

It is human to be subject to circumstances beyond one's control. It is human to empathize whether this is reciprocated or not – it is human to surrender and survive. Humanity is just a part of something bigger.

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CET

14:00-14:30 introduction

14:30-15:30 reading

15:30-16:00 discussion

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