

Review of: "The Countertextual Peripeteias of the Contemporary Humanities as a Political Challenge"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

As a historian, many of my colleagues commonly associate the term "concept of turn" exclusively with the "linguistic turn" and the works of scholars like Hayden White, Dominick LaCapra, as well as the "post-structuralists" such as Jacques Derrida, Roland Barthes, Michel Foucault, among others.

This paper contributes to enlarge this debate by capturing "the link between the turn understood as falling off the set course (πίπτειν) and returning (περι)" as the author proposes that the "This 'turn against' [the limitations of their own perspective] is rooted in the 'turn towards', which is driven by the returning experiences that outgrow and decompose the textual fabric of the humanities in the stricter sense."

To develop his hypothesis, the author identifies 8 "turns": the oral, the rhetorical, the orality, the performative, the cultural and post-colonial, the one of "materiality of things" and "corporality of culture", the folklore turn, and the somatic and affective turn.

As stated by the author, these turns "question the primacy of the logocentric attitude, reason as the supreme tribunal, the subject as the spirit, understanding being in terms of presence, the human being as animal rationale, history as progress, knowledge as uninvolved, scientific observation and description of facts, technology as a tool, etc." And, moreover, "how these philosophical ideas turn the humanities against textualism."

In the paper's argument "Countertextualism" presents itself as a "political challenge" and these countertextual peripeteias "reach the very foundation of the contemporary humanities"

From this point, the author questions the "textual slant" and how the "writing community" has been losing its influence in the public sphere.

From the reading, it appears that the phenomenon you are discussing is influenced by the new modes of mediation provided by digital culture. Considering the intertwined relationship between democracy, politics, and technology in your paper, it would be beneficial to explore Stiegler's trilogy on technics and time, as well as the works of Yuk Hui on digital objects, for further writing.

Your argument raises an important point about the relevance of questioning the "contemporary digital condition" of universities in light of Derridean's idea of a "university without condition." The digital landscape of universities, it may be an additional "turn" that contributes to the intricate relationship between democracy, politics, and technology (or the question

of “writing community”).

Last but not least, it was a very insightful and interesting reading, so I'd like to congratulate the author for this intellectual piece.