



GÖTEBORGS UNIVERSITET

Ecologies of Practices and Thinking

av

Elke Marhöfer

Akademisk avhandling

som med tillstånd av Konstnärliga fakulteten vid
Göteborgs universitet för vinnande av konstnärlig
doktorsexamen i ämnet fri konst
framläggs till offentlig granskning

Torsdagen den 17 december 2015 kl. 13.30
i Glashuset, Akademin Valand,
Chalmersgatan 4, Göteborg

Fakultetsopponent:

Silke Panse, docent i film, fri konst och filosofi, School of
Fine Art, University for the Creative Arts, Canterbury

Visning av de fyra i avhandlingen ingående filmerna sker:

Onsdag 16 december kl 18:00, Bio Valand, Storgatan 43. Göteborg:

1 *No, I am not a Toad, I am a Turtle!*

Torsdag 17 december kl 10:00, Biograf Göta 3, Götaplatsen, Göteborg:

2 *prendas — ngangas — enquisos — machines {each part welcomes the
other without saying}*

3 *Nobody knows, when it was made and why*

4 *Shape Shifting*

Abstract

Title: Ecologies of Practises and Thinking

Language: English

Keywords: new materialism, film, image, matter, nonhuman, more-than-human, other-than-human, ecology, practices, agriculture, otherness, storytelling, enunciation, post-colonialism, post-context, post-history, becoming with, seeing together, lines of flight, modes, animals, plants, things, territories, multiplicities, chaos, expressive continuum, relational aesthetics, animism, radical empiricism, Baruch Spinoza, Gilles Deleuze, Félix Guattari, Isabelle Stengers, Donna Haraway, Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, Erin Manning, Brian Massumi, Danièle Huillet, Jean Marie Straub

ISBN: 978-91-982422-2-5 Printed version

ISBN: 978-91-982422-3-2 PDF version

How does a new materialist film practice look? To approach this question the practice-led material driven research explores dynamic ecological relations and processes of thinking and practicing. It employs an *animist methodology* which allows it to relate to the nonhuman as an active participant, rather than a passive object of inquiry. The approach intensifies affinities and bonds with the other-than-human, and activates a path into materiality and knowledge production different from humanfocused epistemologies. Forming particular connections with matter and situating oneself within specific and relations, the project mobilizes and is mobilized by affects, percepts and sensations of the more-thanhumans. The first chapter inquires into inherited scientific, technological, social-political and philosophical epistemologies often based on colonial and anthropocentric presumptions and mappings of the world. However, the research does not strive to rewrite or reclaim a certain history, identity or a place, it instead outlines concepts like *becoming* or *lines of flight* that pass through these legacies, building more complex and fruitful temporalities, interrelations and geographies. The writing often collaborates with Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, as their philosophy explicitly acknowledges inhuman forces and ambiguous ontologies. In the second chapter the focus moves towards processes, when individuals become multiplicities, when animals, plants and things are endowed with inhuman force or personhood, when matter is enthusiastic and territories are not just static backgrounds. From here the research literally travels. It travels with specific singularities and their material based practices — an entire ecology of practice often building innumerable interconnections and even landscapes. Situating itself within the ecological relational field, the research project explores methodologies of collaboration and becoming with the more-thanhuman practiced by sorcerers and fabulists from Cuba and South Korea, and by farmers from China, Burkina Faso and Japan.