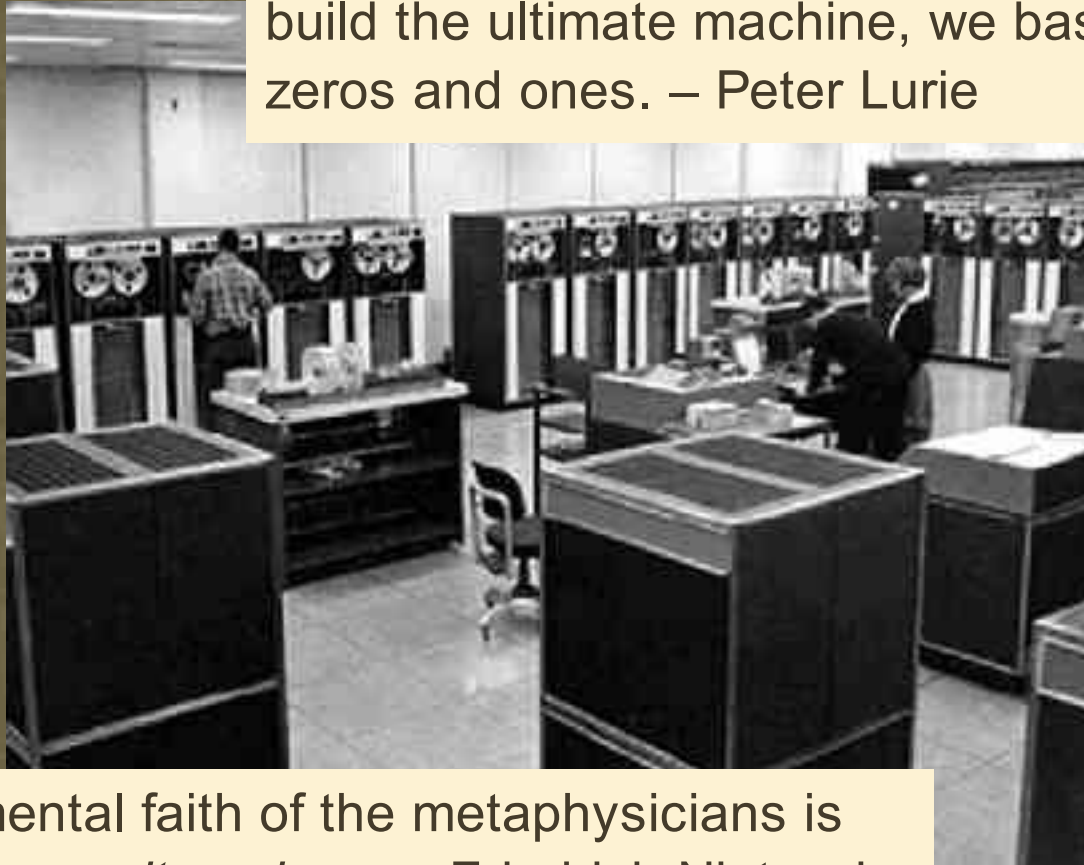


Critique of Digital Reason:

Toward a Method of Thinking Otherwise

David J. Gunkel
Northern Illinois University
dgunkel@niu.edu

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

The background image is the cover of the book 'Virtual Reality' by Mark Lane. The title 'VIRTUAL REALISM' is printed in large, white, sans-serif capital letters on a black background at the top and bottom. The central part of the cover features a blue and yellow wavy, liquid-like pattern. In the center, there is a black rectangular frame containing a silhouette of a person wearing a headset and holding a controller. To the right of the frame, the author's name 'MARK LANE' is visible in red.

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

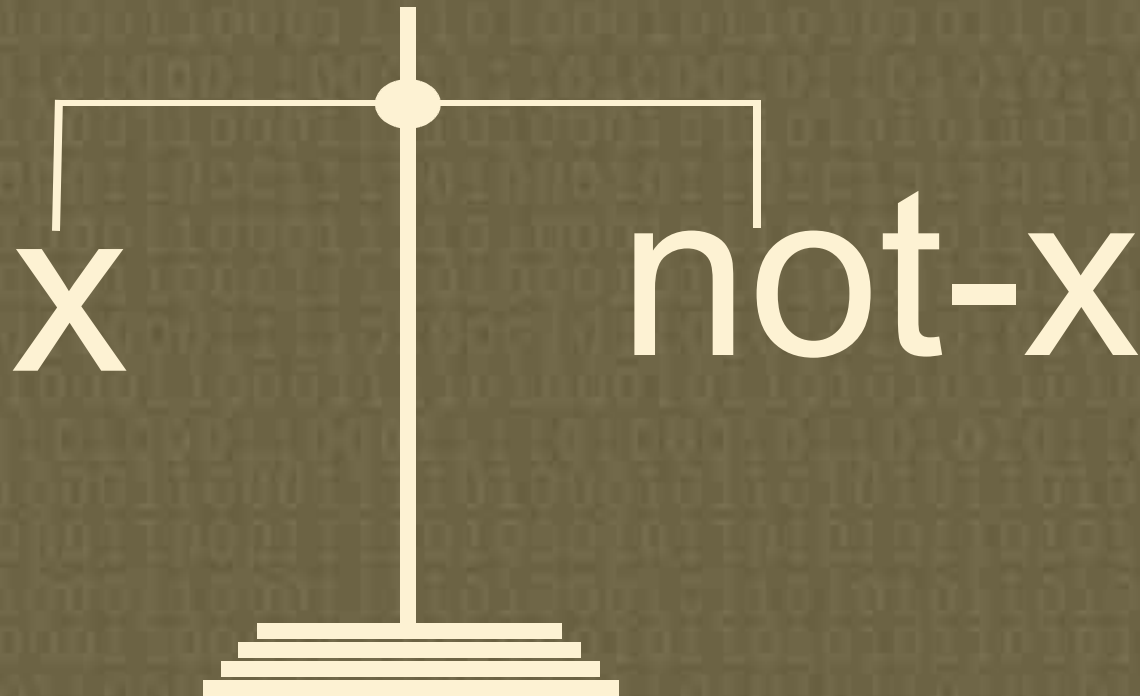
1. Either/Or
2. Balance
3. Dialectic
4. Poststructuralism

Either/Or

x | not-x

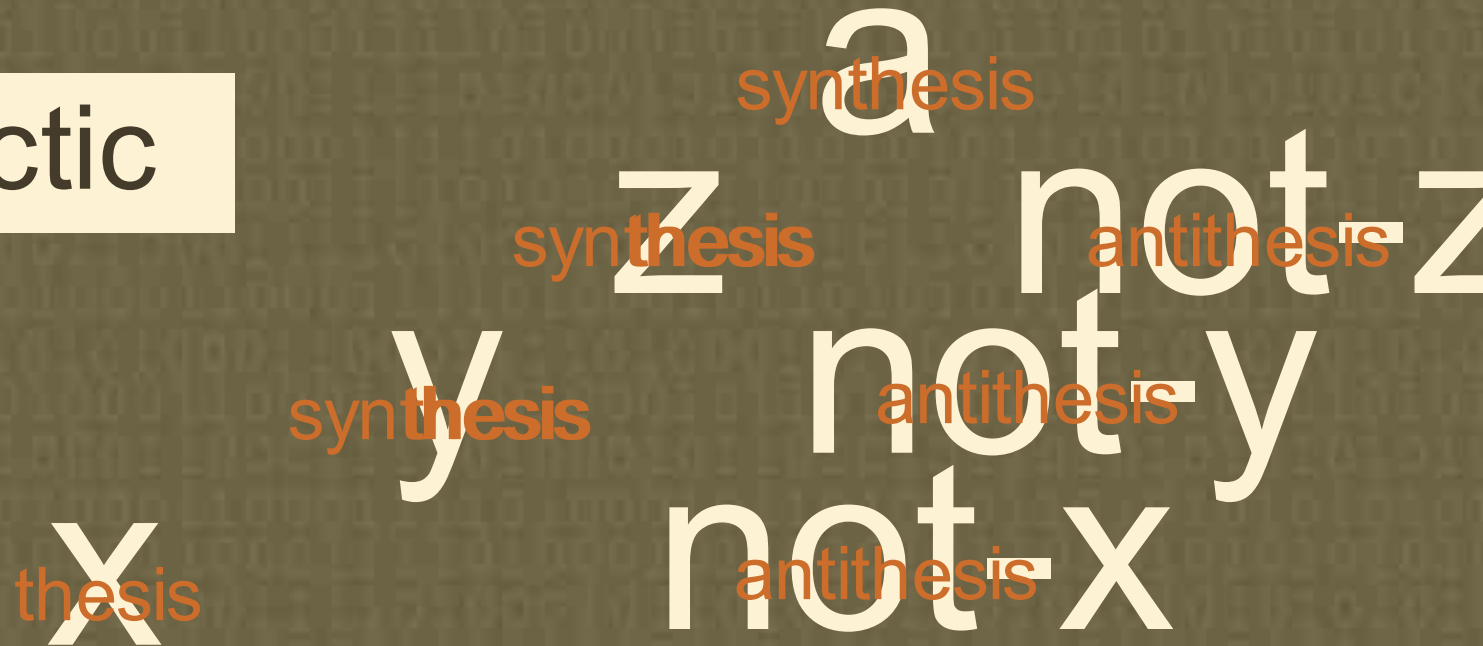
The universe is not dialectical: it moves toward the extremes, and not towards equilibrium. – Jean Baudrillard

Balance



Μηδεν Αγαν [Nothing in Excess]. – Delphic Oracle

Dialectic



The history of the term "dialectic" would by itself constitute a considerable history of philosophy. – Barbara Cassin

Poststructuralism

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. Some-where 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

Our age, whether through logic or epistemology, whether through Marx or through Nietzsche, is attempting to flee Hegel. — Michel Foucault

Questions

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

Network Idealism

Naïve Realism

Information Haves

Information Have-nots

Techno-Utopia

Techno-Dystopia

Virtual Community

Asocial Alienation

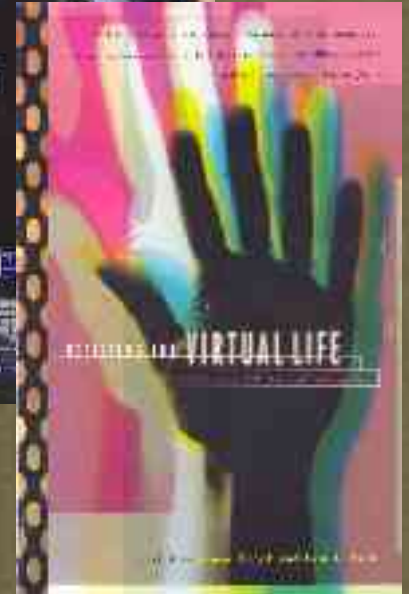
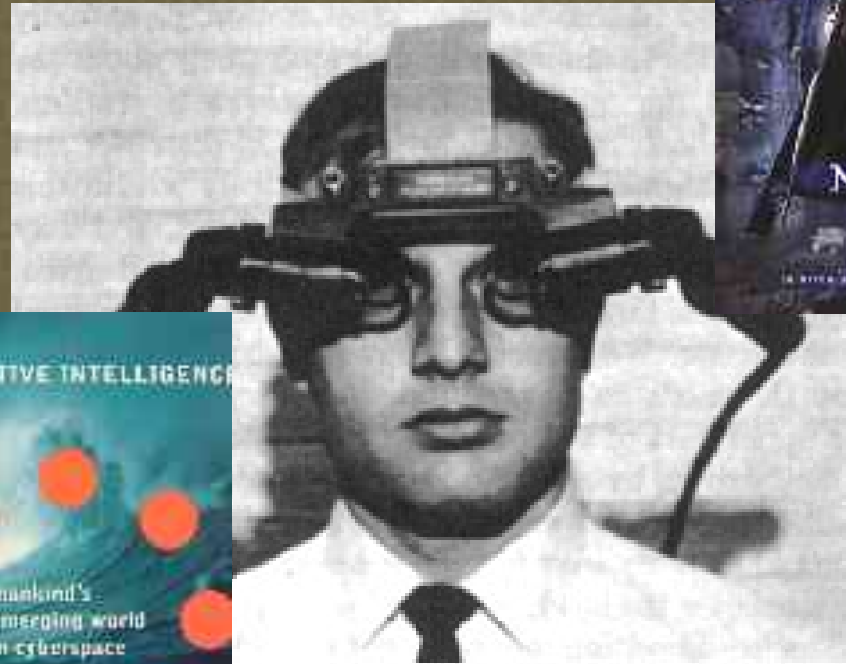
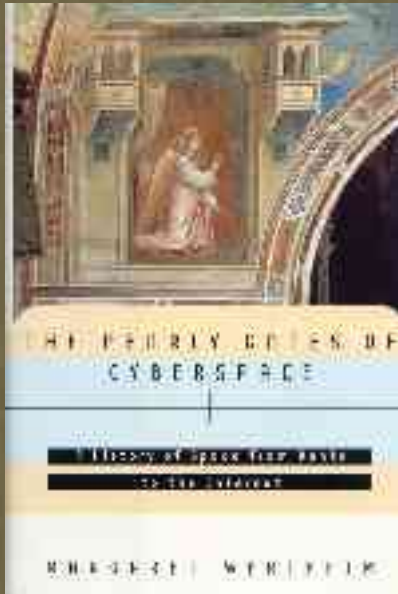
Cyborg/Posthuman

Dehumanization

Empowerment

Surveillance

1. Epistemological



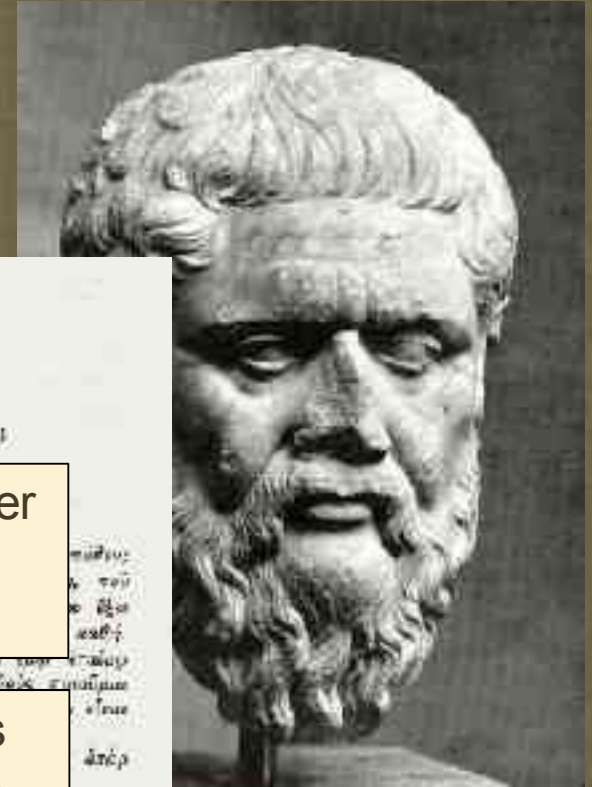
1. Epistemological



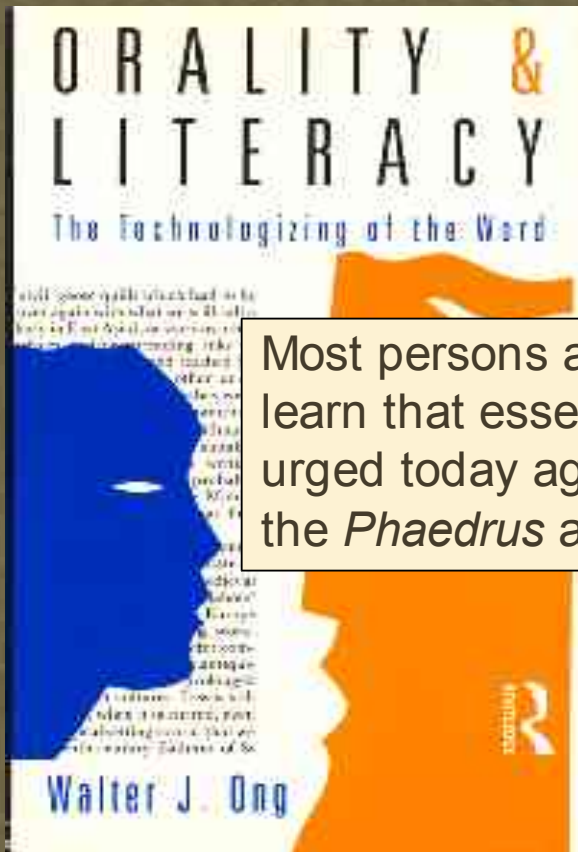
2. Metaphysical

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.

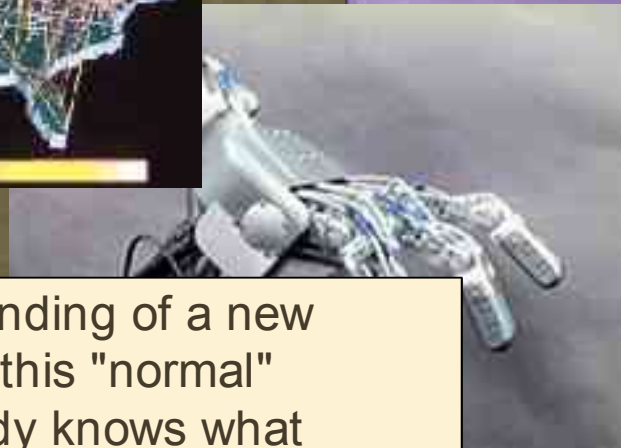
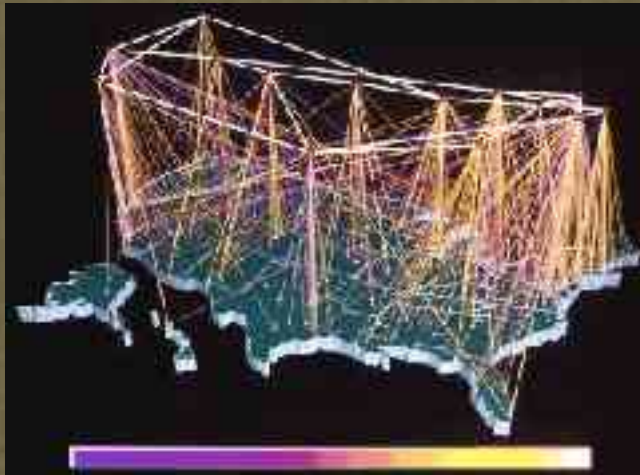


2. Metaphysical



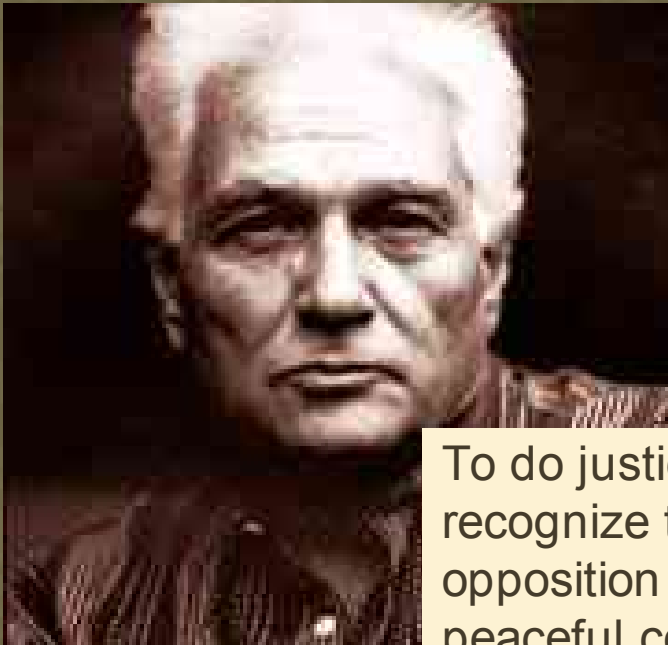
Most persons are surprised, and many distressed, to learn that essentially the same objections commonly urged today against computers were urged by Plato in the *Phaedrus* and in the *Seventh Letter* against writing.

2. Metaphysical



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.

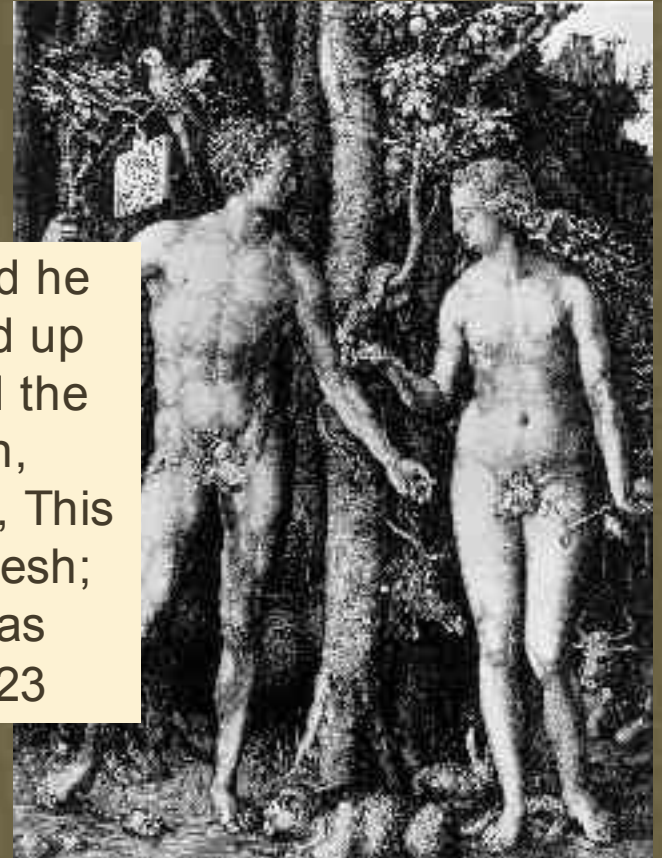
3. Ethical



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

3. Ethical

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



3. Ethical

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.

Donna J. Haraway



Simians, Cyborgs, and Women
The Reinvention of Nature

The End

David J. Gunkel
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