

***Pandæmonium of the Sun* Syllabus Spring 2018**

Scott Benzel Mondays 4 to 6 A211H

Course Description

In 1957, Hugh Everett proposed that quantum mechanics, if taken literally and assumed to be physically real, describes a process in which each minute superposition of quantum states initiates a splitting of the universe into parallel copies. The resulting many-worlds theory, which postulates that this universe is one of 'countless others, constantly branching in time, all of which are real', has been fiercely debated and is becoming increasingly accepted.

Pandæmonium of the Sun, a line from Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian*, was Thomas Pynchon's off-the-cuff suggestion when asked by producers of a popular tv sitcom for a nonexistent Pynchon title to be used in an episode of the show. We will examine this and other examples of fabricated artworks including Andy Warhol's nonexistent film *White Giraffe*, referred to in the episode of *The Love Boat* in which he starred, and Ivan Albright's lurid *Painting of Dorian Gray*, commissioned for the film version of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, now hanging in the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as his identical twin Malvin Albright's 'uncorrupted' portrait of Gray, also made for the film, not hanging in the Art Institute.

This seminar course will address the ontological and epistemological issues arising from physical theories including many-worlds, decoherence, entanglement, recursion, and retrocausality, issues arising from mental or mindlike processes including the fabrication and autopoiesis of artworks, and those arising in the spaces in between, including the science fiction roots of the Dyson Sphere, the Modernist literary roots of the *Gehlenapparat* of American counterintelligence chief James Jesus Angleton and the British XX Committee, the 'Limit Journalism' of Mae Brussell, Joan Didion, and Patricia Hearst; and the interplay of art and science across generations of Huxleys, Darwins, and Galtons, and more recently across Margulis, Sagans, and others. The course will examine relationships of influence and difference between thinkers and traditions and between lineages of ancestral and intellectual descent, including relations intentionally hidden or obscured with an eye toward these relations' impact on artmaking.

Please note, the reading for this class is not as insane as it first appears. The readings listed below will be incorporated into lectures and provided for additional research. All readings are included in the PDF folder and in most cases are excerpts of longer texts. Class participants will be graded on the presentation of self selected material related to the themes of the class and a final project consisting of an essay, artwork, or dossier.

Foundational Readings Karen Barad, *Quantum Entanglements and Hauntological Relations of Inheritance-Discontinuities, SpaceTime Enfoldings, and Justice-to-Come*; David Deutsch, *The Fabric of Reality*; Francois Laruelle, *The truth according to Hermes, theorems on the secret and communication*

1. January 22 Introduction and Overview

2. January 29 Pandæmonium of the Sun, The Dyson Sphere, and KAC 8462852 . . . beware of mathematicians, and all those who make empty prophecies. St. Augustine, *De Genesi ad Litteram libri duodecim. Liber Secundus*, 17, 37.

JD Bernal, *The World, The Flesh & The Devil*, 1929

Olaf Stapledon, *Star Maker*, 1937

Freeman Dyson, "Search for Artificial Stellar Sources of Infrared Radiation" 1960

Aiôn and Chronos *For whatever is from itself is defiled life; it only makes itself. Pronoia is without wisdom. (And) that which is imminent is insensible. Eugnostos, NHC III 71,1-5*

Recursion, Decoherence, Entanglement, Symmetry, Retrocausality, an Introduction

Huw Price and Ken Wharton, *Dispelling the Quantum Spooks – a Clue that Einstein Missed?*
David Wallace, *Decoherence and Ontology*
Niklas Luhmann, *selections from Essays on self-reference*

Philosophia Perennis

Dee's Euclid and *The Hieroglyphic Monad*; Elizabeth I, 'Our Man on the Continent', and the birth of modern tradecraft; Leibniz, Benzelius, Swedenborg, *Monadology* to *Boltzmann Brain*; The Royal Societies to the SPR, MIT, SRI, et al.

Marcia Keith Scuchard, *Leibniz, Benzelius, and the Kabbalistic roots of Swedish Illuminism*
J. E. McGuire and P. M. Rattansi, *Newton and the 'Pipes of Pan', Notes and Records of the Royal Society of London, Vol. 21, No. 2*

3. February V, V for Victoria Regiens, Vrill, Tau Valentin II, Vexations, A Vision *The world is governed by very different personages from what is imagined by those who are not behind the scenes* — Benjamin Disraeli

Victoria, Byron, and Ada Lovelace; Edward Bulwer Lytton; l'affaire Taxil; *Vexations*, Paracelsus to Satie

Sadie Plant, *The Future Looms: Weaving Women and Cybernetics*
Edward Bulwer Lytton, *Vrill, the Coming Race, 1871, and Zanonii, 1842*
Tau Valentin II
Erik Satie, *Vexations, 1893–1894*
W.B. Yeats, *A Vision, 1925, excerpt*

The Perennial Philosophy in Modernity *The mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible.*
—Oscar Wilde

Lavater's *Physiognomy, 1775-1778*, illustrated by Henry Fuseli, William Sharp, and William Blake
T.H. Huxley, Francis Galton, Charles and Erasmus Darwin, et al., *Selected Works*
Maurice Maeterlinck, *The Great Secret, The Bluebird, and The Cloud that Lified*
Aldous Huxley, *The Perennial Philosophy*

Two Suns

W.E.B. Du Bois, selections from *Darkwater, 1920*
George G.M. James, *Stolen Legacy*
Marques Redd, *Astro-Black Mythology, The Poetry of Sun Ra, Esotericism in African American Religious Experience*
Donna Jones, *The Racial Discourses of Life Philosophy: Negritude, Vitalism, and Modernity*

The Uplifters

Walt Disney, H.M. Haldeman, Edwin Hubble, Julian Huxley, Aldous Huxley, and Alice/D(odgson)
L. Frank Baum, *The Uplift of Lucifer, 1915*

4. February 12 V for Valentinus, Basilius Valentinus, Valentine de Saint Point, Valentina Pavlovna *Silence, Exile, Cunning* — James Joyce

Valentinus, *fragments, c. 100 – c. 160 C.E.*
Basilius Valentinus, Michael Maier, *The Twelve Keys, 1618*
Valentine de Saint Point, *The Futurist Manifesto of Lust, 1913*
Valentina Pavlovna Wasson, *Puffballs, Filth, and Vermin; Punk, Fire and Love*

Androgyne Physical Law

Poincaré, Rose Sélavy, Suzanne Duchamp, and Physical Law; Newton, Descartes, Leibniz, Ramanujan, Crick, Kekulé, Visionary Science and Alice/D(odgson)

Linda Dalrymple Henderson, *The Image and Imagination of the Fourth Dimension in Twentieth-Century Art and Culture*

Strangeways: the XX Committee and Gerontion *Think now/History has many cunning passages, contrived corridors/And issues, deceives with whispering ambitions, Guides us by vanities.* — t. s. eliot, “Gerontion”

The XX and British popular literature; The *Gehlenapparatus* of James Jesus Angleton; the Modernist literary roots of the ‘wilderness of mirrors’ in U.S. counterintelligence

Len Scott and John Ferris, *Deception and ‘double cross’ in the Second World War*
Michael Holzman, *James Jesus Angleton, the CIA, and the Craft of Counterintelligence*
Screening, Operation Cue (1955) U.S. Federal Civil Defense Administration

February 19 No class President’s Day

5. February 26 Pandæmonium of the Sun, Mexico City, 1963 *I must soon quit the scene...* — Benjamin Franklin in a letter to George Washington, March 5, 1780, quoted in Richard Farina, *Been down so Long, It Looks like up to Me*

Richard Farina, *Been down so Long, It Looks like up to Me*
Mexico City 1963, excerpts from the *Warren Commission Report* and recently released documents
CIA Dispatch 1035 960 and Dehaven Smith’s *State Crime Against Democracy*

Moksha

Aldous Huxley, *Propaganda and Pharmacology, Downward Transcendence, The Doors of Perception*
David H. Price, *Human Ecology and unwitting anthropological research for the CIA*

Children of the Sun *The mountains and the canyons started to tremble and shake/As the children of the sun began to wake* — Robert Plant

H.R. Haldeman, Calarts, and *Project Resistance, FOIA documents and other sources*
Carl Oglesby, *The Yankee and Cowboy War*

Screening, The Calarts Story, 1963

6. March V, V for Valerie Solanas; Mindless Pleasures and Limited Hangouts *‘rules created, rules broken, a constant interplay of moral entrepreneurship, moral innovation, and transgression’* — Hayward and Young

Mexico City 1962, the ‘Red’ Marilyn, and the Cal Neva Lodge; Valerie Solanas, Celebrity Culture, and Crime; *Mindless Pleasures and Limited Hangouts*

Valerie Solanas, *S.C.U.M. Manifesto*
Avital Ronell, *Deviant Payback, the Aims of Valerie Solanas*
Ruth Penfold Mounce, *Celebrity Culture and Crime*
Kenneth Mark Colby, M.D., *Artificial Paranoia: A Computer Simulation of Paranoid Processes*

Limit Journalism: SLA, Girl of the Golden West, Abduction, and Every Secret Thing

Mae Brussell, *The SLA from the Realist*
Joan Didion, *Girl of the Golden West*
Al Ellenberg, Harrison James, *Abduction, Fiction Before Fact*
Patricia Hearst, *Every Secret Thing*

The Theoretical Division

The Obvious, the Non Obvious, and the Deep; Toy Weather in a Machine Universe

Ilya Prigogine, *Time, Structure, and Fluctuations*, *Science*, Sep. 1, 1978
Ian Stewart, *The Lorenz attractor exists*, *Nature*, August 2000

7. March 12 Pandæmonium of the Sun, White Giraffe, Painting(s) of Dorian Gray, Tulip Hysteria Coordinating, and Recursion *The world is neither true nor real but living. And the living world is the will to power, will to falsehood, which is actualized in many different powers.* — Gilles Deleuze, *Nietzsche and Philosophy*

Pynchon's *Pandemonium of the Sun*, Warhol's *White Giraffe*, Ivan Albright's *Painting of Dorian Gray*, Malvin Albright's 'uncontaminated' *Painting of Dorian Gray*, Duchamp's *Tulip Hysteria Coordinating*

Gregory Flaxman, *Powers of the False, Gilles Deleuze and the Fabulation of Philosophy*
Niklas Luhmann, *Art as Social System excerpt*

A Brief History of Recursion in Art

Giotto's *Stefaneschi Triptych*, Velasquez' *Las Meninas*, Manet's *Bar at the Folies Bergere*, *Olympia*, *Advertisement for Droste cocoa*, Escher's *Print Gallery*, Hipgnosis, *Ummagamma*, Nam June Paik, *Beatles Electronique*, et al., and video feedback, Sherrie Levine's *Walker Evans*, Fred Wilson's *Mining the Museum*

Alan Turing, *The Chemical Basis of Morphogenesis*

'Against' Trilogy

J.K. Huysmans, *Against Nature*
Paul Feyerabend, *Against Method*
Susan Sontag, *Against Interpretation*

8. March 19 Panikon, Apophenia, and Narrativium *In the Phaedrus, Plato portrays writing not only as a 'bad' mimesis, but also as a dangerous, seductive drug (pharmakon) that leads to forgetfulness, a loss of understanding and a wild and indiscriminate profusion of discourse...* — Peta Mitchell, *Contagious Metaphor*

Martin Meisel, *"Number-worlds" from Chaos*
Peta Mitchell, *Contagious Metaphor*

Parafiction, Parascience, and Emergent Pararealities *The form of a philosophical theory, often enough, is: Let's try looking over here.* — Jerry Fodor

Alfred Jarry, *Faustroll* and pataphysics
Raymond Roussel, *Locus Solus*
Nassim Haramein and Resonance Science Foundation, *various*
Niayesh Afshordi, et al., *From Planck Data to Planck Era: Observational Tests of Holographic Cosmology*
Satoshi Nakamoto *Dossier*

A Brief History of Science-based Cults *F.R.C., Culte de la Raison, Perfectibilists, S.P.R., GALCIT, Scientology, The Solar Temple, Aum Shinrikyo, Heaven's Gate, The Raëlians*
February 26 No Class Spring Break

9. April 2 Two Basilisks *Your nearest Doppelganger is located approx. 10 to the power of 10 to the power of 28 meters away, that is, a one followed by 10 billion billion billion zeroes meters.*

Roko's Basilisk *Dossier*
Basilisk, *Selected Works*
cuddlynecrobabes.com, *selections*

Limit Cosmology

Leonard Susskind, *Time's Arrow, The Stagnant Pool versus Source to Sink*
Nick Bostrom, *Anthropic Bias Observation Selection*

Ghost Banks and Parasitic Finance *It means exactly what the words say: NAKED lunch – a frozen moment when everyone sees what is on the end of every fork — William S. Burroughs*

Marcel Duchamp's *Tzank Check, Roulette du Monte Carlo*, the notarized *L.H.O.O.Q. the Boite en Valise*, the Arturo Schwartz readymades, and other financial instruments and operations
Ghost Banks, Propaganda Due, BCCI
Ismael Hossein-zadeh, *Parasitic Finance Capital*
The Paradise Papers, The Panama Papers, selections

10. April 9 Pharmakon *For he on honey-dew hath fed, And drunk the milk of Paradise — Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

A political system devoted to decline does much to speed up that process — Jean Paul Sartre

Dave Boothroyd, *selections from Narco-cultural studies of high modernity, Baudelaire and the high flâneur, Freud on the neurochemical/psychological divide, Sartre and Lewin, Deleuze and Alice/D(odgson)*
Norman Oehler, *selections from Blitzed, The Third Reich on Drugs; Goethe, Seturner, Merck, and the Engel Apotheke to Vin Mariani, Coca Cola, Bayer, and Pervitin, the Volksdroge*
Vanda Felba Brown, *The Political Capital model of Illicit Economies*

Sex, Drugs...

Paul B. Preciado, *Testo Junkie*
Luciana Parisi, *Symbiotic Sex*
Lynn Margulis and Dorion Sagan, *The Uncut Self*

...Rock n' Roll

Aaron Lynch, *Thought Contagion*
Karen Barad, *Nature's Queer Performativity (The Unauthorized Version)*

11. April 16 Pandemonium Architecture *Into this wild Abyss The womb of Nature, and perhaps her grave-- Of neither sea, nor shore, nor air, nor fire, But all these in their pregnant causes mixed Confusedly, and which thus must ever fight, Unless the Almighty Maker them ordain His dark materials to create more worlds — John Milton, Paradise Lost*

Erin Webster, *Milton's Pandemonium and the Infinitesimal Calculus*
O. G. Selfridge, *Pandemonium: a paradigm for learning in Mechanisation of Thought Processes*
John Jackson, *Idea for a Mind*

Pronoia

Cosmists, Hylozoists, and Immortalists of the Zone, the Burned Over District, the Great Salt Lake, and California

John L. Brooke, *The Refiner's Fire, the making of Mormon cosmology, 1644 1844*

George M. Young, *The Russian Cosmists*

Arkady and Boris Strugatsky, *Roadside Picnic*

Ursula K. Le Guin, *A Noneuclidean view of California as a Cold Place to Be*

The Weather Underground

Laplace, Von Neumann, Lorenz, computation, forecasting and weather; Arktos; Subterranean Homesick Blues and the Weather Underground

Jocelyn Godwin, *Arktos*

Jeremy Varon, *Bringing the war home: the Weather Underground, the Red Army Faction, and revolutionary violence in the sixties and seventies*

12. April 23 Law without Law "No reasonable definition of reality could be expected to permit this," [Einstein] huffed in a famous paper... — Physical Review, vol 47, p 777

John Wheeler, *Law without Law, The 'Past' and the 'Delayed-Choice' Double-Slit Experiment*

B. J. Hiley and R. E. Callaghan, *Delayed Choice Experiments and the Bohm Approach*

Giorgio Agamben, *State of Exception*

Steve Martinot, *Probing the Epidemic of Police Murders*

Two Suns, Afrofuturism, and Afropessimism

Kodwo Eshun, *Further Notes on Afrofuturism*

Achille Mbembe, *Necropolitics*

Fred Moten, *Black Op*

Hardcore Determinism

Robert Heinlein, *All you Zombies*

John McCarthy, *Simple Deterministic Free Will*

Joshua Ramey, *Risking Derivative Politics and selections from The Politics of Divination*

13. April 30 Left-handed Materials ...but the genuine philosopher — as he seems to us, my friends? — lives 'unphilosophically' and 'unwisely', above all imprudently... he risks himself constantly, he plays the dangerous game. — Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*

Forbidden Symmetry, The Golden Mean, Quasicrystals, and Icosahedral Symmetry; Left-handed Materials, Ideological Circuits

V. G. Veselago, *The Electrodynamics of Substances With Simultaneously Negative Values of ϵ and μ* , Soviet Physics 10

Cildo Meireles, *Insertions in Ideological Circuits*

A Brief History of Art-based Cults

The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, Salon de la Rose + Croix, The Arts and Crafts Movement and the Golden Dawn, Die Brücke, Der Blaue Reiter, Acephale, Leonora Carrington and Alejandro Jodorowsky's Mexico City coven, Das Orgien Mysterien Theater, Arakawa and Gins

Project SOCRATES, Psywar, and Rumint

Eva Horn, *The Secret War*

Nissen, Thomas Elkjer, #*TheWeaponizationOfSocialMedia: @Characteristics_of_Contemporary_Conflicts*

Rumint and The Deep Private, *dossier*

14. May 7 Why Recursion Matters

Niklas Luhmann, selections from *Self Description*

George Spencer-Brown, *Calculus of Forms*

Back to No Future

Again, *Aiôn and Chronos*, Retrocausality, *Cash from Chaos* and *No Future*

Derek Jarman, *Jubilee*

Vivienne Westwood, *T shirt against Derek Jarman's Jubilee*

Pandæmonium of the Sun, The Standard Model

R. E. Kastner, Stuart Kauffman, Michael Epperson, *Taking Heisenberg's Potentia Seriously*

Béranger Dumont, *Higgs, Supersymmetry and Dark Matter After Run I of the LHC*