

# **How to Do Things with Worlds: The Natures of Cosmograms**

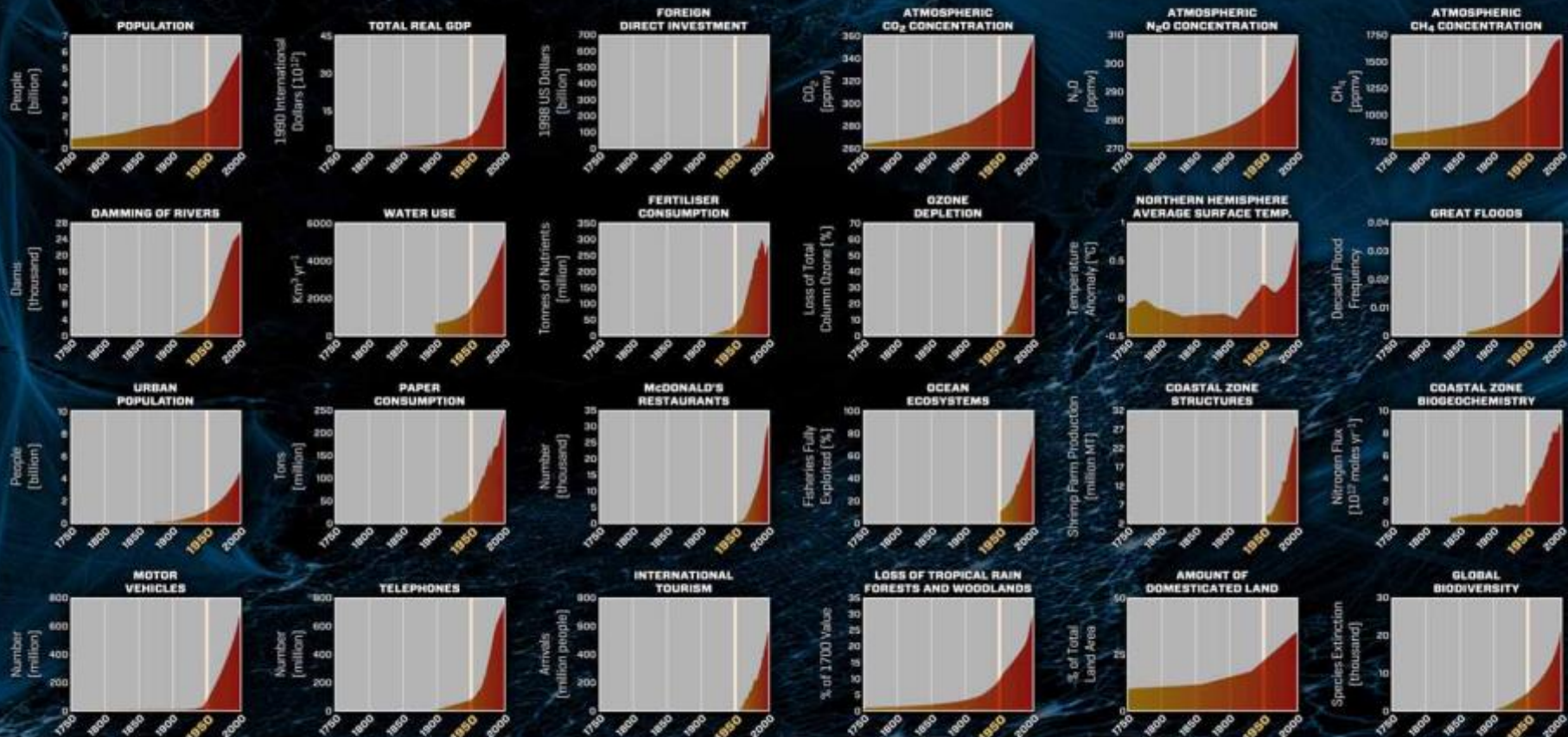
John Tresch

global environmental images

Paris, October 10 2014



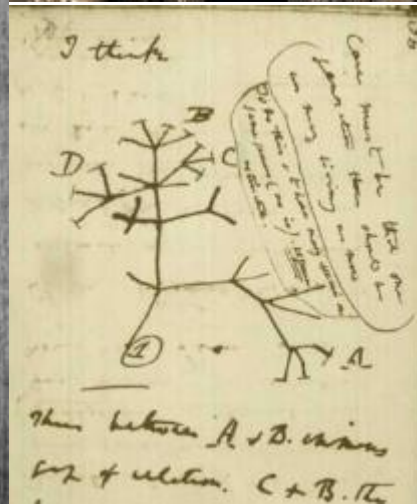
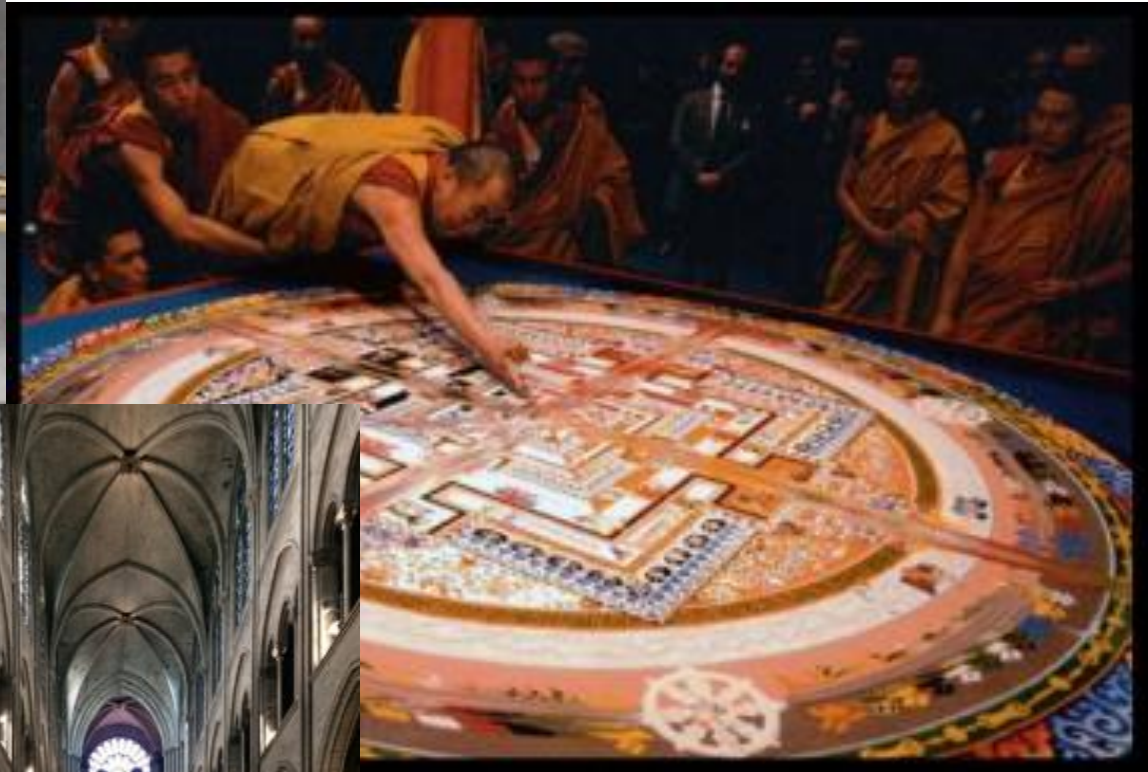
# THE GREAT ACCELERATION



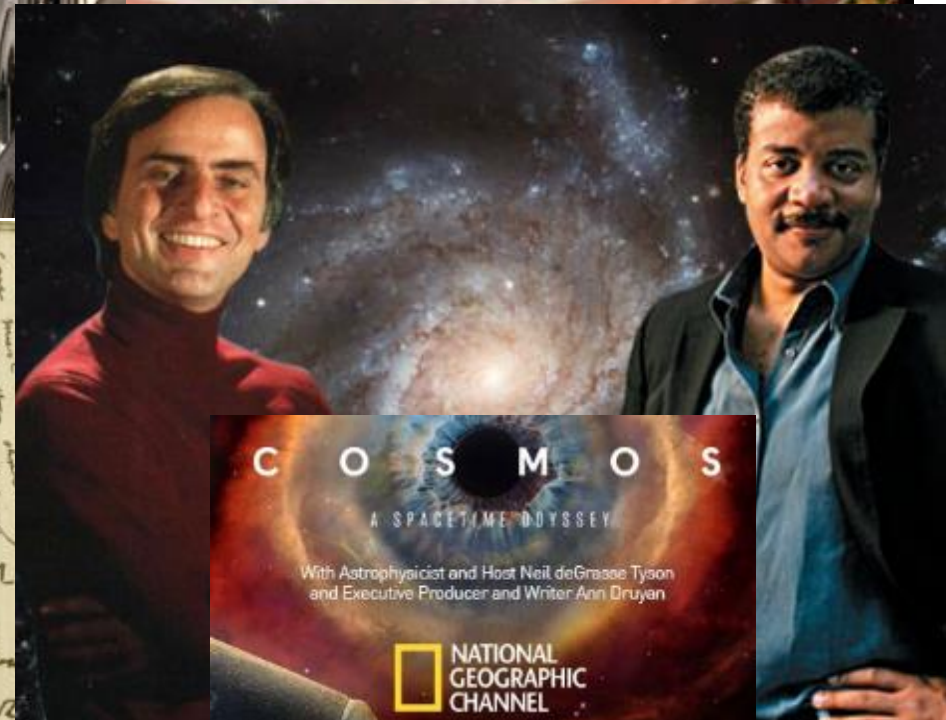
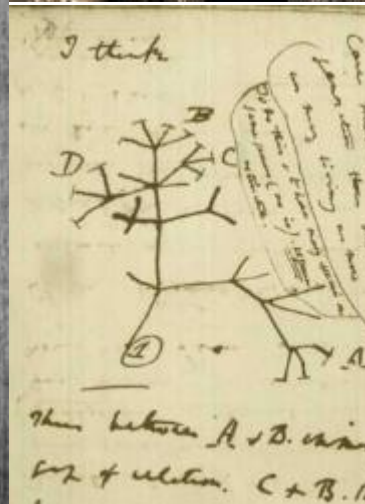
# COSMOGRAMS: MAPS OF THE UNIVERSE



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# COSMOGRAMS: MAPS OF THE UNIVERSE



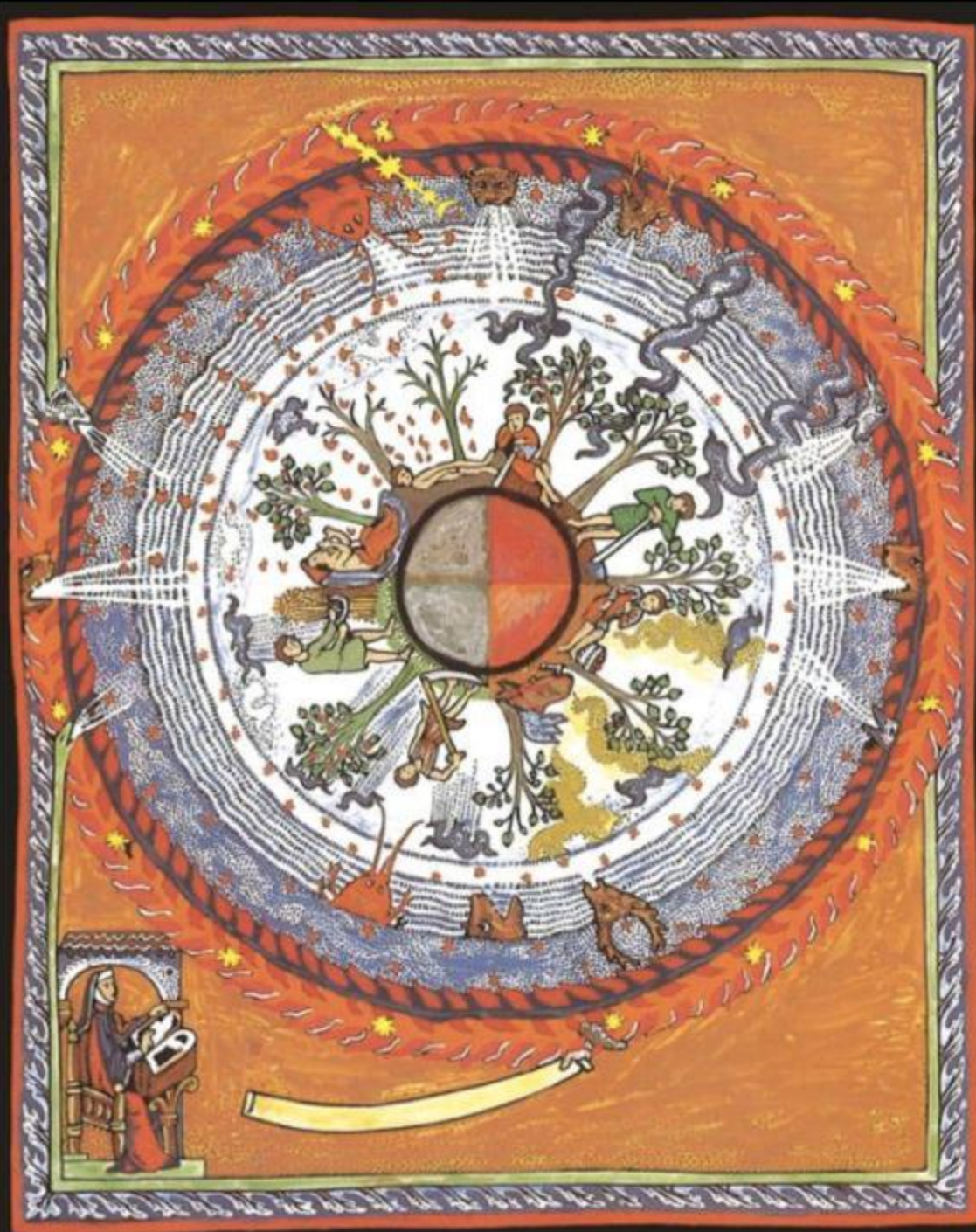
“For this vast instrument, round and shadowed, in the shape of an egg, faithfully shows **Omnipotent God, incomprehensible in His majesty and inestimable in His mysteries and the hope of all the faithful**; for humanity at first was rude and rough and simple in its actions, but was enlarged through the Old and New Testaments, and finally at the end of the world is destined to be beset with many tribulations.”

Hildegard von Bingen. *Scivias*, Image 3, c. 1150



Hildegard von Bingen  
Cycle of the Seasons  
From *Liber Divinorum Operum*  
Lucca, Biblioteca Statale  
c.1150

Four elements  
Geocentric  
CYCLE  
Record of the recording











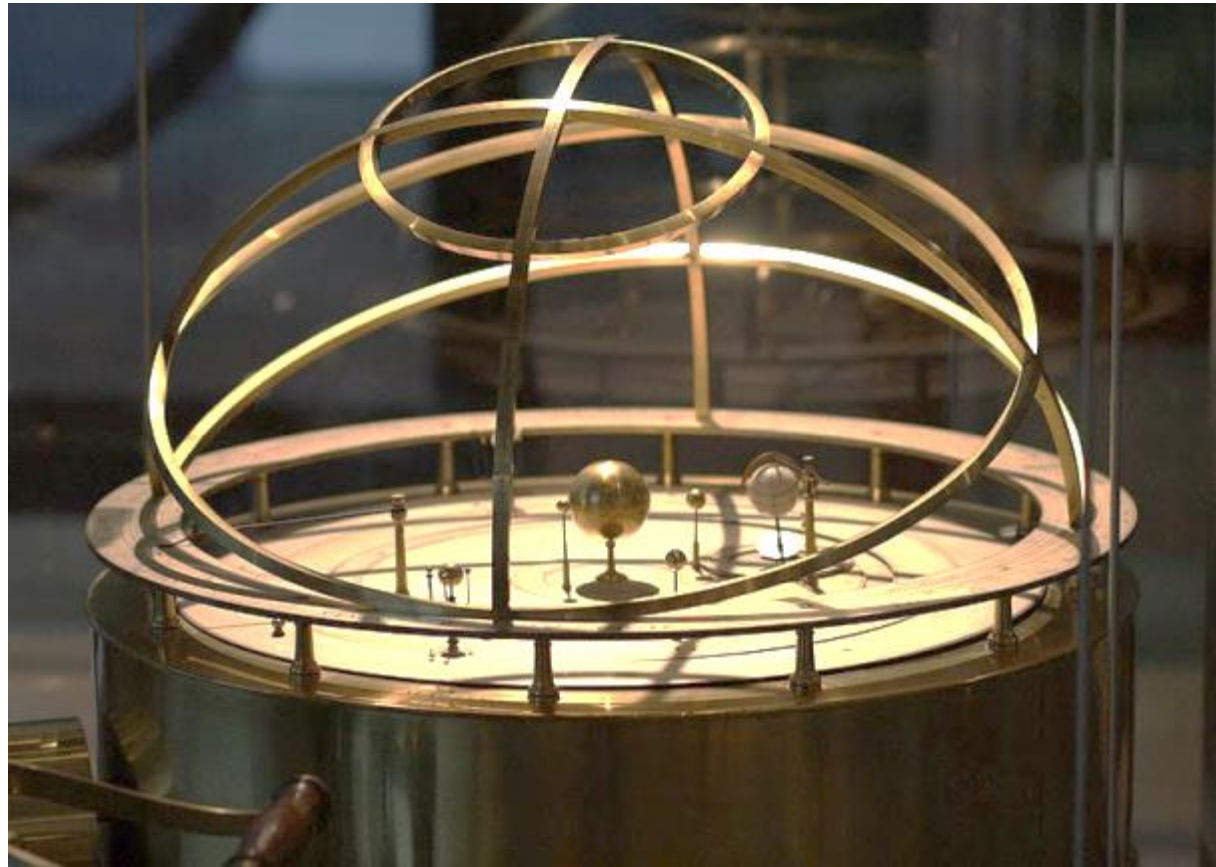
PHILOSOPHIÆ  
NATURALIS  
PRINCIPIA  
MATHEMATICA.

Autore JS. NEWTON, Trin. Coll. Cantab. Soc. Mathematico  
Professore Lucasiano, & Societatis Regalis Sodali.

IMPRIMATUR.  
S. PEPY S, Reg. Soc. PRÆSES.  
Julii 5. 1686.

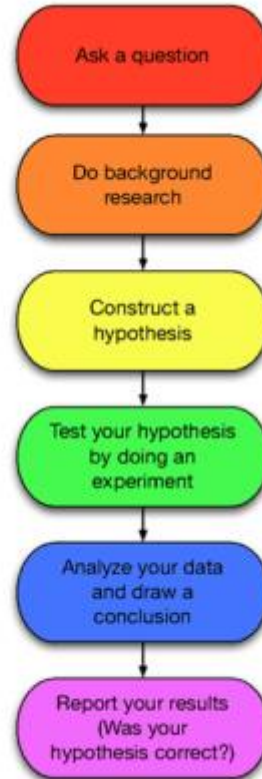
LONDINI,

Jussu Societatis Regiæ ac Typis Josephi Streater. Prostat apud  
plures Bibliopolas. Anno MDCLXXXVII.



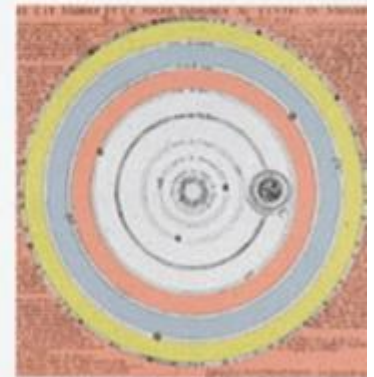


## The Scientific Method



**ALEXANDRE KOYRÉ**

du monde clos  
à l'univers infini

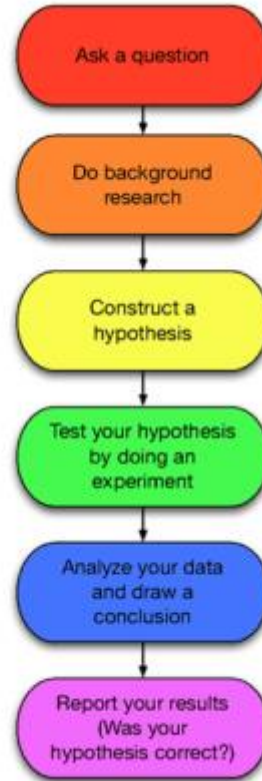


*tel* gallimard



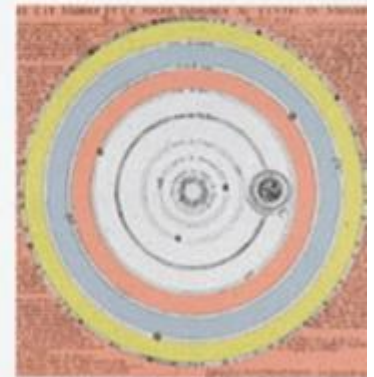
**Mechanical  
Materialist  
Objectivist**

The Scientific Method



**ALEXANDRE KOYRÉ**

du monde clos  
à l'univers infini



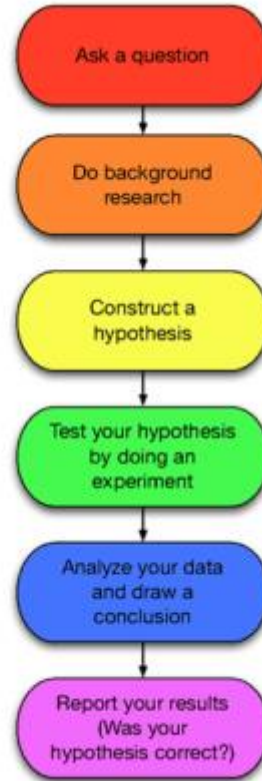
*tel* gallimard



**Mechanical  
Materialist  
Objectivist**

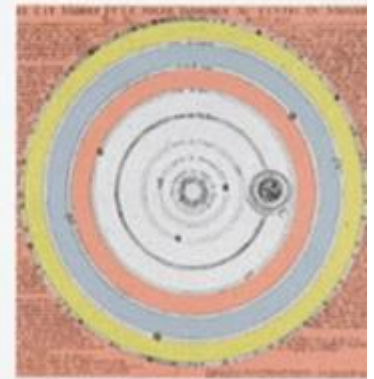
**=MeMO**

The Scientific Method



**ALEXANDRE KOYRÉ**

du monde clos  
à l'univers infini



*tel* gallimard

## **ANTHROPOCENE:**

Human causes of natural effects, and vice versa. *Confusion of “nature/culture”, of disciplines (geology, physics, ecology, economics, history)*

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Human causes of natural effects, and vice versa. *Confusion of “nature/culture”, of disciplines (geology, physics, ecology, economics, history)*





# ANALYZING COSMOGRAMS

**1) Ostensive aspects:** What it shows of what there is, how it all relates, principles of order:

- classification of entities

- classification of domains (natural, supernatural, human, nonhuman, animate, inanimate, divine, etc.)

- social order, hierarchy, division of labor

# ANALYZING COSMOGRAMS

**1) Ostensive aspects:** What it shows of what there is, how it all relates, principles of order:

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**2) Performative aspects:** What it *does*, how it was used, how it structures or realizes or intervenes in aspects of the world

# ANALYZING A COSMOGRAM

## 1) **Ostensive aspects:**

- classification of entities
- classification of domains (natural, supernatural, human, nonhuman, animate, inanimate, divine, etc.)
- social order, hierarchy, division of labor

**2) Performative aspects:** What it *does*, how it was used, how it structures or realizes or intervenes in aspects of the world

**3) Reflexive aspects:** What it says about its own status—its limits, qualifications, degrees of probability its mode of communicating/representing/intervening, what kind of *thing* it is

— BEYOND —  
NATURE AND CULTURE

---



PHILIPPE DESCOLA

Translated by Janet Lloyd  
Foreword by Marshall Sahlins



## Inner properties

**Physical Properties**

	Continuous	Discontinuous
Continuous	<b>Totemism</b>	<b>Naturalism</b>
Discontinuous	<b>Animism</b>	<b>Analogism</b>

from Philippe Descola, *Par-delà nature et culture*, 2005

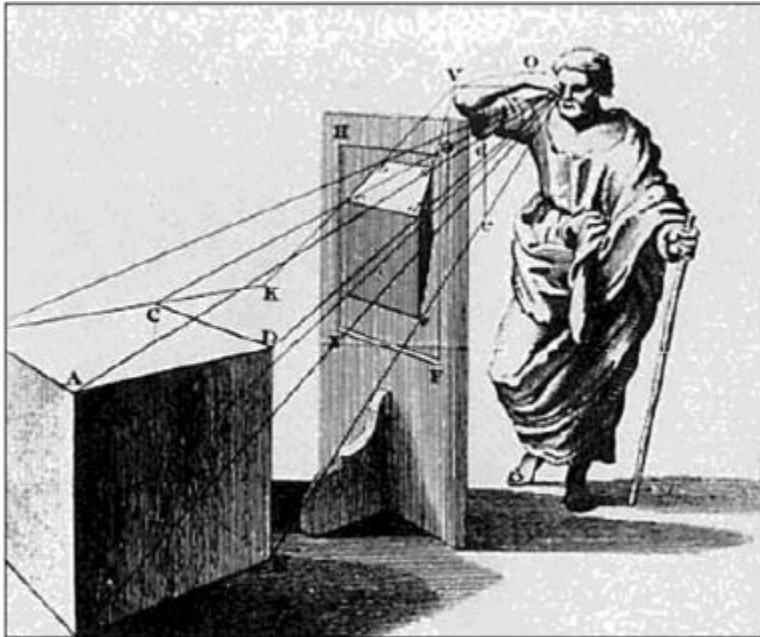
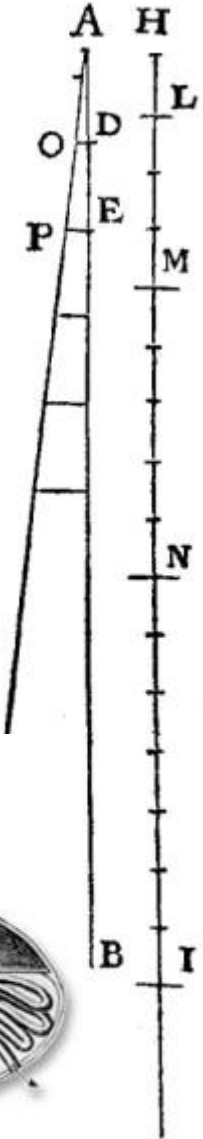
Totemism

Naturalism

Animism

Analogism

# NATURALISM



Descartes' Skull



**Totemism**

Naturalism

Animism

Analogism

# TOTEMISM



Bora Initiation, SE Australia (1898)



Tlingit Community House and totem pole (Pacific NW)

Totemism

Naturalism

Animism

Analogism

# ANIMISM (Achuar, Inuit)

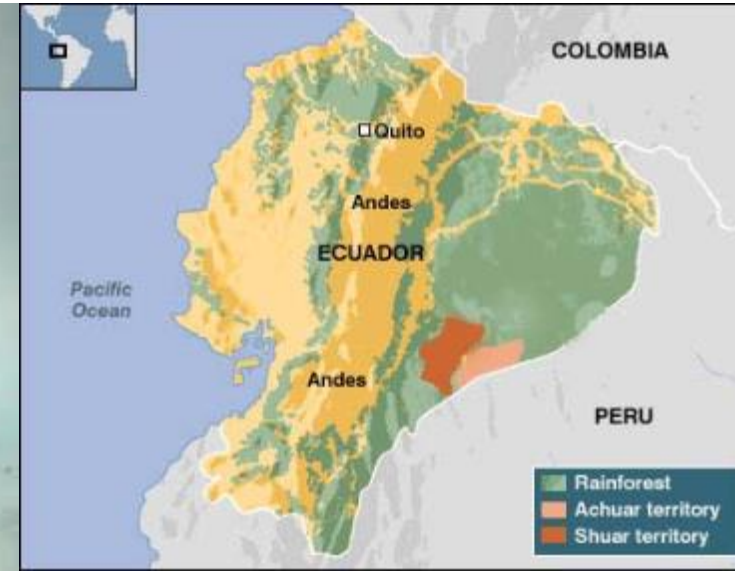


FIGURE 3: Inuit Stonecut Stencil Design





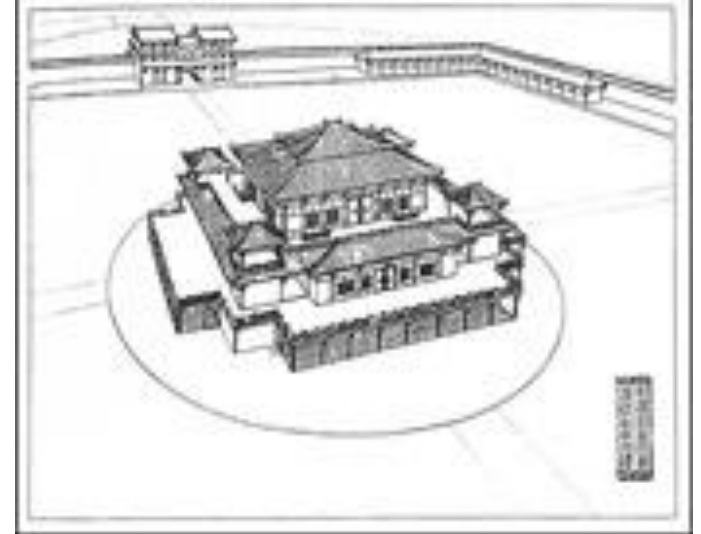
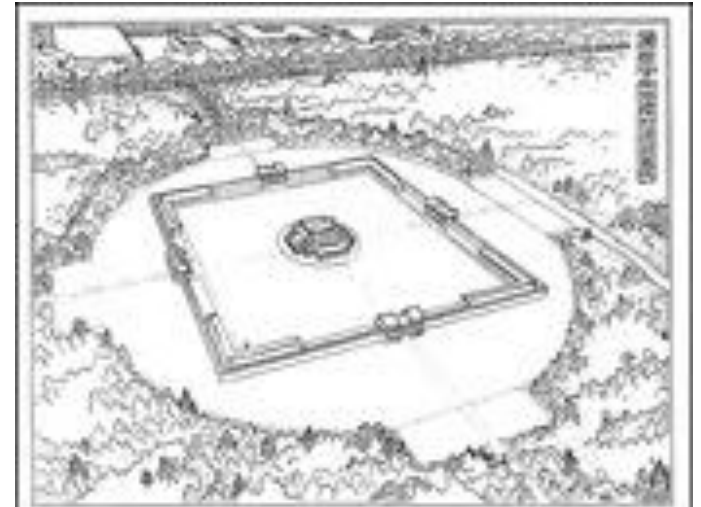
Totemism

Naturalism

Animism

Analogism

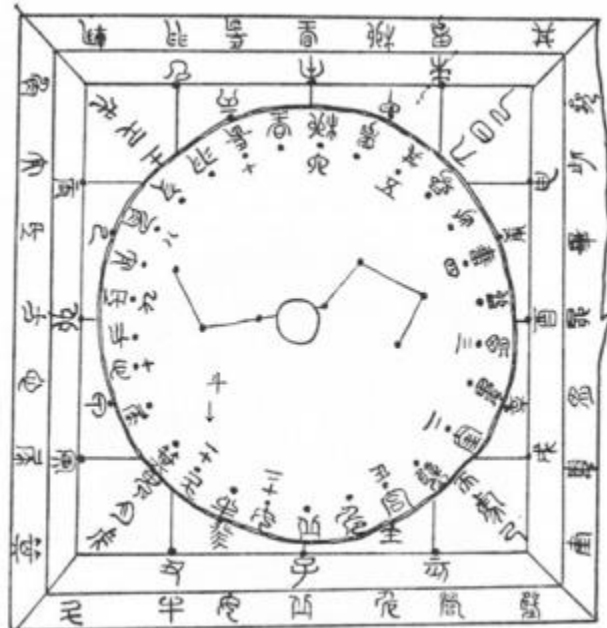
# ANALOGISM



Artist's conception of Wang Mang's cosmic palace



The 28 mansions of Chinese Astronomy



Early Han cosmograph; tomb of the Marquis of Ru Yin, ca. 168 BCE

Totemism

Naturalism

Animism

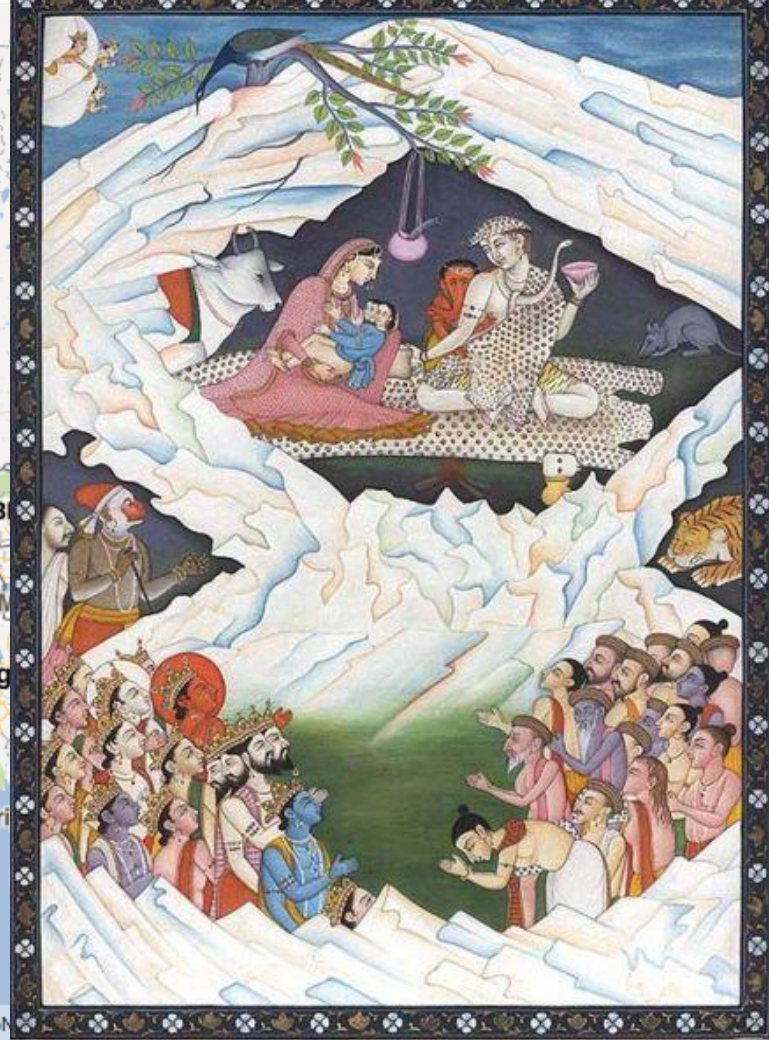
Analogism

## ANALOGISM



Robert Fludd, Celestial Monochord; macro-microcosm correspondence

# 1) Cosmopragmatics



Mt. Kalaish, Tibet



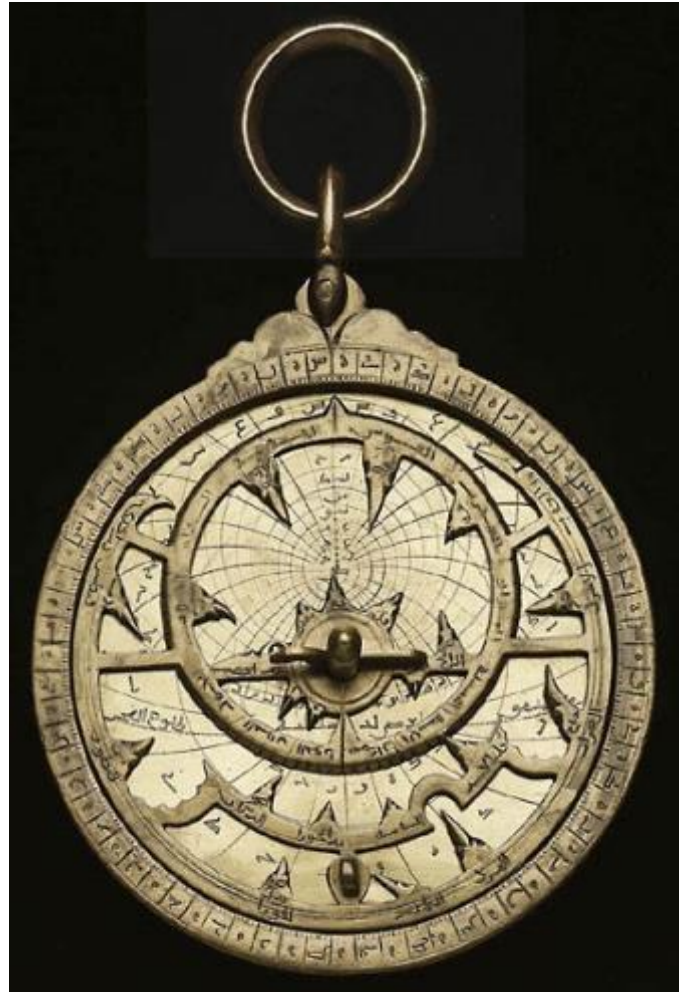
## Sarvatobhadra Temple of Kashmir

Lalitaditya (725-762 C.E.)



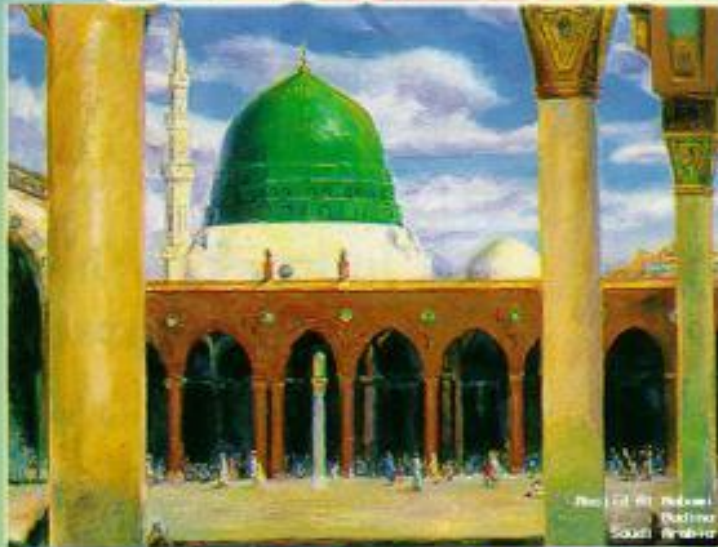


Ibn al-Wardi, *The Pearl of Wonders and the Uniqueness of Things Strange* ( خريدة العجائب وفريدة (الغرائب). Pre-970 C.E., 17<sup>th</sup> c. copy. Center: Mecca and Medina. North: China and India; South: "Christian sects and the states of Byzantium" in the south. The outer circles represent the seas.



"Sound Hajj has no reward except Paradise" (Bukhari & Muslim)

# AL REHMAN TRAVELS



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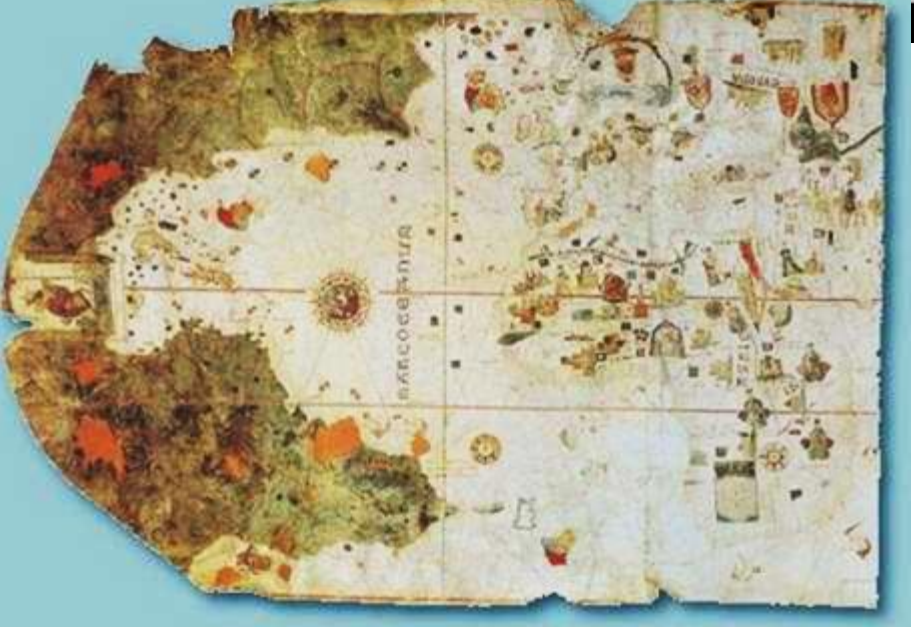


Seville, 16<sup>th</sup> century



Casa de la Contratacion

Juan Vespucci  
world map  
1529



Map of Atlantic of Juan de la Costa  
(Columbus' fellow, owner of Santa Maria)



Sebastian Cabot

## 2) Non-standard cosmologies in in Western science

# WESTERN SCIENCE= MORE THAN MeMO.

## e.g. STYLES OF SCIENTIFIC REASONING

- Mathematical postulation [e.g. Euclid]
- Analogical models [Mechanism]
- Comparison/ taxonomy [Classification]
- Experimental exploration [Chem, Phys]
- Historical derivation [Geo, Bio]
- Statistical analysis [error/ econ/ phys]
- Introspection

Ian Hacking, "'Style' for historians and philosophers." *Studies In History and Philosophy of Science Part A* 23, no. 1 (1992): 1-20.



# Inner properties

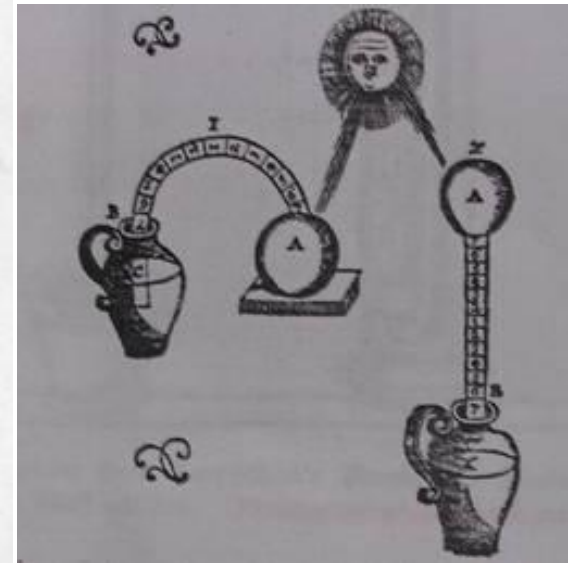
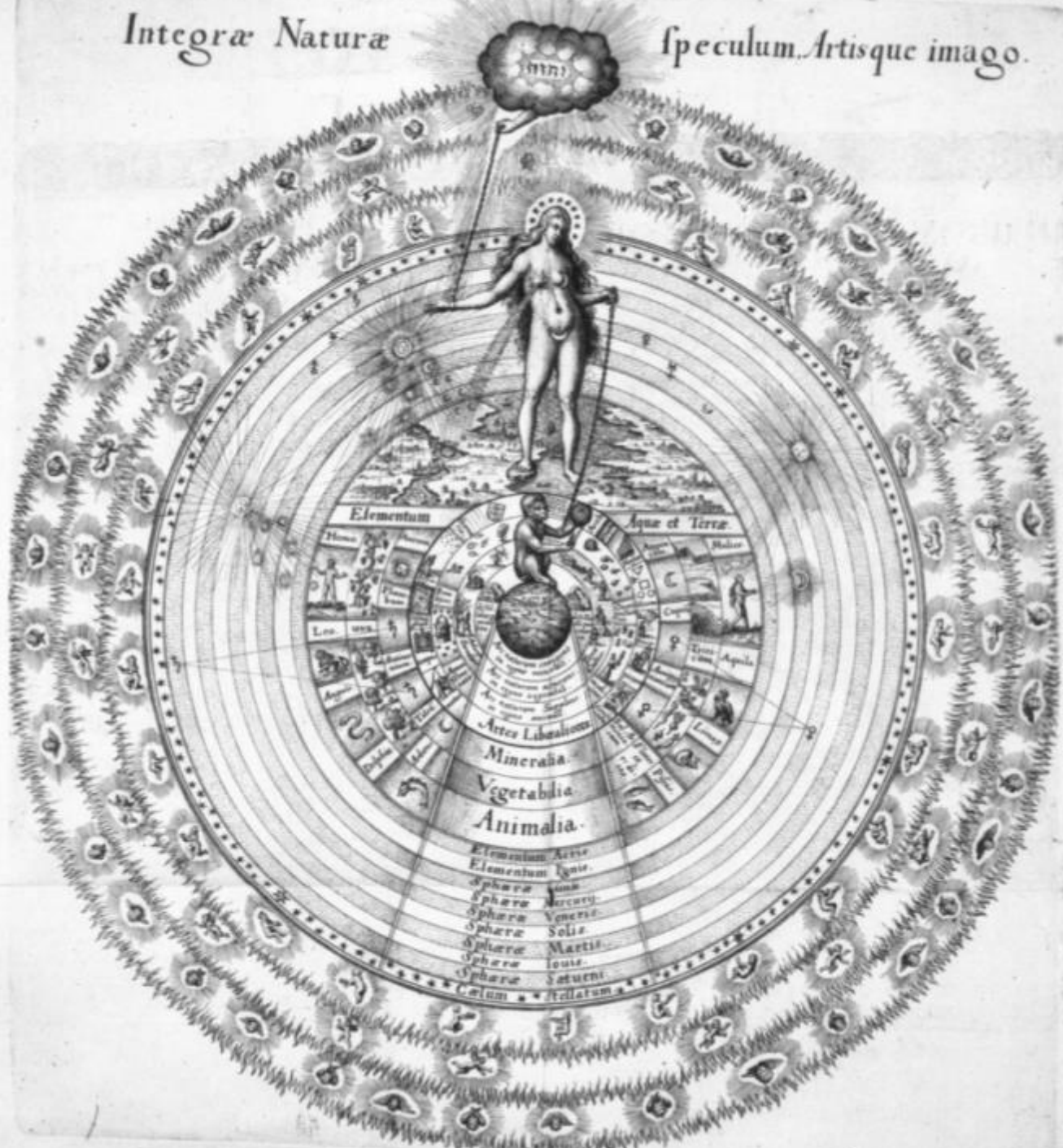
**Physical Properties**

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from Philippe Descola, *Par-delà nature et culture*, 2005

Integræ Naturæ

Speculum Artisque imago.



Robert Fludd,  
Thermoscope  
1638



“Morgen”  
Otto Runge, 1808

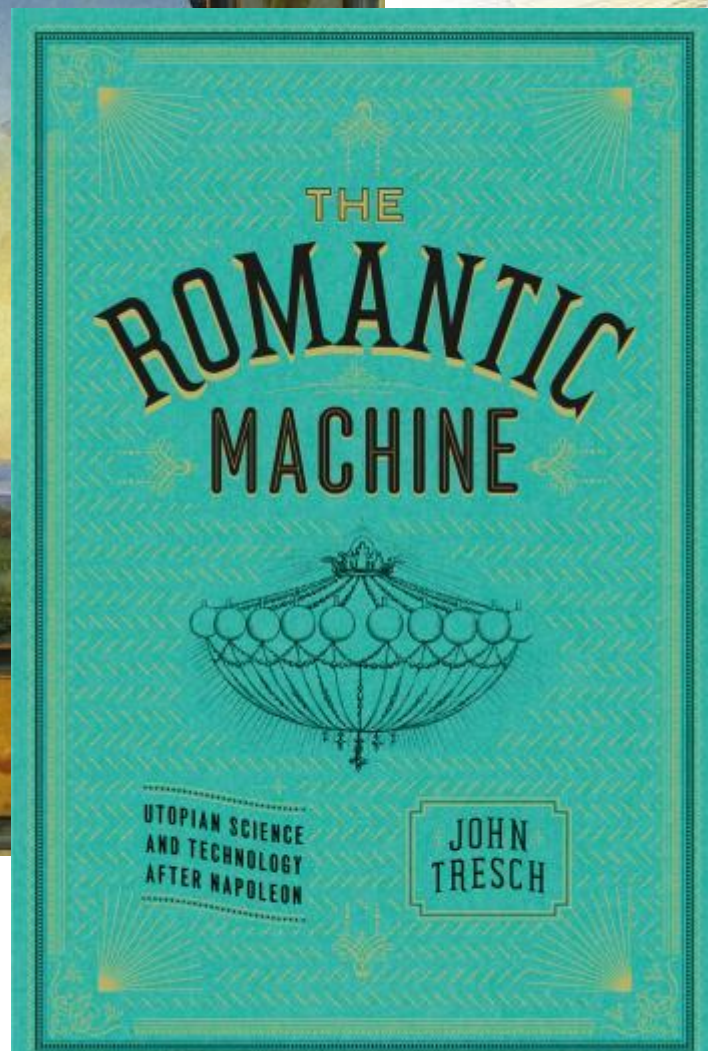


“Fourier's System”  
from J.J. Grandville  
*Un Autre Monde*, 1844





"Morgen"  
Otto Runge, 1808



"Fourier's System"  
from J.J. Grandville  
*Un Autre Monde*, 1844



A temple that is a Voltaic battery;  
a temple of colossal magnets,  
a temple of melody and harmony,

the life of the earth manifested by  
metals and fabrics, by marvelous  
waterfalls...

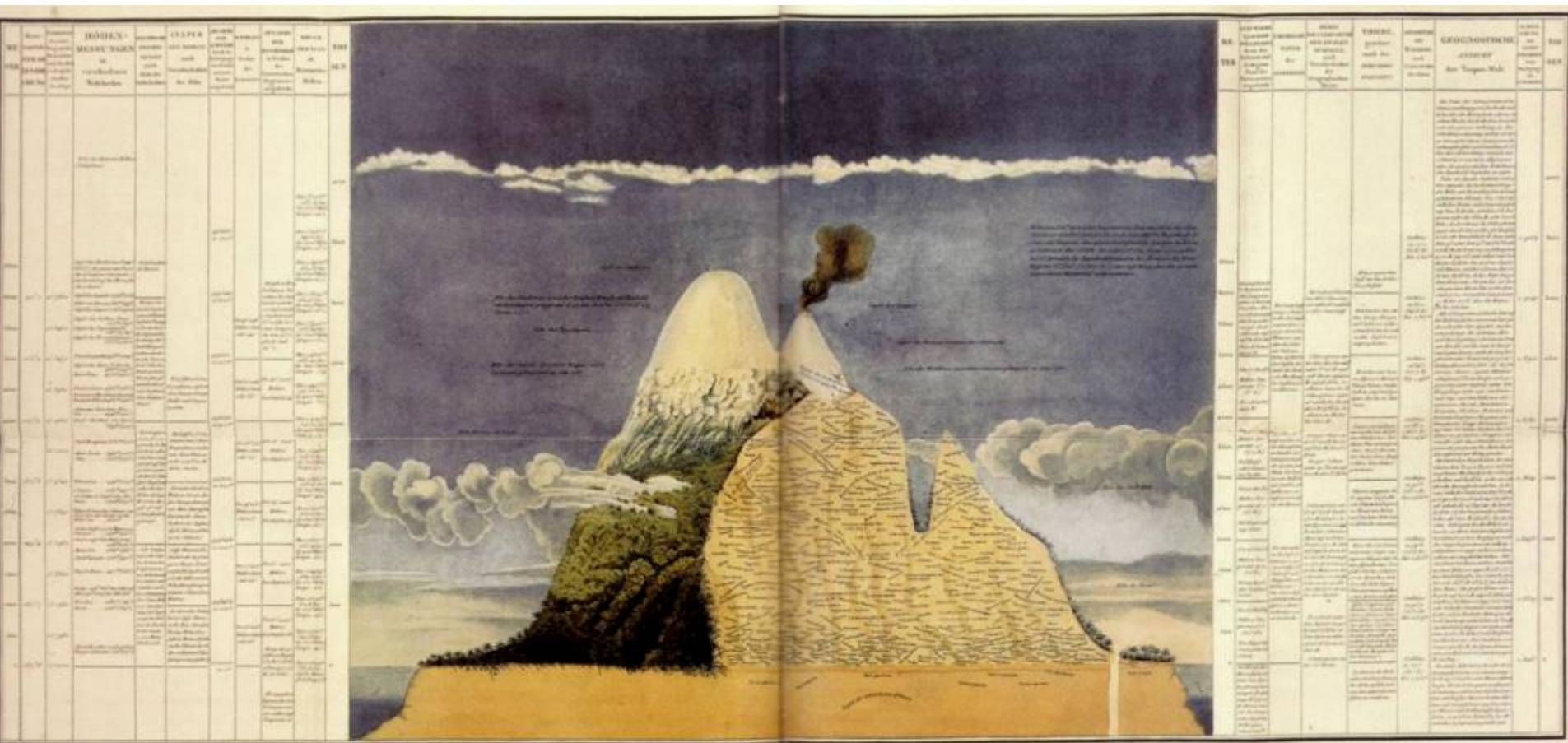
the life of the sun manifested by heat  
and light;

the life of men manifested by music,  
all the arts, a profusion of paintings  
and sculptures, by panoramas and  
dioramas that reunite in a single point  
all space and all time...

What an immense communion! What  
a gigantic moralization of a whole  
people!

Michel Chevalier, "Le Temple"





*Geographie der Pflanzen in den Tropen-Ländern;  
ein Naturgemälde der Anden,*

*gegründet auf Beobachtungen und Messungen, welche vom 10<sup>ten</sup> Grade nördlicher bis zum 10<sup>ten</sup> Grade südlicher Breite angestellt werden sind, in den Jahren 1799 bis 1803.*

*von ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT und A. G. BONPLAND.*

Alexander von Humboldt, from *Geographie des Plantes*, 1819



AUGUSTE COMTE

**COURS**  
DE  
**PHILOSOPHIE POSITIVE,**

**PAR M. AUGUSTE COMTE,**  
ANCIEN ÉLÈVE DE L'ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE, RÉPÉTITEUR D'ANALYSE TRANSCENDANTE ET DE  
MÉCANIQUE NATIONNALE À LA MÊME ÉCOLE.

---

**TOME PREMIER,**

CONTENANT  
LES PRÉLIMINAIRES GÉNÉRAUX ET LA PHILOSOPHIE  
MATHÉMATIQUE.

---

**PARIS,**  
BACHELIER, LIBRAIRE POUR LES MATHÉMATIQUES,  
QUAI DES AUGUSTINS, N° 55.

1830

# *The Religion of Humanity*

Love for Principle

Order for Base

Progress for Goal

CULT (worship)

DOCTRINE

REGIME (life)



(A)

# Plan général d'un Temple de l'Humanité.

Terrain total de 3 hectares



1. Chapelle de Moïse
2. Chapelle d'Homère
3. Chapelle d'Aristote
4. Chapelle d'Archimède
5. Chapelle de César
6. Chapelle de saint Paul
7. Chapelle de Charlemagne.
8. Chapelle de Dante
9. Chapelle de Gutenberg
10. Chapelle de Shakespeare
11. Chapelle de Voltaire
12. Chapelle de Frédéric
13. Chapelle de Richat.
14. Chapelle de 13 saintes ou Muses.
15. Statue de nos grands êtres et chaire sacerdotale.

(Dans chaque chapelle  
se trouve l'œuvre de l'homme  
jointe à la Calendaire égyptienne)

Paris, le lundi 1<sup>er</sup> Gutenberg 61,  
Auguste Comte  
auteur du Système de Philosophie positive.  
(10, rue Monsieur-le-Prince)

(Ce plan sera annexé  
au tome 4<sup>e</sup> édition de mon  
Système de politique positive.)



FETICHISMO



### 3) Cosmograms of the Anthropocene

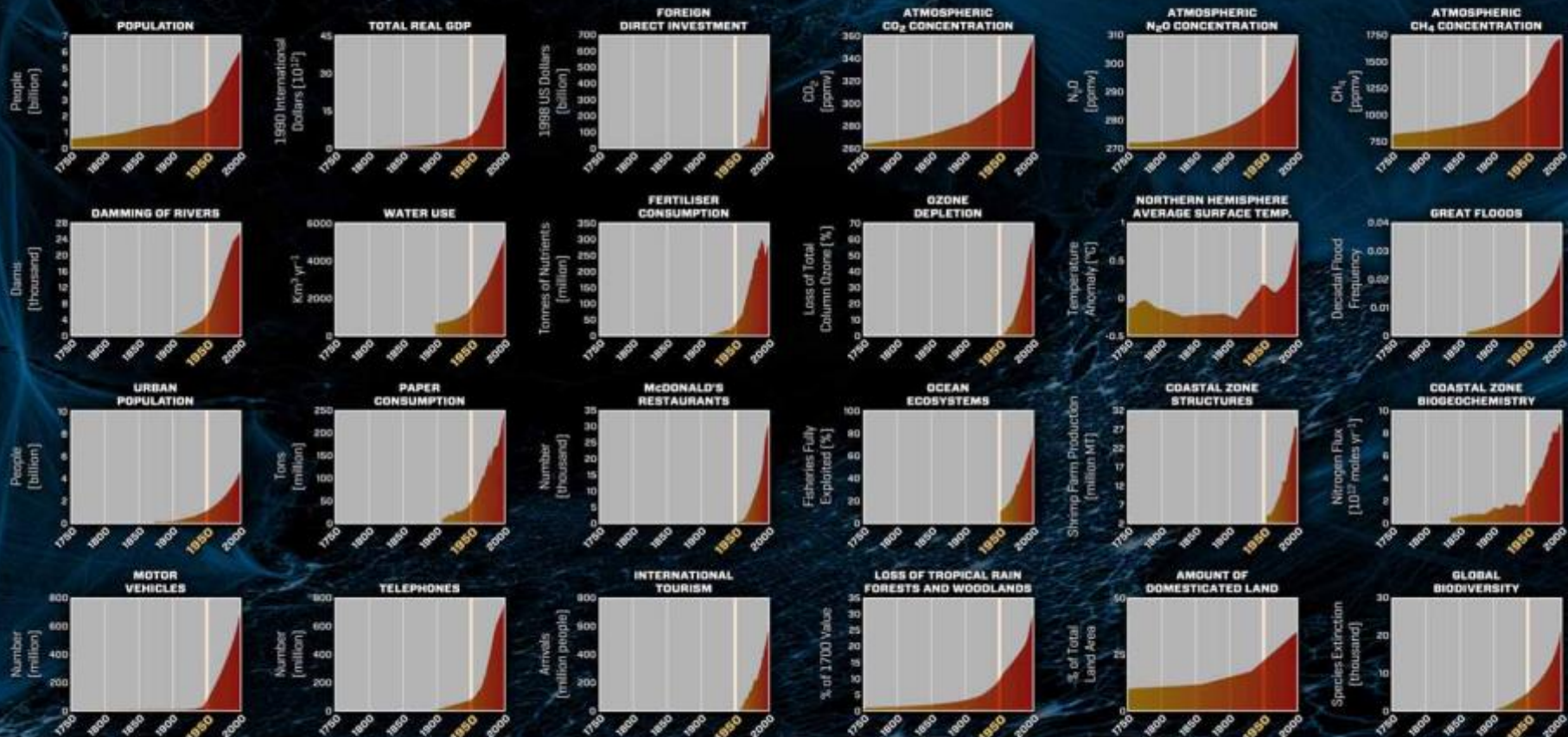




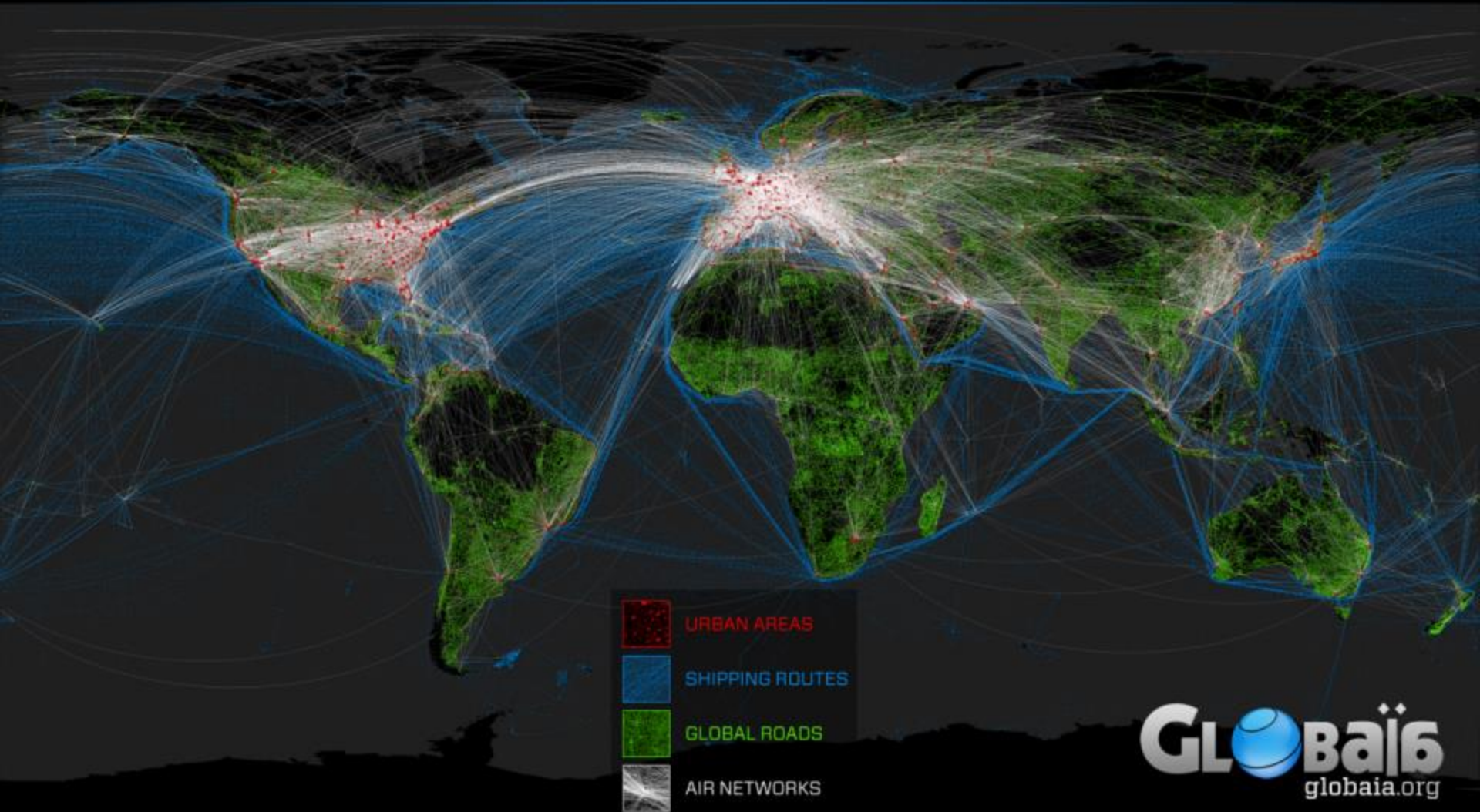
The first ever photograph of an “earthrise”  
(25 August 1966, Lunar Orbiter I).



# THE GREAT ACCELERATION



## THE ANTHROPOCENIC PLANET



*the anthroposphere, the human layer that grows inside the biosphere*

Michael Benson, "Gorgeous Glimpses of Calamity" *New York Times*, 8/8/2013



**Jan. 10, 2013:** In this photo from NASA's Aqua satellite, haze below the Himalayas blankets Northern India and Bangladesh, likely the result of fires, urban and industrial pollution, and a meteorological phenomenon called temperature inversion. NASA image courtesy of Jeff Schmaltz/ Lance-Modis Rapid Response team

Michael Benson, "Gorgeous Glimpses of Calamity" *New York Times*, 8/8/2013



**April 26, 2003:** In an image from NASA's Aqua satellite, wildfires, as well as fires from slash-and-burn deforestation, raged across Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula and neighboring Guatemala, sending dense plumes of smoke across the Gulf of Mexico. Jeff Schmaltz, Lucian Plesea, Modis Land Rapid Response team/NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

THE NEXT GOLDEN STATE: A 16-PAGE SPECIAL REPORT ON AUSTRALIA

# The Economist

MAY 28TH-JUNE 3RD 2011

[Economist.com](http://Economist.com)

Obama, Bibi and peace

Huntsman blows his horn

A soft landing for China

The costly war on cancer

How the brain drain reduces poverty

Welcome to the Anthropocene



Geology's new age









350.org What is 350? ABOUT CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS RESOURCES

**WE'RE BUILDING A GLOBAL MOVEMENT TO SOLVE THE CLIMATE CRISIS.**

JOIN IN:  Email

**The Science of 350**

**CO<sub>2</sub> +393.84** Scientists say that 350 parts per million CO<sub>2</sub> is the safe limit for humanity. Learn more about 350—what it means, where it came from, and how to get there. [Read More >](#)

**WE'RE HERE 392 ppm**

**WE NEED TO GET BELOW 350 ppm**

CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere

**FOSSIL FREE**  
 DIVEST AND TAKE ACTION!

**GLOBAL POWER SHIFT**  
 ISTANBUL, JUNE 10-17, 2013  
 LEARN MORE & APPLY TODAY

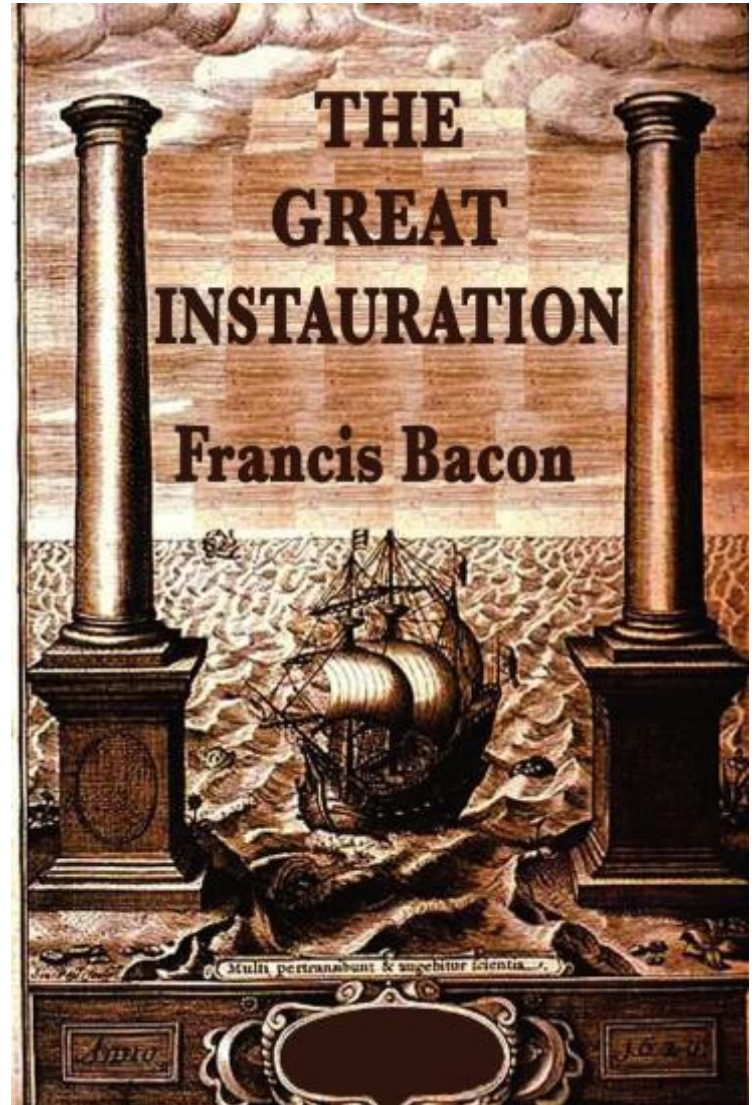
**STOP KXL**  
 STOP THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

**MORE 350 PROJECTS**

**DO THE MATH**  
 A national climate movement.

**350 LOCAL**  
 350 Local is a global network of activist groups.

**CLIMATE MOVEMENT**  
 Connect to (Climate)...



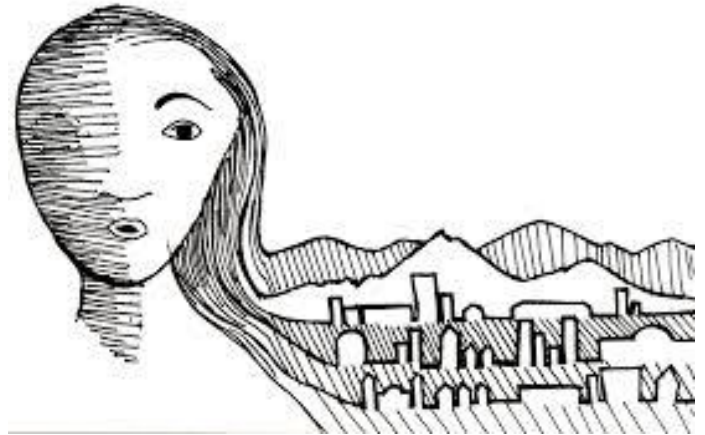
## 4) Toward Non-MeMO Cosmograms



Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence



## Ecuador Constitution Rights for Nature



Value nature as a living being!  
**SAY YES!**  
TO THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

Support the implementation of the Universal Declaration of The Rights of Nature, 2012

<small>At least 100 species are still being lost</small>	<small>27,000 species disappear each year</small>	<small>A glass can degrade only after 50,000 years</small>
--	---	--

**Be the voice for Rights of Nature!**

Over 1 million signatures are needed to present to the United Nations at Earth Summit 2012/Rio+20 in June 2012.

**Sign the petition!**

Ecuador and Bolivia have already adopted the Rights of Nature!

**READ MORE!**  
[www.RightsOfNature.com](http://www.RightsOfNature.com)

Read supported by:



Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence



IDLE NO MORE FLASHMOB  
@MALL OF AMERICA  
DECEMBER 29, '12 5PM





CLIMATE MARCH  
NYC SEPT. 21



CLIMATE MARCH  
NYC SEPT. 21



CLIMATE MARCH  
NYC SEPT. 21



CLIMATE MARCH  
NYC SEPT. 21



CLIMATE MARCH  
NYC SEPT. 21



PEOPLES  
CLIMATE MARCH  
NYC SEPT. 21

This is an invitation to change everything.



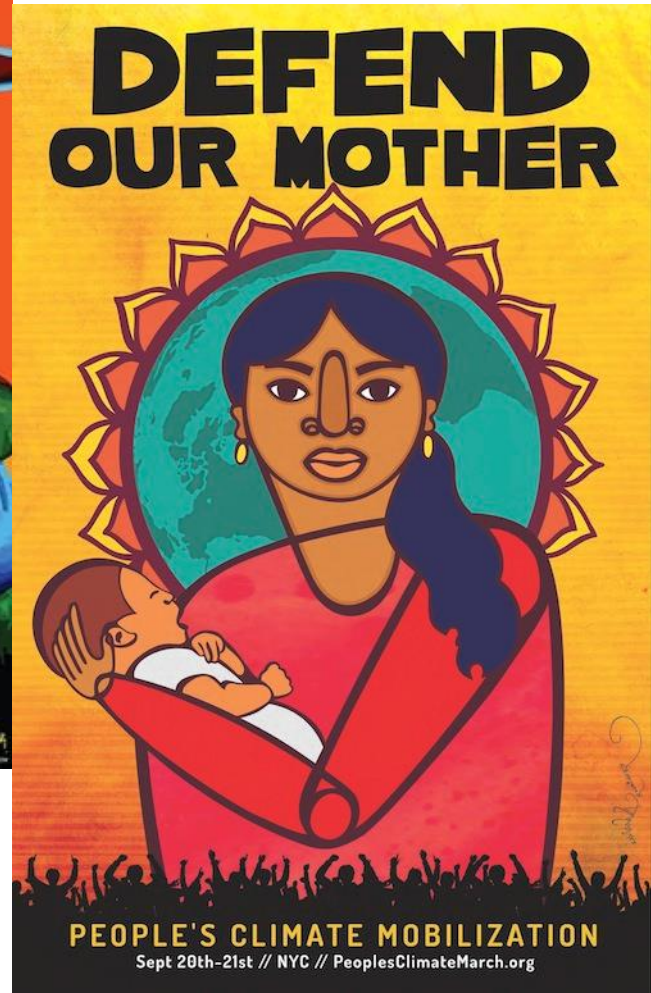
THE NEXT ONE  
WON'T BE  
BIBLICAL

GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION  
PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH  
9.21.2014  
peoplesclimate.org



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
ON THE FRONTLINE  
CALL FOR ACTION

PEOPLES  
CLIMATE  
MARCH  
09.21.14  
NYC



DEFEND  
OUR MOTHER

PEOPLES CLIMATE MOBILIZATION

Sept 20th-21st // NYC // PeoplesClimateMarch.org

**Gaia:** an uncertain imbroglio, confusion of agencies and expertises

Demands an *aesthetic sensitization* to matters of common concern, not matters of fact

## Some peculiarities of Gaia's collection

Gaia is not a character and it is 'indifferent' in a different way from 'nature'

Humanity is not a unified actor

They are both embedded into one another

There is no understanding of what sort of conflict it is

They are 'at war' but it is a doubly asymmetric war

There are huge uncertainties on the behavior and very existence of both actors

They have nonetheless to be 'represented' in a common assemblage

They are both part of an experimentation the protocol of which is missing



SUR  
UN  
PROJET  
DE  
**BRUNO  
LATOUR**

# GAIA

GLOBAL  
CIRCUS

UNE  
PIECE  
DE  
**PIERRE  
DAUBIGNY**

MISE  
EN  
SCENE  
**FREDERIQUE  
AÏ-TOUATI**  
-  
**CHLOE  
LATOUR**



# The Anthropocene Project. A Report

2014, Oct 16, Thu — 2014, Dec 08, Mon



Anthropocene Observatory: Armin Linke | »Whirlwind«; Pantelleris, Italy, 2007 | © Armin Linke

With the traditional methods of knowledge acquisition – the natural sciences on the one side and the humanities on the other – mankind has reached a limit. The indivisible concatenation of industrial metabolism, climate change, urbanisation, soil erosion and the extinction of species, as well as a new social

(self)consciousness have shown: The rapid reformation of cause and effect, means and end, quality and quantity requires a new approach to the world which is not governed by postmodern discourse but material interconnections and processes – from the accumulation of plastics into artificial islands in the ocean, to the particularity of a speck of dust on its way from the Sahara to the Brazilian rainforest. A new sense of amazement at the wonder of planet earth is required: What can we do, how can we know – and to what extent are the two connected? With what means, methods and senses can we encounter the world of our own creation?

In A REPORT, an extensive program of events in conclusion to the Anthropocene Project, the HKW will be exploring precisely these questions. [More...](#)

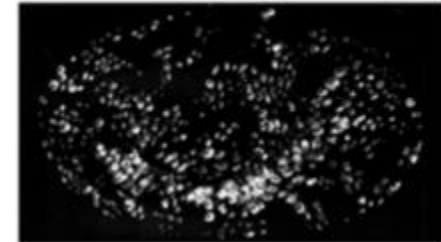
In the framework of:

[Das Anthropozän-Projekt 2014](#)

Tags: Anthropocene · society · culture · nature · change · knowledge · philosophy of science · knowledge production · science

## THE ANTHROPOCENE PROJECT. A REPORT

- Complete program
- Exhibitions
- A Matter Theater
- Anthropocene Working Group
- Education
- Future Storytelling
- Anthropocene Campus
- Textures of the Anthropocene
- An Encyclopedia
- intercalations

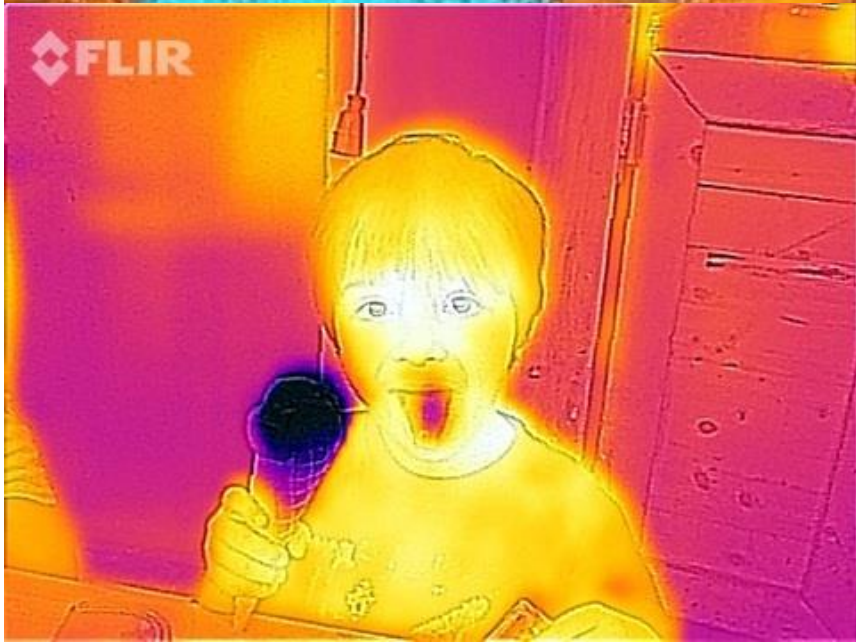
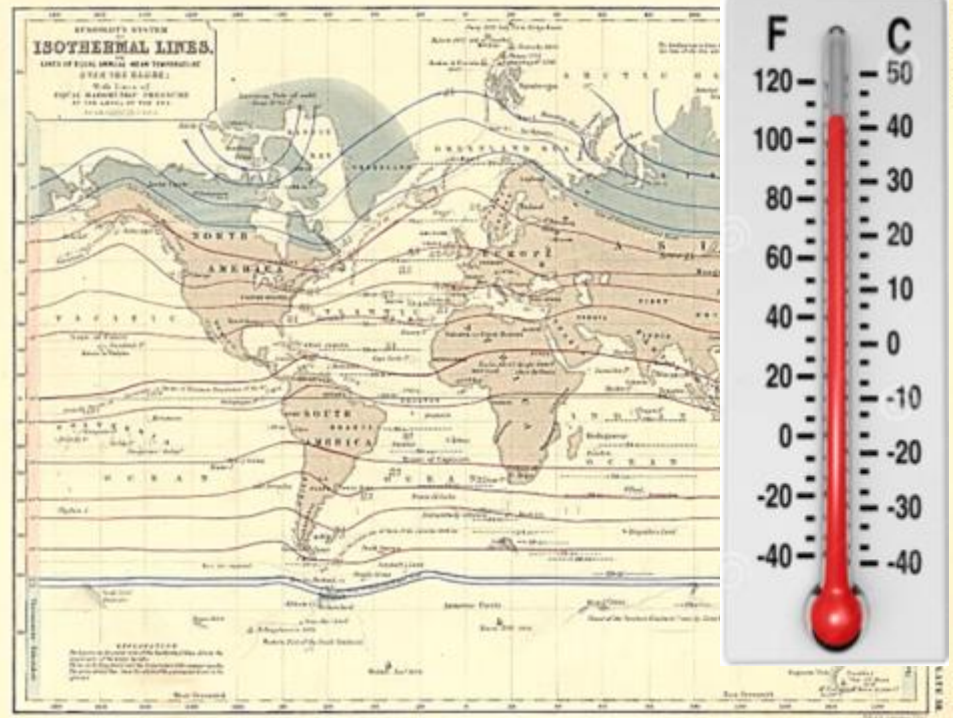


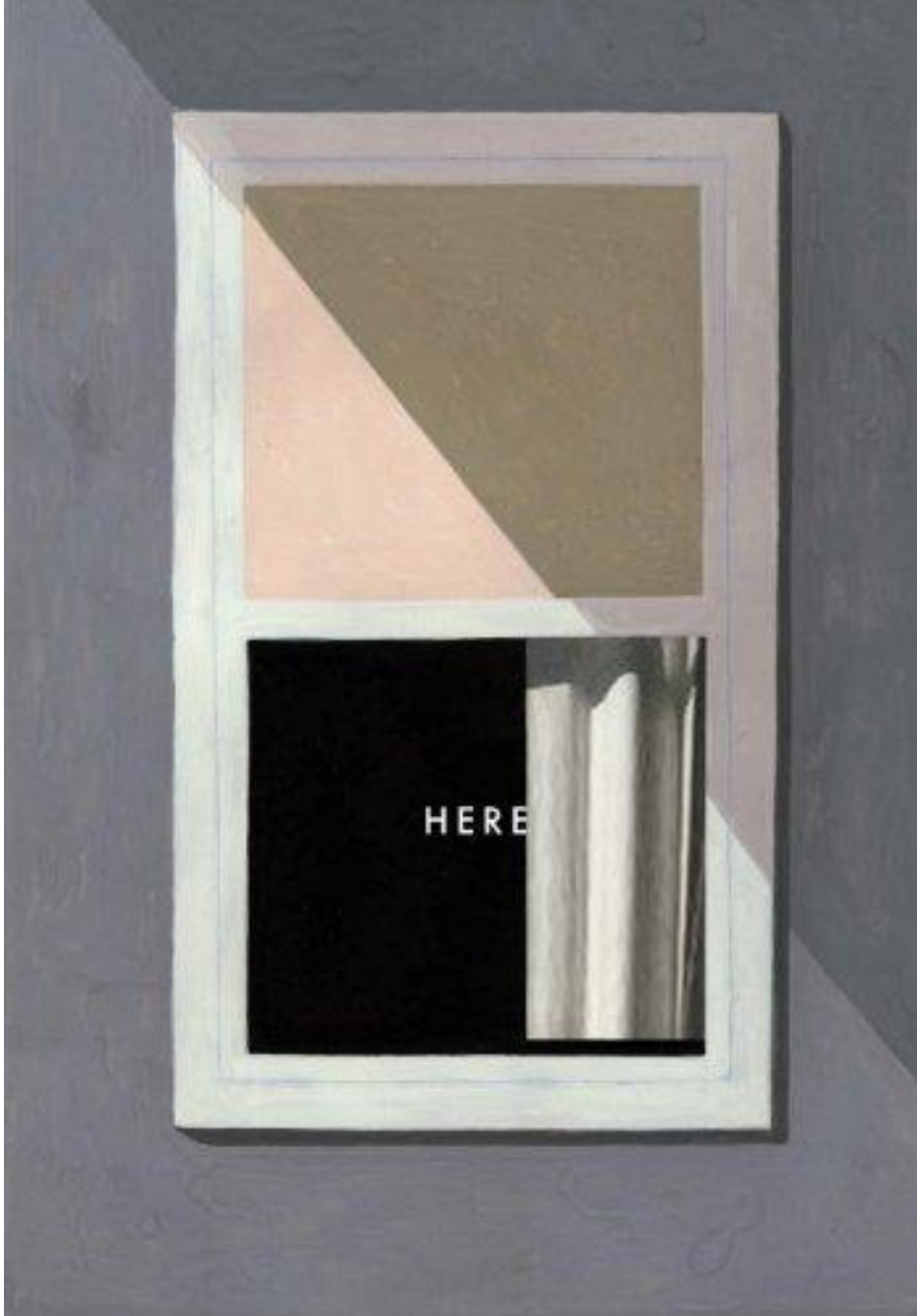
Oct 16, 2014 — Oct 18, 2014

### A Matter Theater

In the Anthropocene, it will be necessary to reformulate a variety of phenomena and processes of being in the world and making the world. Rapid climate change, biodiversity shrinkage, or the dispersion of anthropogenic materials take on a life of their own: what practices, knowledge-forms, and modes of participation are required within the Anthropocene?

- Complete program · Practices
- Exchanges · Demonstrations





*Here.* Richard McGuire. New York: Pantheon, 2014



1503



1559





80,000,000 BCE

2005

SO HE'LL HAVE TO CAMP OUT  
IN THE LIVING ROOM.  
HE CAN SLEEP ON THE SOFA BED.









## 6) Conclusion

*Turn to face the strange:* an epistemic shift?

# *Turn to face the strange: an epistemic shift?*

## **ANTHROPOCENE:**

Human causes of natural effects, and vice versa: *Confusion of “nature/culture”, confusion of disciplines (geology, physics, ecology, economics, history, anthropology)*

# *Turn to face the strange: an epistemic shift?*

## **ANTHROPOCENE:**

Human causes of natural effects, and vice versa: *Confusion of “nature/culture”, confusion of disciplines (geology, physics, ecology, economics, history, anthropology)*

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Physics, mathematics, engineering underlying meaning, sense, culture, self, experience. *Confusion of physical-mathematical sciences with humanities*

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## **“NARRATIVIZATION” and “REFRAGMENTATION” of SCIENCES :**

Dramatization of contingency, of uncertainty. Find the “story”. Not *whether* to do PR, branding, but *how*. Return of quantum weirdness-- masterable, mysterious anti-foundationalism-- to popular consciousness



# PARTICLEFEVER

WITH ONE SWITCH, EVERYTHING CHANGES

#particlefever

particlefever.com

@particlefever

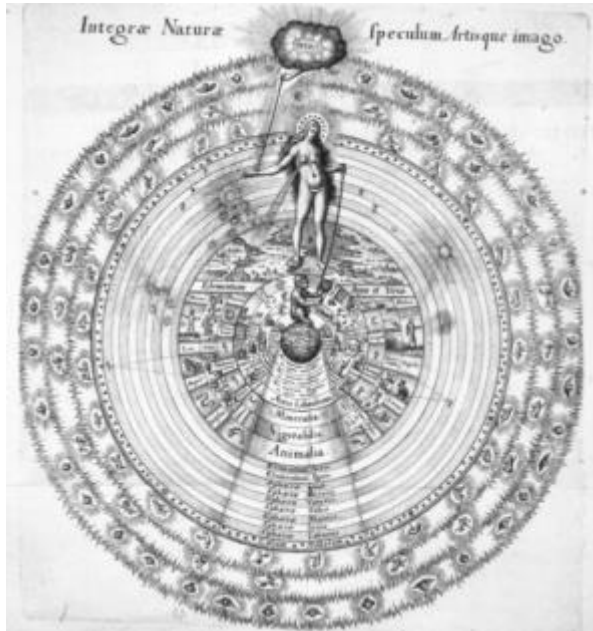




# *Turn to face the strange: an epistemic shift?*

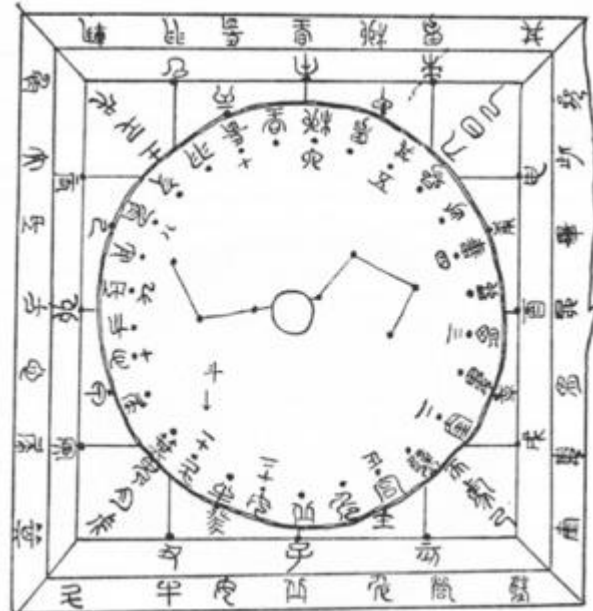
-Endless differences, heraclitean flux— bits, particles, energy-states— held in place at macro-level, only temporarily

# Turn to face the strange: an epistemic shift?

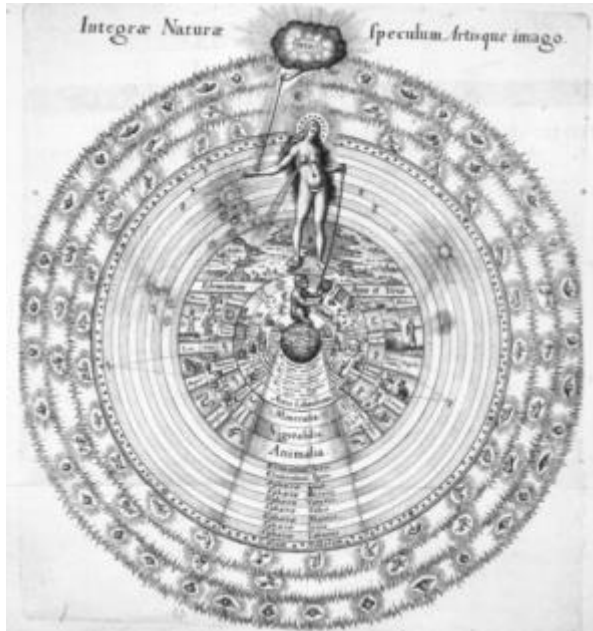


## NEO-ANALOGISM ?

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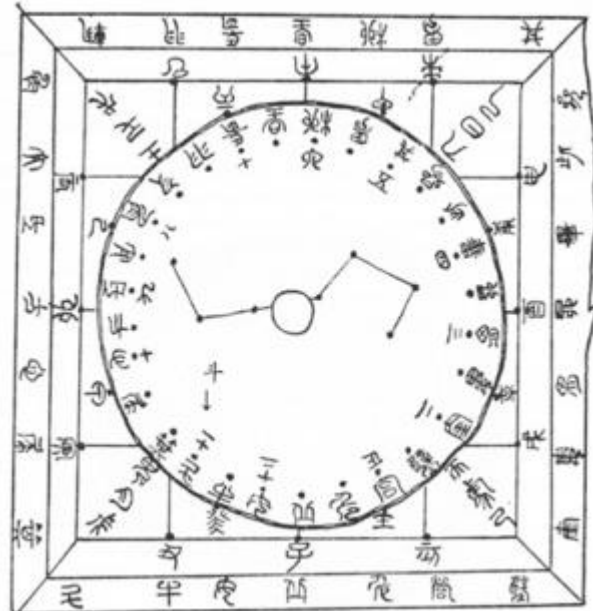
# Turn to face the strange: an epistemic shift?



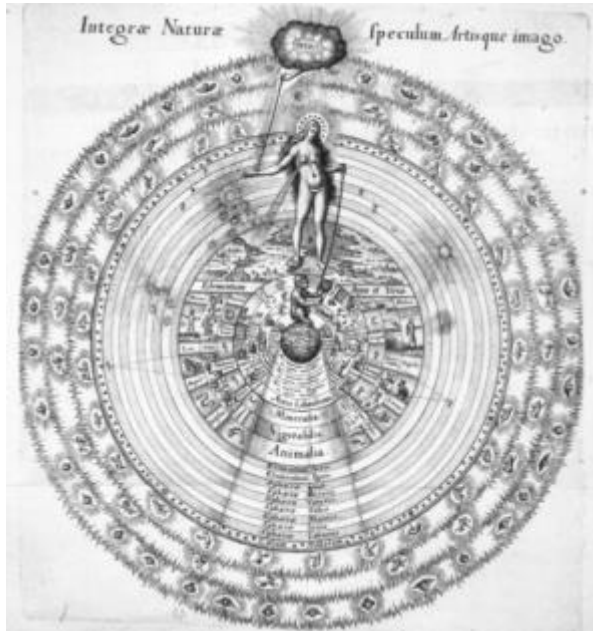
## NEO-ANALOGISM ?

-Endless differences, heraclitean flux— bits, particles, energy-states— held in place at macro-level, only temporarily

-Trust in technical infrastructure, not individuals, not institutions



# Turn to face the strange: an epistemic shift?

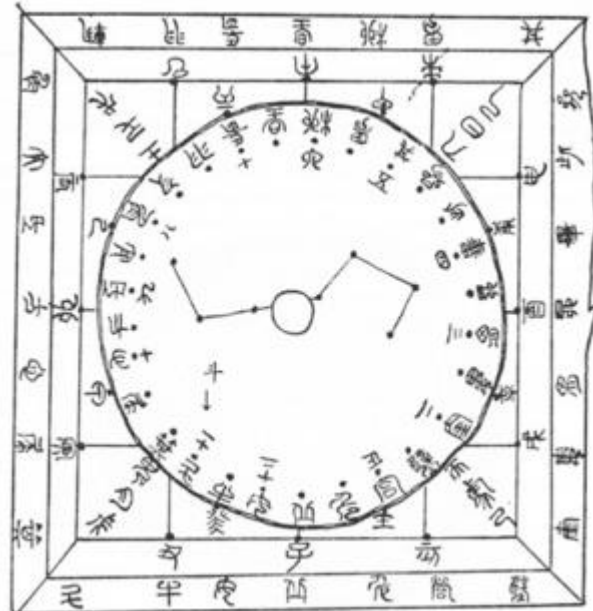


## NEO-ANALOGISM ?

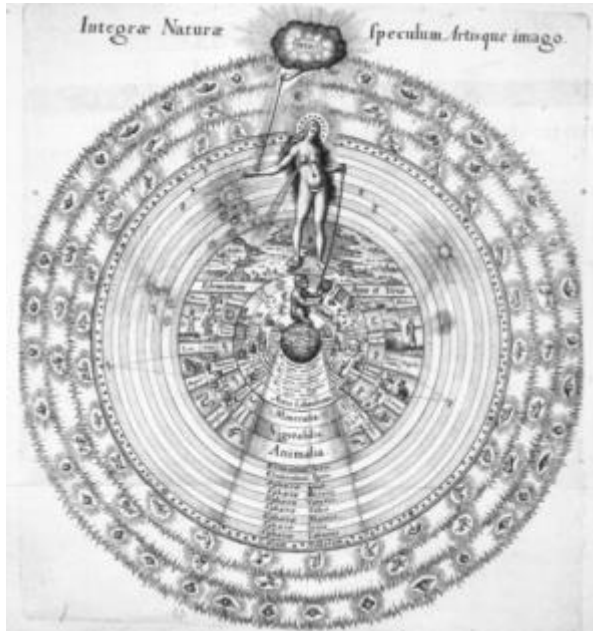
-Endless differences, heraclitean flux— bits, particles, energy-states— held in place at macro-level, only temporarily

-Trust in technical infrastructure, not individuals, not institutions

-Reflexive foundationalism



# Turn to face the strange: an epistemic shift?



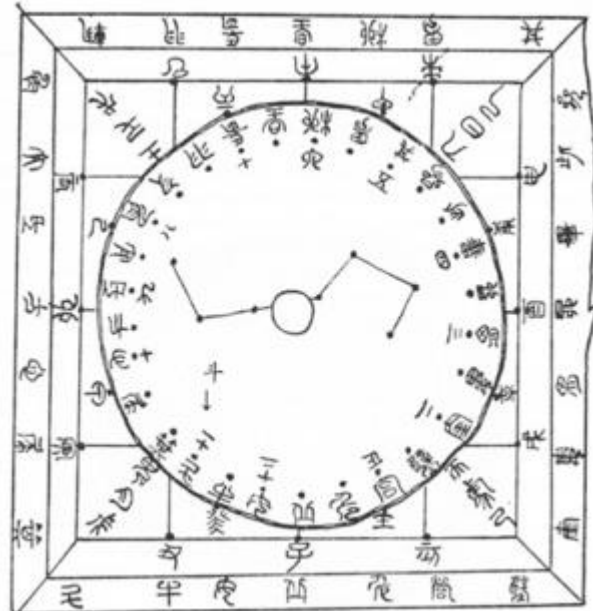
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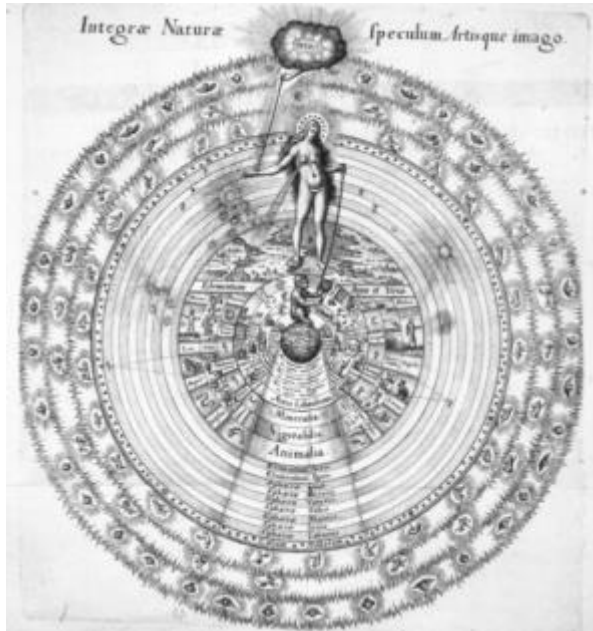
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-Reflexive foundationalism

-Syndromatic ontologies



# Turn to face the strange: an epistemic shift?



## NEO-ANALOGISM ?

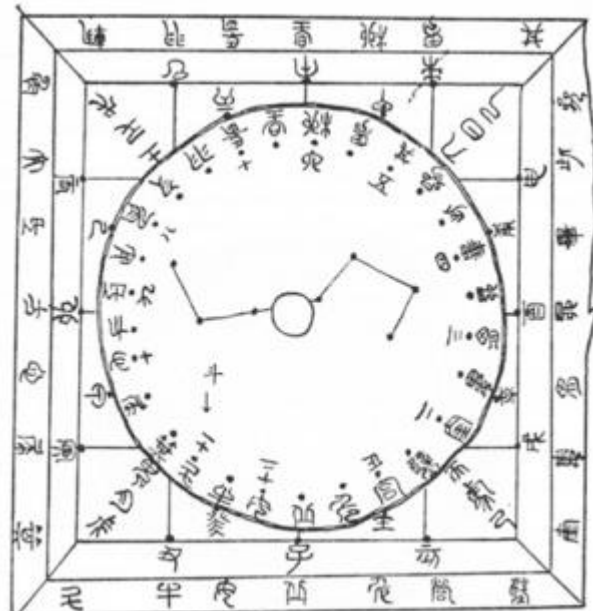
-Endless differences, heraclitean flux— bits, particles, energy-states— held in place at macro-level, only temporarily

-Trust in technical infrastructure, not individuals, not institutions

-Reflexive foundationalism

-Syndromatic ontologies

-“A strange sense in which this is a *PARTICIPATORY UNIVERSE*” (John Wheeler)





1503



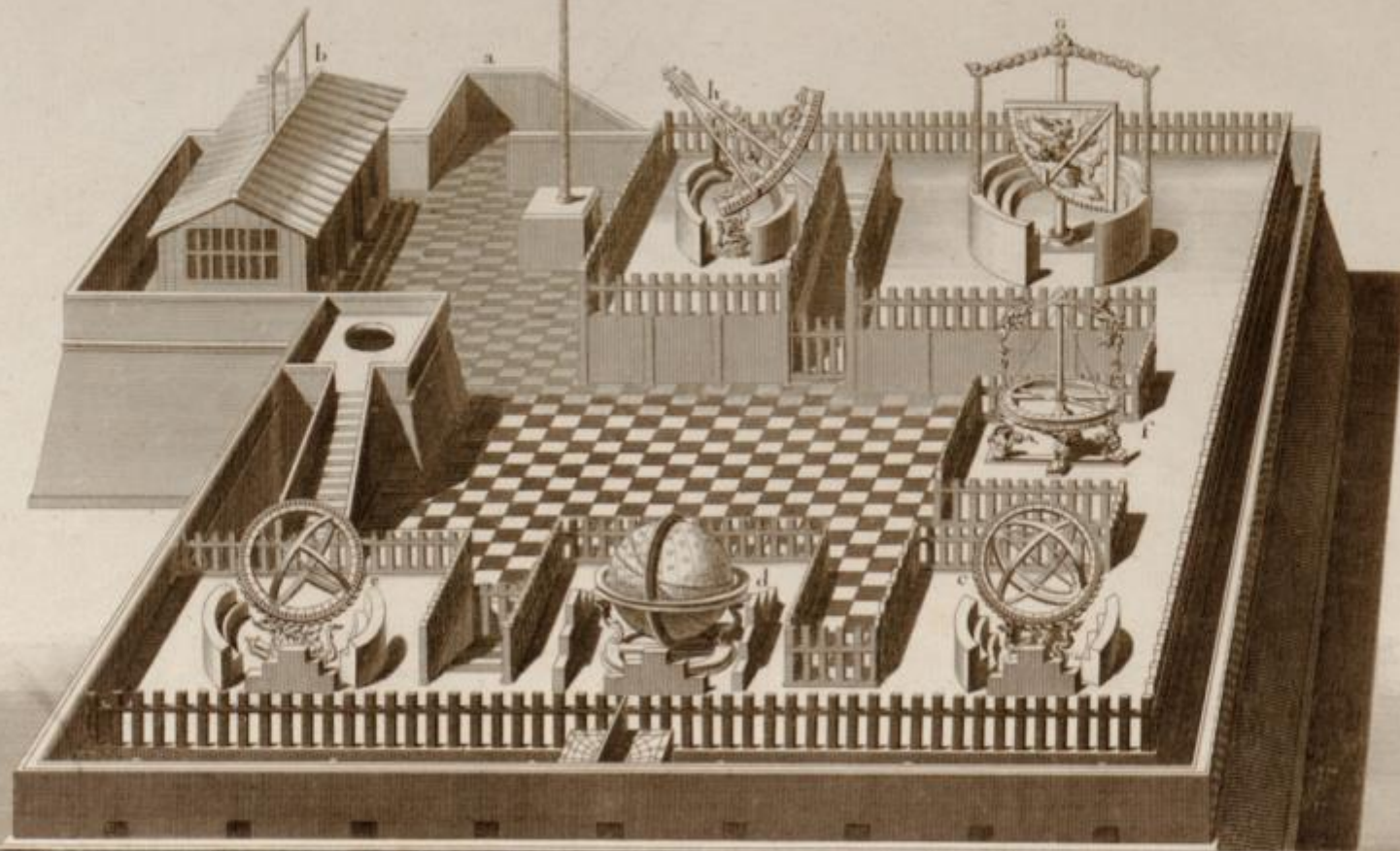






Observatoire

de Peking



a. D'où l'on monte à l'observatoire.  
b. Salle où se tenoient les observans.

c. Sphere Equinoxiale.  
d. Globe Celeste.

e. Sphere Zodiacale.  
f. Horizon azimut.

g. Quart de Cercle.  
h. Sextant.

51.

Jean Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville, *Atlas général de la Chine, de la Tartarie chinoise, et du Tibet : pour servir aux différentes descriptions et histoires de cet empire* / par M. d'Anville, premier géographe du roi. 1697

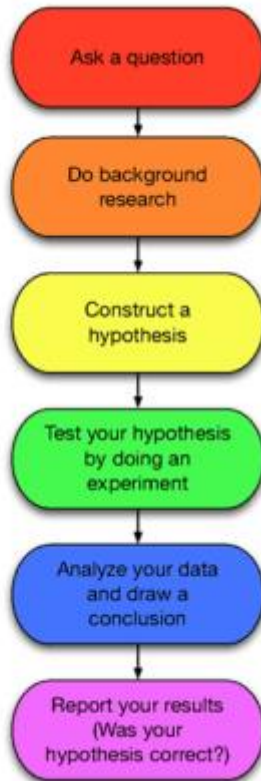
Totemism	Naturalism
Animism	Analogism



**Mechanical  
Materialist  
Objectivist**

**= MeMO**

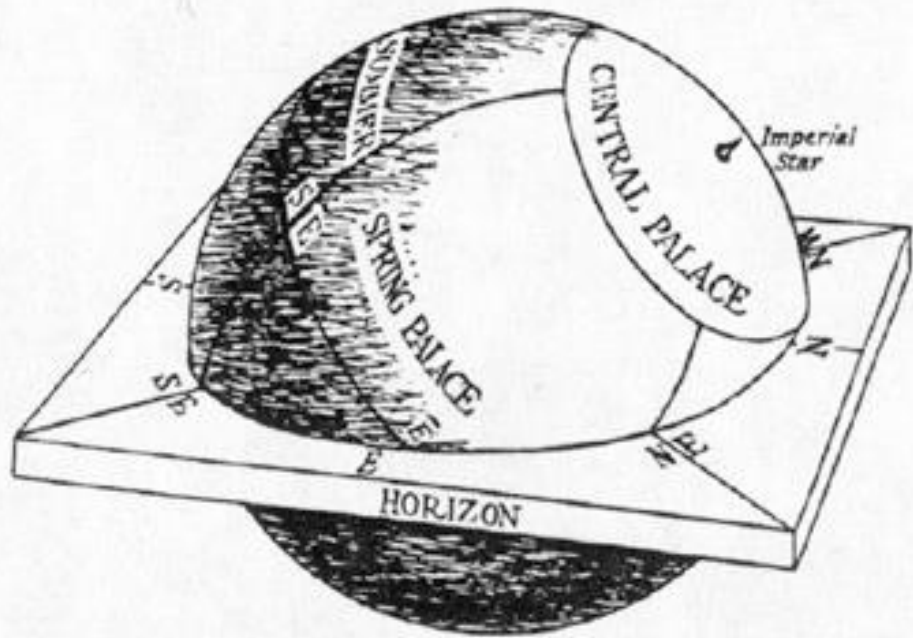
The Scientific Method



“For this vast instrument, round and shadowed, in the shape of an egg, faithfully shows **Omnipotent God, incomprehensible in His majesty and inestimable in His mysteries and the hope of all the faithful**; for humanity at first was rude and rough and simple in its actions, but was enlarged through the Old and New Testaments, and finally at the end of the world is destined to be beset with many tribulations.”

Hildegard von Bingen. *Scivias*, Image 3, c. 1150





Ancient Chinese divisions of the celestial sphere and their relations with the horizon (in Needham, Science and Civilisation in China)



Celestial Globe Made in 1673, Beijing Observatory

**Book of Celestial Offices**  
 天官書 (Astronomical chapter of Sima Qian's *Shi Ji*, *Records of the Grand Historian*, late 2nd century BC)



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WHY?



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Email

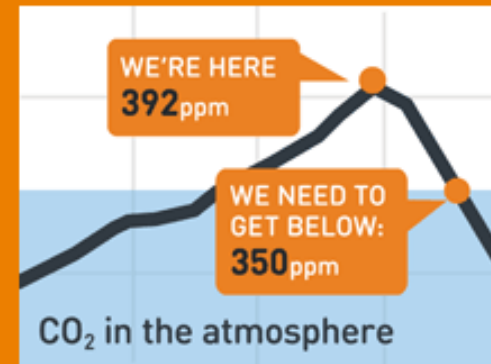


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**CO<sub>2</sub>**  
↑393.84

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DIVEST AND TAKE ACTION!

## GLOBAL POWER SHIFT

ISTANBUL, JUNE 10-17, 2013

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# STOP KXL

STOP THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

### MORE 350 PROJECTS



**Do the Math**  
A national tour movement. (US)



**350 Local**  
A global network of activist groups.

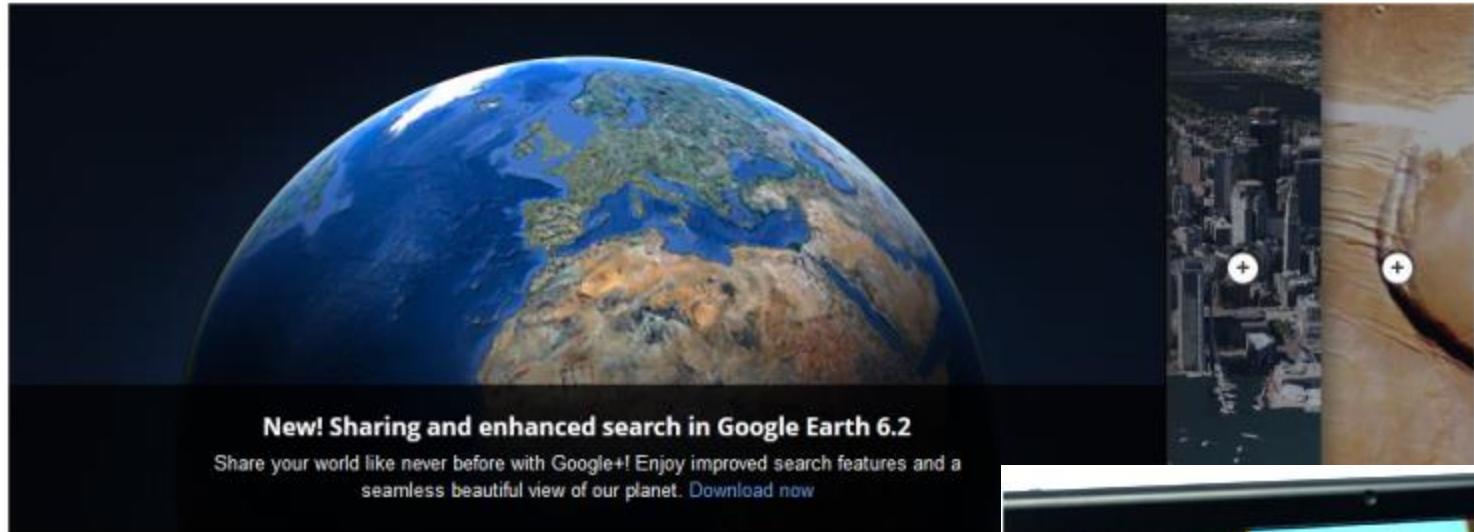


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(ClimateDot)

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"OUR PEOPLE AND OUR MOTHER EARTH CAN NO LONGER AFFORD TO BE ECONOMIC HOSTAGES IN THE RACE TO INDUSTRIALISE OUR HOMELANDS.

## IT'S TIME FOR OUR PEOPLE TO RISE UP

AND TAKE BACK OUR ROLE AS CARETAKERS AND STEWARDS OF THE LAND."

— Eriel Deranger

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nations

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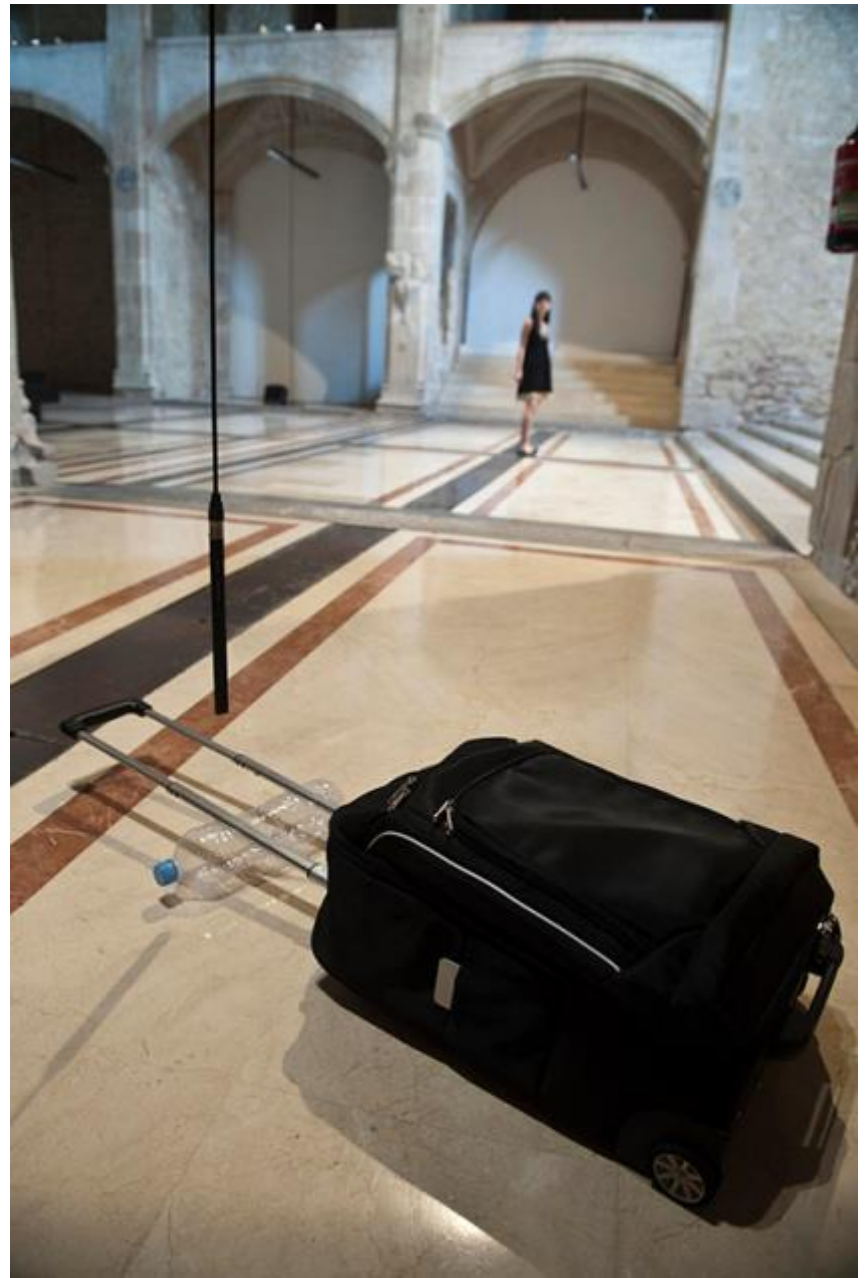


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NATASCHA SADR HAGHIGHAN, "DE PASO"

<http://www.macba.cat/en/serie-capella-natascha-sadr-haghighian>

Totemism

Naturalism

Animism

Analogism

## Chinese ANALOGISM

- RESONANCE. No driving agent, but harmonization. In medicine: not anatomical organs.
- Unified by Ch'I; Pattern of reversals and process: Yin/ Yang
- Microcosm/ Macrocosm Correspondences

BODY – STATE – COSMOS

- Emperor as MEDIATOR, COORDINATOR of Realms

