Queering Damage

ↄ ⁙ ✳ ◊ ⑴ + ^ + Æ (DAMAGE) /
∫ = ^ + ∬ / (xΩ, xΔ, xa, x∃, x©, x≠)
+ >>+ ¡+*+ # +" +💛+ ↺+♙+♞+ ↺+
❇+⚕ (tΩ, tΔ, ta, t∃, t©, t≠) =
QÆ (QUEERING DAMAGE OR N)

A methodology for queering damage.
A methodology for partial reparation
… or not.
A methodology for holding damage.
A damage for so-called methods.
A methodology or not.

QUEERING DAMAGE is an analytic to read-write the complexity of damaged/damaging technosciences and to situate ourselves in these mundane and alluring, yet reoccurring scenes. It is a set of operations that can be practiced collectively to consider the agencies, labours and harms of technoscience, to imagine life otherwise. You can use this manual to ponder the possibilities and limitations of authoritarian informatics and to study the related affective in/non/human (microbial, animal, plant, mineral, cosmological) forces in scenes of damages. In the meantime, the manual can also be used to extend, cut or twist the very notion of 'us/we/you'. It is anchored in a non-linear, fragmented and partly fictional trans*feminist para-tradition of feeling backwards and always already emerging by, for and despite damage. Queering Damage is a method for *queering damages*: an analytical praxis that functions as a plastic but rigorous method for *formulating* partial reparations... or not. Instead of extending benevolent utopianism, this praxis extends queer theories that concern personal injury into more-than-human ensembles in order to consider the *shared* damages. It is designed to be carried in your pocket, holds a free art license, and exists to be used and re-situated.

WARNINGS (TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF USE)

While using this manual, please be aware that 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... and does it without committing to a linear paradigm of causality.
- 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 specific spacetimes.
- Human and nonhumans are recognised as fixed and finite 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-predetermined by historical conditions; however, they 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 they are 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 nor innocent.

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. No forgetting, no forgiving.

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 elemental fantasies;
- operations can also be used to *imagine the possible undoings or interventions* on a condition such as love, protection, etc.

QUEERING DAMAGE OPERATIONS

OPERATION 0: 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 1: SITUATION
Consider, inhabit and add to the glossary of Queering Damage (see end of manual).

OPERATION 2: 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, naturalised damage, computer damage, urban damage, transgenerational damage, geopolitical damage, etc.

OPERATION 3: INTERVIEWING THE DAMAGE
Ask questions to the damage to widen the notion of damage and identify its conditions and surroundings.
- *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 spent with this interviewing-the-damage process.

OPERATION 4: ACTIVATING BIBLIOGRAPHIC SELF-DEFENCE
See, for example, https://queeringdamage.hangar.org/index.php/READER.

OPERATION 5: SUBCULTURING
Seriously test the (im)possibilities of being-with a slime mould, spirit, stone, tree, server...

OPERATION 6: 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 Æ, Entangled Agents (myth, technology...)
   Æ = pH+pNH+pIH+pF
   ^ + Æ (DAMAGE)

3. Divide by the axioms of αe (ethics) and αK (Kapital)
   αe
   [formula]
   αK

4. Where/When
   Define the spacetime conditioning: ephemeral, eternal, cyclic, linear, continuous, eventual, historical present, memory, extinct, dreamt, extended, distributed, dissolute, dispersed, concentrated, catalysed, centrifugal, centripetal, located, situated, regional, local, global, reachable, micro, meso, macro...
   ∫T

5. Talking about relations. Analyse and notate the Æ through a consideration of its Variable Relations (Ω repair, Δ damage, a affects, E effects, © creative force, ≠ difference)
   $\int = {}^\wedge + \iint / (x\Omega, x\Delta, xa, x\exists, x©, x≠)$

6. Generative Operations
   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.
   >>+¡+*+#+"+❤+↺+ ♟ + ♞ +↺+✳+⚡

7. Declare your QÆ = qH+qNH+qIH+qF+qd, declare the reconfigured entanglement
   (tΩ, tΔ, ta, t∃, t©, t≠)

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)

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SYMBOLS

INDICATORS
H Human
NH Nonhuman
IH Inhuman
F Fantasies/Imaginaries

GENERATIVE OPERATIONS
potentials for queering; modes
of intervention
>> remediate
^   scale timespace to n
i   integrate
*   multiply
#   speculate
"   renarrate
♥   love
↺   protest
♟   resist
♞   reclaim
↻   invent
✳   flip
⚚   celebrate

VARIABLE RELATIONS
A declaration of the relations
in your scene of damage that
you are you attending to
Ω   repair
Δ   damage
a   affects
∃   effects
©   creative force
≠   difference

AXIOMS
ae axiom of ethics (survival,
     caretaking, respect,
     responsibility)
αK Kapital (accumulation,
     acquisition, growth)

GLOSSARY (FIND YOUR OWN PATH... OR NOT)

affirmation

agencies
see Karen Barad, *Meeting the Universe Halfway: Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2007.

anthronormativities

bioeconomies

counter-coercive computing

damage
may include but is not limited to pain, suffering, injury, unrevoer-ability, unreparability, racism, homophobia, transphobia racism, ageism, ableims, specism, classism, exclusions, inclusions, uselessness.

dispossession
see Judith Butler and Athena Athanasiou, *Dispossession: The Performative in the Political*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2013.

entanglements
see Karen Barad, 'Getting Real: Technoscientific Practices and The Materialization of Reality', in *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*, vol. 10, no. 2 (1998), pp. 87–128.

generation
see Lynn Margulis and Dorion Sagan, *Slanted Truths: Essays on Gaia, Symbiosis and Evolution*, Springer Science & Business Media, 2013.

feeling backwards
see Heather Love, *Feeling Backward: Loss and the Politics of Queer History*, Harvard University Press, 2009; Saidiya Hartman, *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval*, New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2019.

figurations
see Lucy A. Suchman, *Plans and Situated Actions: The Problem of Human-Machine Communication*, Cambridge University Press, 1987.

SYMBOLS

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
Ⅲ   on political fictions, poetics, figurations &/or wild fantasies, opportunities

implicancies
only to be known through its implications; see Denise Ferreira da Silva and Arjuna Neuman, *4 Waters: Deep Implicancy*, The Showroom, 2019.

inhuman
see Kathryn Yusoff, *A Billion Black Anthropocenes or None*, University of Minnesota Press, 2018.

injury and injurious computing
see Helen Pritchard, *The Animal Hacker*, PhD dissertation, Queen Mary University of London, 2018.

poetics and poetical readings
see Denise Ferreira da Silva, 'Toward a Black Feminist Poetics: The Quest(ion) of Blackness Toward the End of the World', in *The Black Scholar*, vol. 44, no. 2 (2014), pp. 81–97.

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 organise a togetherness that counts.

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

semiotic-materialities
see Donna J. Haraway, *Modest_Witness@Second_Millennium. FemaleMan_Meets_OncoMouse™: Feminism and Technoscience.* Routledge, 1996.

spacetime conditioning

technosciences

trans*feminist
see Possible Bodies inventory

Helen Pritchard and Jara Rocha will present a lecture at the Sonic Acts Academy conference on 22 February.

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