Alexander Kluge
He Has the Heartless Eyes
of One Loved above All Else

Quality that unnerve. What Gesine ever saw in this spoiled youth is a mystery to me. Even in this first courting hour—I was there and unfortunately went home early—he was full and satisfied, his look a “business look.” So I was convinced “I didn’t even need to ignore it.” But Gesine saw something else. In his blotchy face she saw what she felt, as in a mirror.

I always thought that mothers who loved their sons sort a seed of tenderness in them. This is then harvested by the people who meet these young men later. Instead, a frugal patriarchy establishes itself in such cases, a long line of sedentary ancestors who grasp only, and ask for nothing. I get the impression that sons who don’t have to fight for their mothers’ affection develop monsters inside them.

I don’t want to generalize, and yet I’m doing just that. My anger at Gesine’s occupier loosens my tongue for generalizations:

“He has the heartless eyes / Of one loved above all else”
views to what was above and below the timeline. It opened views to the larger set of conditions articulated by the arrangement of information brought into narrative armature, to reveal the far-reaching associations between political and cultural events that render the historical period legible.
Consider a fictional multiple integral equation that is a flawed trope and a serious joke in an effort to picture what an intersectional—or intra-actional—theory might look like in Terrapolis.2 Think of this formalism as the mathematics of sf. Sf is that potent material semi-otic sign for the riches of speculative fabulation, speculative feminism, science fiction, science fact, science fantasy—and, I suggest, string figures. In looping threads and relays of patterning, this sf practice is a model for worlding. Sf must also mean “so far,” opening up what is yet-to-come in protean time’s pasts, presents, and futures.

Ω
\[
\int \text{T erra} [X_1, X_2, X_3, X_4, \ldots, X_n, t] \, dX_1 \, dX_2 \, dX_3 \, dX_4 \ldots dX_n \, dt = \text{T errapolis}
\]

α
X_1 = stuff\textit{physis}, X_2 = capacity, X_3 = sociality, X_4 = materiality, X_n = ?

α (alpha) = not zoë, but EcoEvoDevo's multispecies epigenesis
Ω (omega) = not bios, but recuperating terra's pluriverse

\[ t = \text{multi-scalar times, entangled times of past/present/yet-to-come, worlding times, not container time} \]

Terrapolis is a fictional integral equation, a speculative fabulation.4 Terrapolis is an n-dimensional hyper volume; in ecological theory, a niche space.5 Terrapolis is a niche space for multispecies becoming-with.6 Terrapolis is a n-dimensional volume in naturecultures.7 Terrapolis is the semiotic material worlding of EcoEvoDevo in multi-scalar times and places.7 Terrapolis is the cat’s cradling set of string figures tied in intra-action and intra-patience.

Terrapolis is networked re-enactments for flourishing in mortal terran living and dying.

Terrapolis is multispecies storytelling, multispecies worlding in sf modes.

Terrapolis is open, not poor in world, full of connections and networked re-enactments.8

Terrapolis is a chimera of materials, languages, histories; a mongrel of Greek and Latin.

Terrapolis is playing cat’s cradle with Isabelle Stengers’ cosmopolitics, tugging at the threads of coherence in the interests of co-habitation.9

Terrapolis is the home of transdisciplinarities that are at risk of becoming-with.10

Terrapolis is at risk of dropping threads and missing dimensions in the action and passion of caring.

Terrapolis is full of companion species—not “post-human” but “com-post.”

Terrapolis is of and for humus, the stuff of guman, an old earthy Indo-European word for workers of the soil, not the stuff of homo, that figure of the bright and airy sacred image of the same.

Terrapolis is not a system, not even a hopeful 3rd-order or nth-order cybernetic system; but its values are determinable, locatable, accountable, and open to change.

Terrapolis is abstract and concrete.

Terrapolis is sf.

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**SF: Speculative Fabulation and String Figures**