

Commentary

About Capitalism: Four Remarks

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Accelerationism proposes accelerating capitalism toward a post-capitalist future. Schizoanalysis proposes liberating patients also by accelerating capitalism. This essay explains why not only acceleration but also redirection may be essential in accelerationism and schizoanalysis.

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Capitalism and Repetition

Accelerationists, drawing on Marx, propose overcoming capitalism by accelerating it without interruption (cf. [1]). Nick Land[2] relies on Deleuze and Guattari's[3][4] notion of "deterritorialization," according to which capitalism disrupts social orders while dissolving boundaries between communities. He insists that only deterritorialization can lead to a post-capitalist future. However, Williams and Srnicek[5] point out that capitalism generates reinforced orders at once, which Deleuze and Guattari called "reterritorialization." They propose not only accelerating but also redirecting capitalism toward a post-capitalist future.

Such redirection may be essential for transforming capitalism. Referring to Deleuze's[6] notion of "repetition," I have proposed viewing living things as life cycles within *lineages*, as defined in evolutionary biology[7].

[L] ineage [is] an entity that changes indefinitely through time as a result of replication and interaction. Neither genes nor organisms can function as lineages because neither can change indefinitely without becoming numerically distinct individuals. However, both form lineages that can and do evolve[8].

In contrast to genetic replication, which is mere duplication, lineages may be *repetitions* that generate difference and new variations among living things. In evolutionary biology, macroevolution, which

creates new species, is distinguished from microevolution, which generates variations within species. Macroevolution fosters biological diversity essential to ecosystems. Lineages, which drive macroevolution, may be *repetitions in themselves*, i.e., genuine repetitions. By contrast, capitalism reduces social diversity while dissolving boundaries between communities through deterritorialization and reterritorialization. Since capitalism may not be repetition in itself, redirection may be essential for transforming it into genuine repetition fostering social diversity toward a post-capitalist future.

Arche-capitalism and Puissance

Such a post-capitalist future may be an *arche-capitalist* future. Derrida^[9] deconstructed the hierarchical opposition of speech/writing, pointing out that speech is not one-time but repeatable like writing, as both instantiate word types. He claimed that speech is derived from “arche-writing,” without which neither speech nor writing would exist (cf. ^[7]). Similarly, capitalism is derived from *arche-capitalism*, without which capitalism would lead to hegemony through deterritorialization and reterritorialization. The more capitalism is accelerated without redirection, the more it disrupts social orders while generating reinforced ones. Arche-capitalism may be genuine repetition, fostering social diversity against such hegemony. Capitalism and arche-capitalism may respectively correspond to “pouvoir” and “puissance” in Deleuze’s^[10] terminology. *Pouvoir* is sovereign power such as authority, domination, and control, whereas *puissance* is immanent power such as resistance, flight, and creation. According to Deleuze, *pouvoir* is derived from *puissance*. Similarly, capitalism is derived from arche-capitalism. This correspondence seems to be implied by Williams and Srnicek in the following way:

Accelerationists want to unleash latent productive forces. In this project, the material platform of neoliberalism does not need to be destroyed. It needs to be repurposed towards common ends. The existing infrastructure is not a capitalist stage to be smashed, but a springboard to launch towards post-capitalism^[5].

Since capitalism may be sovereign power, or *pouvoir*, redirection may be essential for transforming it into immanent power, or *puissance*, toward an arche-capitalist future.

Accelerationism and Schizoanalysis

Deleuze and Guattari^{[3][4]} developed *schizoanalysis* in opposition to Freud’s psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysis regards schizophrenia as a mental illness, or an abnormal state, whereas schizoanalysis

does not consider it abnormal but rather a social construct. Freud sought to treat patients by tracing the causes of illnesses to their familial relationships. In contrast, Deleuze and Guattari insisted that patients suffer because their desires are constrained by social forces that extend beyond the family. In modern society, these constraints are no longer imposed by tribes or nations but by capitalist mechanisms, of which the family is merely one component. According to Deleuze and Guattari, capitalism spreads, or *decodes*, desires in diverse directions, while simultaneously stabilizing, or *recoding*, them into a unified direction. Schizoanalysis holds that patients with schizophrenia suffer because their decoded desires are recoded by capitalist mechanisms. Deleuze and Guattari proposed liberating patients by accelerating capitalism to the point where decoding is no longer followed by recoding.

Accelerationists also propose accelerating capitalism. Nick Land insists that only deterritorialization, which disrupts social orders, can lead to a post-capitalist future. However, deterritorialization is always accompanied by reterritorialization, which generates reinforced orders. He proposes pursuing absolute deterritorialization, which is no longer accompanied by reterritorialization, but such absolute deterritorialization may lead to anarchy. Deterritorialization and reterritorialization correspond to decoding and recoding respectively. As absolute deterritorialization may lead to anarchy, absolute decoding, which is no longer followed by recoding, may lead to a chaos of desires. Williams and Srnicek propose not only accelerating but also redirecting capitalism toward a post-capitalist future. Such redirection may also be essential for liberating patients in schizoanalysis. I have explained above why redirection, as well as acceleration, may be essential in accelerationism. Lineages, which drive macroevolution, may be genuine repetitions, fostering biological diversity. By contrast, capitalism may not be genuine repetition, reducing social and psychological diversity through deterritorialization/reterritorialization and decoding/recoding. Since absolute decoding may lead to a chaos of desires, redirection may be essential for transforming capitalism into genuine repetition fostering a diversity of desires, which can liberate patients.

Redirection and Non-philosophy

Such redirection may be possible from a *non-philosophical* perspective. Before proposing accelerationism, Srnicek^[11] attempted to relativize capitalism by appealing to Laruelle's *non-philosophy*^{[12][13]}.

[C]apitalism constitutively has no outside – all of society, including everyday innocuous socializing processes, becomes productive for capital as it shifts to immaterial labor. As

such, resistance cannot place itself in an external relation to capitalism.... What is required is a transformation of this capitalist structure...^[11].

Non-philosophy holds that all philosophies try to explain reality ("the Real") by making "Decisions," that is, by adopting divisions such as form/matter, subject/object, and transcendence/immanence, but are incapable of accounting for such Decisions. Decisions are made possible by the Real, not vice versa, so no philosophies with Decisions are absolute but relative according to non-philosophy. Srnicek argues that capitalism has a philosophical structure with a Decisional division such as deterritorialization/reterritorialization or multitude/capital^[14], so it is not absolute but relative from a non-philosophical perspective. Since capitalism cannot be resisted but relativized non-philosophically, redirection may be possible for a transformation of the capitalist structure.

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