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April 30, 2020

**Week 11: Queer Coal and Uncanny Inheritances (30.4.2020)**

*Inheritances, fossil fuels, transversal solidarities, the inhuman; anthropocene*

**Discussion question:**

**6.    How does Yusoff’s account of coal change the conception of the Anthropocene?**

Fossil fuels, coal in this case, is a heritage from the plant debris of previous geologic eras produced by geological processes of millions of years by the years of the continuous circle of life and death on Earth. It is as if Earth was accumulating its geologic force that later humans extracted/extracated and burned up released from underground exposing what lies under surface. Yusoff identifies geologic force/ life as a new power that is both intertwined with and going beyond the social field. Geologic is a matter or a materiality that became socialized and challenged the social relations and relations of power within the Antropocene (Yusoff, 2015, p. 205).

Extraction of raw material from the underground always opens up new potentialities within Anthropocene: the extracted raw matter is redeveloped to produce things useful and deadly! for human health and life). But it also produces black lung, and environmental pollution…

Geologic forces in the form of fossil fuel mix in with “personal-political subjectivities” (Yusoff, 2015, p. 204) and create other / new forms of social interactions, the possibilities for new solidarities such as “queer and minoritarian support for the British coal miners” (Yusoff, 2015, p. 204). In this form of mixing and solidarity and actions coal mines become the “geosocial arrangements” (Yusoff, 2015, p. 226) that force the development of more powerful machines and creating new modes of coexistence and co-working, creating social bonds and solidarity between those who work underground and those staying above. Thus a mine may become a field of political resistance and expression of a collective interest).

However, the underground geologic materiality not only impacted the social field, not only raised new solidarities and activism, but also on the organic level was made by humans unintentionally to penetrate the human body. Coal miners carry the coal inside their bodies, in the form of ‘blue tatoos’, black lung…. The paradox is that they earn their living or live through coal mining and die early also under its impact. Same as the extraction of coal allowed for the rapid development of heavy and energy industries, improving the lives of millions of people and at the same time its burning caused severe air pollution, slowly killing humans and non-human creatures and plants. The underground geopower released from underground proved to be dangerous for those who set it free (Yusoff, 2015).

You do not really answer how this changes the conception of the Anthropocene beyond a physical geomarker…

2nde question?

Work cited:

Yusoff, K. (2015). Queer coal: Genealogies in/of the blood, *philoSophia* 5(2): 203-229.