

HARAWAY CIRCLE #9

primate visions

Baruch Gottlieb
West Den Haag (online)
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"...natural sciences, like human sciences, are inextricably within the processes that give them birth. And so, like the human sciences, the natural sciences are culturally and historically specific, modified, involved. They matter to real people. It makes sense to ask what stakes, methods, and kinds of authority are involved in natural scientific accounts, how they differ, for example, from religion or ethnography. It does not make sense to ask for a form of authority that escapes the web of the highly productive cultural fields that make the accounts possible in the first place. The detached eye of objective science is an ideological fiction, and a powerful one. But it is a fiction that hides—and is designed to hide—how the powerful discourses of the natural sciences really work. Again, the limits are productive, not reductive and invalidating."

DH Primate Visions “Primateology is Simian Orientalism”

“Conventions within the narrative field of SF seem to require readers radically to rewrite stories in the act of reading them. My placing this account of primatology within SF—the narratives of speculative fiction and scientific fact—is an invitation for the readers of *Primate Visions*—historians, culture critics, feminists, anthropologists, biologists, anti-racists, and nature lovers—to remap the borderlands between nature and culture. I want the readers to find an “elsewhere” from which to envision a different and less hostile order of relationships among people, animals, technologies, and land. Like the actors in the stories that follow, I also want to set new terms for the traffic between what we have come to know historically as nature and culture.”

- DH *Primate Visions* “Reading on the Borderlands”

“My story must listen to the practices of interpretation of the primate order in which the primates themselves—monkeys, apes, and people—all have some kind of “authorship.”

- DH Primate Visions “Four Temptations”

“I am not interested in policing the boundaries between nature and culture—quite the opposite, I am edified by the traffic [...]

The argument in *Primate Visions* works by telling and retelling stories in the attempt to shift the webs of intertextuality and to facilitate perhaps new possibilities for the meanings of difference, reproduction, and survival for specifically located members of the primate order—on both sides of the bio-political and cultural divide between human and animal.”

- DH *Primate Visions* “on Xenogenesis”

Primate – Simian – Ape – Chimp – Monkey

Reproduction:

Nature = Woman (industrialization)

Natural resources / sustainability, survival of the species (anthrosupremacy)

Social ordering:

Control --> psychology (stress management) --> division of labour (patriarcho-capitalism)

Colonialism/Racism --> the ultimate other

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Intro: 1400-1430
Reading 1430-1530
Discussion 1530-...

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