

# Review of: "[Essay] The Algorithm; Mind of a Virtual Era – Our Code of Codes"

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The article, written in the form of an essay, takes as its theme our digital age. As the author, Dr. Anna Aragno, indicates, our time is marked by the advent of computers, structured based on algorithms and mediated by screens. In the text, the author is guided, more specifically, by the purpose of discussing and analyzing algorithms based on the concept of code, besides discussing the implications of the computational complex in the social field and in the realm of subjectivity. This new coding apparatus is recognized as the vehicle of an unprecedented change in the history of technique, and which characterizes our era.

The subject is important and the analyses developed throughout the text contribute to highlight several of its most urgent aspects.

The text is very well written. The writing is clear and correct in the formal aspects of the language, and the structuring of the argument evolves in a coherent and organized manner, well grounded in pertinent and relevant literature. I just felt the lack of indications, at the beginning of the article, about the argumentative path that would be developed in the paper.

The text begins with a section in which the computational complex is historically situated. Foundations of cybernetics and programming are presented based on N. Wiener (it is necessary to correct the name of the author, which appears in the text as "Weiner"; Norbert Wiener was one of the founders of cybernetics, and wrote the book entitled "The human use of human beings"), C. Shannon and J. von Neumann. The discussion of the process of mathematization of information and the analogy between subject and machine are highlighted in this part.

In the following section, a critical analysis of the ambitions and processes inherent to the regime of computation is initiated. The critique is based on the confrontation between the already consolidated conception among computing exponents of a full integration between subject-machine and the recovery of the specificities of subjectivity, such as the dream.

The final section of the text is dedicated to the discussion of the consequences of computer-mediated experience. The question of the capture of attention by screen-mediated computational apparatuses and of virtual tools as supplements of mental faculties are addressed, in addition to the precise indication of possible gains and risks involved in the computational regime.

The conclusions take up and explore aspects discussed throughout the text.

It is appropriate to point out, in order to make this review an occasion for debate, that the links between the computer complex and capitalism could have been better established. Surveillance and financialization are intertwined in the digital age. If computing was created and developed in institutional networks that connected war machines to universities, some time ago it started to be designed and conducted in economic exploitation. There are excellent works on the subject. For an approach to the theme, I recommend the books “The age of surveillance capitalism”, by Shoshana Zuboff, and the recent “Scorched Earth: beyond the digital age to a post-capitalist world”, by Jonathan Crary.

It is a great merit of the author to have highlighted the issue of code as the interpretative axis of algorithms. On this subject, it is worth mentioning the book “Code: from information theory to French theory”, by Bernard Geoghegan.

I will end by indicating two small corrections that should be made to the article. The text which serves as the epigraph to the section beginning on page 06, by Y. N. Harari, is not included in the bibliography. On the same page, the word “facets” is written as “ffacets”.