

On the indeterminacy of transdisciplinary practices

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Aim of this presentation is to address the problem of transdisciplinarity, the 'milieu' between what the science philosopher Isabelle Stengers calls the "non consensual, active diverging worlds" of heterogeneous disciplines, in terms of forms of knowledge which are the more and more bound to a dimension of uncertain transition.

I will address this issue by reflecting on the critical role that the middle between heterogeneous practices assumes. In particular the fact that the question of the divergence between various practices is intimately connected with different habits of each practitioner and with a divergent affective basis arising from the everyday practice of each technique.

Furthermore, I will reflect onto the concept of information, onto its metastable and resonant conditions (in direct reference to the theory of the French epistemologist Gilbert Simondon) as well as the more abstract question of production of heterogeneity – i.e. the production of the different from the point of view of the different. I will subsequently translate these theoretical insights into pragmatic questions concerning the level of subjectivity as a productive and produced condition.

This panoramic description leads back to the initial issue concerning the specific conditions of an epistemological practice. I will argue that this problem is both a biopolitical - on the microscopic level of gathering together a series of different human and nonhuman forces - and cosmopolitical (according to Stengers definition) - in regard to the more macroscopic level of considering different constituted entities (the practice itself, its location and its conditions of formation).

I will conclude by addressing some "field" examples of forms of knowledge in transition, deriving from current research in physics and artistic practices; the question of the transversal relation between the above more theoretical considerations and specific contemporary operative conditions is thereby put into straightforward test.