

Preface and Overview of *Life, War, Earth: Deleuze and the Sciences* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013).

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Preface

This book is based on work produced from 2008 to 2012, that is, during and after work on Political Affect (2009). That book in turn builds on the theoretical background established in Political Physics (2001), Deleuze and Geophilosophy (Bonta and Protevi 2004). I will recapitulate some of that background in the first section of the Introduction to this book, but readers interested in more full explications of the ideas should consult the earlier works.

Many of the chapters presented here were written as independent pieces for journals or essay collections; others were delivered as talks but not published. I have reworked all the pieces to reduce repetition, to refine formulations, to establish a consistent vocabulary, and to introduce cross-references. The most important of these moves is to present in the first section of the Introduction a sketch of Deleuze's ontology, which is invoked in all the pieces. Despite the reworking, the level of the formality of presentation -- and perhaps, though I hope not too much, the rigor of the argument -- will vary in relation to the genesis of the chapter.

My approach is highly speculative, but I hope the concepts are empirically responsible. That is, in sketching the interlocking dimensions of the various

multi-hyphenated multiplicities I invoke (the "geo-hydro-solar-bio-techno-political"), I pay close attention to the earth, life, and cognitive sciences.

However, I do not try to intervene in specialist debates, so the references will sometimes be to syntheses and overviews rather than to specialist contributions.

I hope that the book will serve to introduce scientifically minded philosophers and philosophically minded scientists to the benefits of a Deleuzian approach, and to introduce Deleuzians to the possibilities of linking his thought to that of some of the most interesting and important of the contemporary sciences.

Overview of the Book

In concluding this first section of the Introduction, I will only provide brief sketches of the individual chapters, but since each one begins with a forecast of its contents, a more detailed sense of the book's trajectory can be gained by consulting them. Although the occasional nature of the work whence the chapters come prevents any clean narrative overview linking the chapters, I can provide some orienting remarks. In basic overview, the book sets up its theoretical background in this first section of the Introduction and then exemplifies it in the second section of the Introduction, by means of a reading of the work of Francisco Varela in terms of "bodies politic." Then in the main body of the book, I show the way in which a Deleuzian approach can be articulated with various practices and theoretical reflections: in Part I, war and military training; in Part II, the 4EA approach to cognitive science; and in Part II, new approaches in biology.

Part I has three chapters. In the first chapter I look to historical research on ancient political economy in the Aegean to sketch a geo-hydro-solar-bio-techno-political multiplicity linking solar, water, and wind energy to the warship and merchant ship; the difference in the daily travel capacity of these ships leads the 5th century Athenians to empire. In Chapter 2 I focus on the way modern military training enables the act of killing in combat in a way that can come back to haunt, psycho-physiologically, returning soldiers; the dimensions of the multiplicity here are distance, teamwork, command, and mechanical intermediaries as they intersect the psycho-neuro-physiological makeup of soldiers. Chapter 3 returns to the ancient Eastern Mediterranean and brings together the geopolitical focus of the first with the neuro-physiological focus of the second for a fuller account of the multiple supra-subjective (geopolitical), adjunct-subjective (the technical), and the sub-subjective (neuro-physiological) dimensions of the warfare multiplicity.

The four chapters of Part II examine the 4EA approach ("embodied, embedded, enactive, extended, affective") to cognitive science. In Chapter 4, I develop a Deleuzian-motivated "dynamic interactionist" account of the notion of socially mediated neuroplasticity in Bruce Wexler's fascinating study, Brain and Culture (2006). Chapters 5 and 6 are linked treatments of aspects of the "political economy of consciousness." In Chapter 5 I examine situations in which the effects of consciousness are attenuated or rendered superfluous in the economy of political action. In Chapter 6, on the "granularity problem," I look at the way in which the production of the large-scale patterns of individual consciousness can often be analyzed in terms of subjectification practices that are tied to political economy. Chapter 7, "Adding Deleuze to the Mix," was written as an article for

the specialist journal Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences; it makes the case that Deleuze's ontology can help with questions about the ontological status of perceptual capacities and exercise, as well as help deal with the realism / idealism debate.

Finally, the three chapters of Part III deal with Deleuze and certain new currents in biology that occupy the intersection among the Developmental Systems Theory of Susan Oyama and colleagues, the enactive approach of Francisco Varela and colleagues, and the "eco-devo-evo" approach of Mary Jane West-Eberhard. Chapters 8 and 9 prepare the ground for, and then plunge into relation of Deleuze's (bio-) panpsychism and the "mind in life" position of Evan Thompson (2007), while Chapter 10 relates two key concepts of West-Eberhard (2003), unexpressed genetic variation and genetic accommodation, to Deleuze's notions of the virtual and counter-actualization.

The main idea of the book is to show how Deleuze's conceptual framework enables us to bring scientifically minded philosophers and philosophically minded scientists -- as well as analytic and continental philosophers -- into dialogue. There are overlapping themes of affect and of "difference and development," to disabuse us of the customary focus on the rational male adult subject. The book follows Political Affect in concentrating on the interplay of the supra-subjective, adjunct-subjective, and sub-subjective, following the slogan "above, below and alongside the subject." That is, in its counter-effectuating analyses of differentiated event tokens to reveal the multiplicity or differentiated event types, it moves above the subject to the geopolitical, below the subject to the neuro-physiological, and alongside the subject to the social-technical. It similarly follows Political Affect in

distinguishing three temporal scales, the evolutionary, the developmental, and the behavioral, as well as three compositional scales for "bodies politic": the civic, the somatic, and the "evental." From the Deleuzean perspective, the patterns, triggers, and thresholds of affective cognitive dispositions are produced via trans-generational subjectification practices that are the intensive individuation processes of a social-neural-somatic multiplicity. Thus the social and the somatic are not synchronic opposites, but are linked in a spiraling diachronic interweaving at three temporal scales, the long-term phylogenetic, the mid-term ontogenetic, and the short-term behavioral.