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Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Making our way in semi-obscurity

Dr Jorella Andrews
Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths

Making our way in
semi-obscurity

… the philosopher knows very well that, whatever be his effort, in the best of cases it will take its place among the artefacts and products of culture, as an instance of them. If this paradox is not an impossibility, and if philosophy can speak, it is because language is not only the depository of fixed and acquired significations …

… because its cumulative power itself results from a power of anticipation or of prepossession, because one speaks not only of what one knows, so as to set out a display of it – but also of what one does not know, in order to know it …

… and because language in forming itself expresses, at least laterally, an ontogenesis of which it is a part … the words most charged with philosophy are not necessarily those that contain what they say, but rather those that most energetically open upon Being, because they more closely convey the life of the whole and ***make our habitual evidences vibrate until they disjoin***.

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Visible and the Invisible: Followed by Working Notes* [posthumously published in French 1964], Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1968, 102.

We will come to these questions by starting ‘from below’.

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Structure of Behavior* [1942], Boston: Beacon Press, 1963, 4.

Perception: “this interrogative thought which lets the perceived world be rather than posits it, before which the things form and undo themselves in a sort of gliding, beneath the yes and the no.”

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Visible and the Invisible: Followed by Working Notes* [posthumously published in French 1964], Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1968, 102.

It is … a question put to what does not speak

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Visible and the Invisible: Followed by Working Notes* [posthumously published in French 1964], Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1968, 102.

It directs this question to our mute life

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Visible and the Invisible: Followed by Working Notes* [posthumously published in French 1964], Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1968, 102.

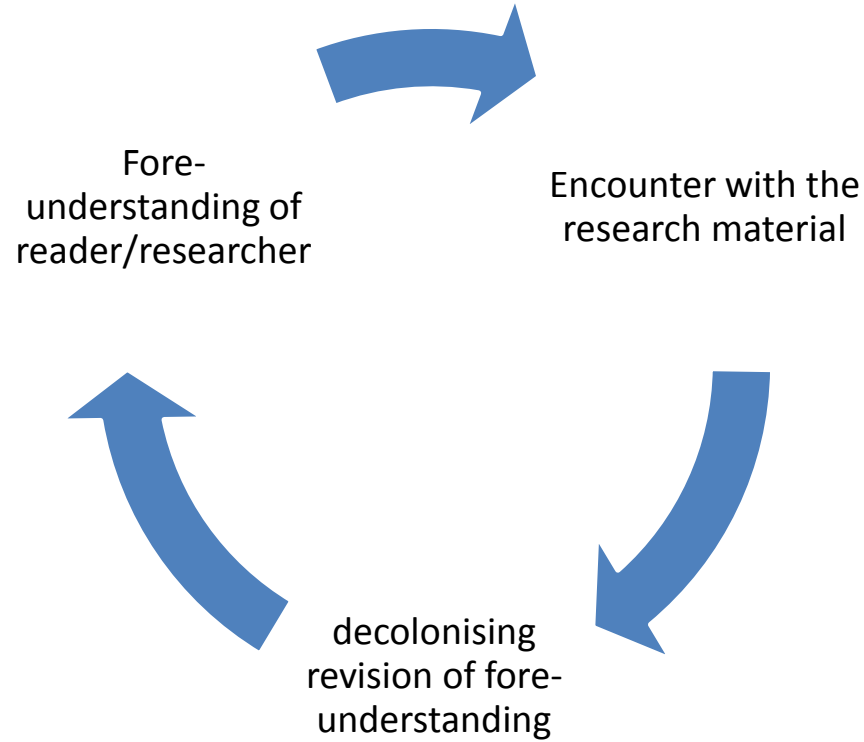
It addresses itself to that compound of the world and of ourselves that precedes reflection

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Visible and the Invisible: Followed by Working Notes* [posthumously published in French 1964], Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1968, 102.

Phenomenological method “is a matter of describing, not of explaining or analysing”.

Merleau-Ponty, ‘Preface’, *Phenomenology of Perception*, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd, 1962, viii

The ~~hermeneutic~~ decolonising circle in phenomenological research



Developing pre-critical phenomenological research strategies

Description

Transcription

Ekphrasis

Paraphrase

Enactment / Performance

Mapping / Drawing

Listing

[…]

Slide from Ilga Leimanis's workshop 'Visualizing through Drawing' at IAVC (International Association for Visual Culture) Conference 2018 on 'Visual Pedagogies'

Add / Subtract /

Crop / Focus / Select / Isolate

Scale / Size (Bigger/Smaller)

Multiply / Repeat (part or all)

Organic / Geometric

Contrast: intense/calm; light/dark/ big/small

2D / 3D

Frame / Composition

Explode / Parts / Deconstruct

Context / audience / where? / who? / why? / when? / how?

TIME / prequel / sequel / history / movement / o'clock / light & shadow

[…]