Critique of Digital Reason:
Toward a Method of Thinking Otherwise

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Dualism lies at the heart of life. It should not then be surprising that given the chance to build the ultimate machine, we based it on zeros and ones. – Peter Lurie

The fundamental faith of the metaphysicians is the faith in opposite values. – Friedrich Nietzsche
Network Idealism
  Techno-utopia
  Freedom
  Opportunity
  Growth

Naïve Realism
  Techno-dystopia
  Surveillance
  Security
  Loss of Reality
“Normal science” means research firmly based upon one or more past scientific achievements, achievements that some particular scientific community acknowledges for a time as supplying the foundation for its further practice.
The question, then, is not whether to deal with dichotomies but how to deal with them. – Peter Elbow

1. Either/Or
2. Balance
3. Dialectic
4. Poststructuralism
The universe is not dialectical: it moves toward the extremes, and not towards equilibrium. – Jean Baudrillard
Balance

Μηδεν Αγαν [Nothing in Excess]. – Delphic Oracle
The history of the term "dialectic" would by itself constitute a considerable history of philosophy. – Barbara Cassin
Our age, whether through logic or epistemology, whether through Marx or through Nietzsche, is attempting to flee Hegel. – Michel Foucault

Non-Dialectical Third Term
The point is not simply that truth and reality have been absorbed by illusion and appearance. Something far more subtle and unsettling is taking place. Somewhere Nietzsche suggests that when reality is effaced, appearances disappear as well. What emerges in the wake of the death of oppositions like truth/illusion and reality/appearance is something that is neither truth nor illusion, reality nor appearance but something else, something other. This other is as yet unnamed. – Mark Taylor
We invoke one dualism only in order to challenge another… Each time, mental correctives are necessary to undo the dualisms we had no wish to construct but through which we pass. – Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari
1. Epistemological

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network Idealism</th>
<th>Naïve Realism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Information Haves</td>
<td>Information Have-nots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Techno-Utopia</td>
<td>Techno-Dystopia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual Community</td>
<td>Asocial Alienation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyborg/Posthuman</td>
<td>Dehumanization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empowerment</td>
<td>Surveillance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Epistemological
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2. Metaphysical

**Theuth:** My invention will make the Egyptians wiser and will improve their memories; for it is a drug of memory and wisdom that I have discovered.

**Thamus:** This invention will produce forgetfulness in the minds of those who learn to use it, because they will not practice their memory. You have invented a drug not of memory, but of reminding; and you offer your pupils the external appearance of wisdom, not true wisdom.
Most persons are surprised, and many distressed, to learn that essentially the same objections commonly urged today against computers were urged by Plato in the *Phaedrus* and in the *Seventh Letter* against writing.
As long as the understanding of a new technology conforms to this "normal" arrangement, one already knows what debates are possible, what questions should be asked of it, and what answers will count as appropriate.
3. Ethical

To do justice to this necessity is to recognize that in a classical philosophical opposition we are not dealing with the peaceful coexistence of a vis-à-vis, but rather with a violent hierarchy. One of the two terms governs the other, or has the upper hand. – Jacques Derrida
And God brought a trance upon Adam, and he slept, and he took one of his ribs, and filled up the flesh instead thereof. And God formed the rib which he took from Adam in to a woman, and brought her to Adam. And Adam said, This now is bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman because she was taken out of her husband. – Genesis II:21-23
Certain dualisms have been persistent in Western traditions; they have been systemic to the logics and practices of domination of women, people of color, nature, workers, animals—in short, domination of all constituted others, whose task it is to mirror the self. Chief among these troubling dualisms are self/other, mind/body, culture/nature, male/female, civilized/primitive, reality/appearance, whole/part, agent/resource, maker/made, active/passive, right/wrong, truth/illusion, total/partial, God/man.
The End

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