

IMAGINE THE FUTURE OF MONEY

D.J. Roio, M. Sachy

Economies of the Commons 2, Amsterdam

November 2010

PRE-CAPITALISM

Pre-capitalist modes of production:

- Subjectivity is inseparable from its collective social conditions
- Reproduction of a social relation is also reproduction of a particular form of subjectivity
- The subject is embedded in cultural, technical and political conditions of work

These conditions are what Deleuze and Guattari call **codes**.

Codes can be thought of as tradition, or prescriptions and rules bearing on the production and distribution of goods, prestige and desire.

As such they are inseparable from a particular relation to the past, a relation of repetition.

CAPITALISM

The presupposition of Capitalism is the encounter between a multitude of individuals who have their labor power to sell and a flow of money free to purchase labor power.

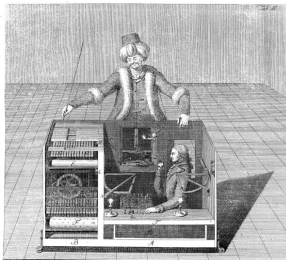
In each case the constitution of these two flows, of bodies and money, presupposes the **breakdown of codes**.

Capitalism functions by setting up **quantitative relation** between the two flows, labor and capital, establishing as **axioms** the equivalence between a particular amount of labor time and a particular amount of money.

“Capital, being a benevolent despot, appears to permit freedom of thought, for thought is barely able to compromise its power.”¹

¹Philip Goodchild

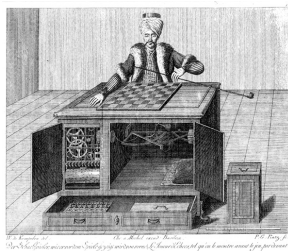
MAELZEL'S CHESS PLAYER



“Yet the question of its modus operandi is still undetermined. Nothing has been written on this topic which can be considered as decisive — and accordingly we find every where men of mechanical genius, of great general acuteness, and discriminative understanding, who make no scruple in pronouncing the Automaton a pure machine, unconnected with human agency in its movements, and consequently, beyond all comparison, the most astonishing of the inventions of mankind.”²

²Poe, 1836

VON KEMPELEN'S MECHANICAL TURK



On an autumn day in 1769, a Hungarian nobleman, Wolfgang von Kempelen, was summoned to witness a conjuring show at the imperial court of Maria Theresa, empress of Austria-Hungary. So unimpressed was Kempelen by what he saw that he impetuously declared that he could do better himself. The following year Kempelen presented a mechanic man sitting behind a table: fashioned from wood, powered by clockwork, and dressed in a Turkish costume, it was capable of playing chess.

AMAZON'S M-TURKS



- artificial artificial life
- humans are behind pseudo-automation
- repetitive tasks that will be automated in future

But in future...

... central banks in their present form would no longer exist; nor would money... The successors to Bill Gates could put the successors to Alan Greenspan out of business.³

³Mervyn King

POST-CAPITALISM

Challenges:

- Reterritorialize and recontextualize labor and wealth
- Recode the various practices and desires constitutive of the society
- Convert economy from a network of quantitative axiomatic equations to systems of qualitative relations that reproduce subjectivity

The semantic nucleus (Sinn) of the word "Economy" has remained almost invariant and that has permitted to extend the word to new denotations. This phenomenon is somehow similar to what has happened in our days to the term Enterprise which, with the consensus of the majority of interested subjects, has been extended to contexts indicated by the term University, which originally had nothing to do with it.⁴

⁴Agamben, 2007

RECLAIM THE MEDIA: RECLAIM THE MONEY

*We can't imagine to enter the Information Age without changing the fundamental and most used communication tool: **Money**.*⁵

- Imagine the Future of Money

DYNDY

Tools, practices and experiences for the conceptualization, development and deployment of alternative and complementary currencies.

Developing further on the experience of LETS, ROCS, WIR, STRO, C3 and Bitcoin, VODO, Flattr, networking community values following the ethics of the Free Software Movement (digital) and Transition Towns (analog).

⁵Bernard Lietaer, 2005

INTERNET OF THINGS MEANS FREEDOM



FIGURE: Photo by Aram Bartholl

Dead Drops ... ?