

Queering Damage

A methodology for queering damage.

A methodology for partial reparation ... or not.

A methodology for holding damage.

A methodology or not.

Queering Damage - workshop, Barcelona, October 2018

<https://queeringdamage.hangar.org>

Alchorisma - worksession, Hasselt, December 2018

<http://constantvzw.org/site/-Alchorisma,217-.html>

Constallations, Paris-Brussels, 2019

<https://constallations.hotglue.me/?QueerAnalytics>

Collective Conditions - worksession, Brussels,

November 2019 <http://constantvzw.org/site/-Collective-Conditions,220-.html>

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Queering Damage

Queering Damage invites us to wonder together about the potential of microbial, animal, plant, mineral, cosmological technoscience, to situate ourselves in these mundane and alluring scenes, to consider these labours and imagine a collective life otherwise. It asks us to ponder the possibilities and limitations of informatics and to take seriously the affective forces of nonhuman animals and machines.

How might we extend queer theories that concern personal injury, into more-than-human ensembles, in order to consider the damages shared by humans and nonhumans?

How can we generate ways that take us beyond reparative narratives or benevolent utopianism towards more-than-human life?

Warnings

Queering Damage is an operative analytic that:

- Provides a framework to write accounts of damages AND a framework to write accounts of damage after (queer) reparations, or not ...
- These accounts demand attention to the deep entanglements or implicancies of damage, particularly to its effects and affects. It attends to consequences that may happen, have happened, might happen again.

- The implicancies are considered with a recognition of their entanglement with spacetime and beings.
- Human and nonhumans are recognised as agencies within these operations, yet are held as elements of each other.
- The operations consider how so-called bodies might emerge as so-called humans. These becomings are not not pre-determined by historical conditions, however there are open to interventions, undoings and unmakings.
- Although Queering Damage notes agencies, it recognises that their capacities are interruptable, and not stable.
- This analytic allows to include further damages at the point of repair or reparation which are not to be excluded from the account.
- It considers the interventions that make transitions between conditions happen, whether reparative or not. There is a need to recognise that movement between conditions is not unidirectional but that these transitions might cause harms and damages themselves. Although reversal might be possible, it is not a-historical.

How do Queer Analytics operate?

This analytic develops an ethics from damages rather than from so-called individual body boundaries, whilst keeping the damages of lived experience firmly present.

The framework operates upon the damages through:

- **a series of questions**, through which orientations might shift and a complex account of damages can be generated.
- **notations of the effects and affects** on human, nonhuman, inhuman and fictions.
- operations can also be used to **imagine the possible undoings or interventions** on a condition such as love, protection etc. etc.

Queering Damage

operation n: Attunement

open the room, break the flow, get into the flow, feel the ground, attune to the environment, find the courage, feel the urgency,

operation n: Situation

damage: to widen the notion of damage and identify its conditions and surrounding. Pain, suffering, injury, uselessness, unrevoerability, unreparability, homophobia, racism, ageism, ableims, specism, classism, exclusions, inclusions,
queering: non-identitary, non-essentialist, non-fixed lives → trans*feminist approaches // intersectional, not-only-human, antinormative, affirmative, (partial)
reparation: perhaps that we can have some partial

hopes to repair some damages but not others, or to live with damage in ways that give comfort and care. A basic gesture of trying to organize a togetherness that counts.

queering methodologies: how can we, as Octavia Butler might say, 'uphold a politics of queer survival'?

analytics (discovery, interpretation, and communication of meaningful patterns in data): a post-positive move. It is urgent to reclaim analytics in non profit experiments. Reclaim analytics as the practice of cutting complexity together apart. Take on both the injuries caused by analytics and also to take on how we might invent/generate/build on an analytics for trans*feminist work that stays with damage.

operation n: Bringing damages

Bring one or two experiences of "damage" in the broadest sense. They don't have to be personally experienced injuries: they can be observed damages or collective ones. It can be bodily damage, community damage, environmental damage, personal injury, historical damage, public damage, fictitious damage, cultural damage, file damage, structural damage, naturalized damage, computer damage, urban damage, transgenerational damage, geopolitical damage ... etc.

operation n: Interviewing the damage

- **What** is going on here?
- **Which** are the agencies implied (alive or not, human or not, powerful or powerless)?
- **Wheres** (spatiality / situatedness / displacements / distribution)?
- **Whens** (temporality / durability / existing / extinct / repeated)?
- **Semiotic-materialities**: what signs and matters are at work in this ensemble?
- Your **entanglement** with the scene
- Can a **pattern** be identified here? To what extent is this damage structural, or singular?

→ You might want to limit the time to spend with this interviewing-the-damage process.

operation n: bibliographic resistance

See for example:

<https://queeringdamage.hangar.org/index.php/READER>

operation n: Subculturing

seriously test the (im)possibilities of being with a slime mold, spirit, stone, tree, ...

operation n: Analysis

1. Define your field of interest. Cut apart and together an area of urgency. Set the scene, through naming the fields:

∂ ∋ * ♀ ◇ ∩

2. Declare your AE, Entangled Agents (myth, technology, ...).

$$\mathcal{E} = p\text{H} + p\text{NH} + p\text{IH} + p\text{F}$$
$$\hat{\ } + \mathcal{E} \text{ (DAMAGE)}$$

3. Divide by the axioms of αe (ethics) and αK (Kapital): [dividing as a second cutting? Is this also a cutting apart together?]

αe

[formula]

αK

4. Where/when: Define the spacetime conditioning: (ephemeral, eternal, cyclic, linear, continuous, eventual, historical present, memory, extincted, dreamed, extended, distributed, dissolved, dispersed, concentrated, catalized, centrifugal, centripetal, located, situated, regional, local, global, reachable, micro, meso, macro...)

∫T

5. Talking about relations. Analyze and notate the \mathcal{E} through a consideration of its Variable Relations (Ω

repair, Δ damage, a affects, E effects, © creative force, ≠ difference)

$$\int = \hat{\ } + \iint / (x\Omega, x\Delta, xa, x\exists, x\textcircled{C}, x\neq)$$

6. Apply at least one Generative Operation for your analysis, to see what it would do. Queering operations. These are tricky, they require you to take responsibility. Define their scale:

$$>> + i + * + \# + " + \heartsuit + \textcircled{U} + \textcircled{P} + \textcircled{N} + \textcircled{U} + * + \textcircled{N}$$

7. declare your QE = qH+qNH+qIH+qF+qd, declare the reconfigured entanglement:

$$(t\Omega, t\Delta, ta, t\exists, t\textcircled{C}, t\neq)$$

8. Divide by the axioms of αe (ethics) and αK (Kapital)

αe

[the rest of the formula goes here]

αK

9. Name the other end of the equation:

QÆ (QUEERING DAMAGE OR N)

Symbols

indicators

H Human
NH Non human
IH Inhuman
F Fantasies/Imaginarities

generative operations

potentials for queering; modes of intervention:

>> remediate
^ scale timespace to n
i integrate
* multiply
speculate
" renarrate
♥ love
☹ protest
Δ resist
♣ reclaim
🌀 invent
* flip
‡ celebrate

variable relations

a declaration of the relations in your scene of damage that you are attending to:

- Ω repair
- Δ damage
- a affects
- ≡ effects
- © creative force
- ≠ difference

axioms

- αe axiom of ethics (survival, caretaking, respect, responsibility)
- αK Kapital (accumulation, acquisition, growth)

fields

- ∅ On the experience and process of damage and pain, partial reparation, loss/dispossession
- ⚡ On queer politics and methodologies, contestation, affirmation
- ✱ On contesting anthronormativities
- ♀ On bioeconomies, lively capital, accumulation
- ◇ On computation, analytics, bioinfotech
- ∞ On political fictions, poethics, figurations &/or wild fantasies, opportunities

Glossary

agencies:

anthronormativities:

bioeconomies:

dispossession:

entanglements:

figurations:

implicancies: only to be known through its implications. See: 'Deep implicancies' (Denise Ferreira Da Silva)

poethics:

semiotic-materialities:

spacetime conditioning:

technoscience:

trans*feminist: