

Noise Vs. Culture 1

JLIAT / James Whitehead.

NOISE VS CULTURE

Excess, affect, and the destruction of 'sense'.

"Coercion is inherent in philosophy, yet coercion alone protects it from regressing into licence. The coercive character that is immanent in our thinking can be critically known; the coercion of thought is the medium of its deliverance. Hegel's "freedom to the object" the net result of which was the subject's incapacitation, has yet to be achieved." - Adorno 'Negative Dialectics'

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One: Proviso

The term "Noise" here will be used as "The interfering Discipline" - in the sense used in *What Philosophy Is* - (Deleuze and Guattari 1996) - - referring to Art Philosophy and Science's use of each others terminologies etc. in that it will proceed with its own methods... which is difficult as its essentially non-methodological, or better it has a plenum of methods. So it will not only interfere, it will borrow methods - or "clone" methods, (Laurelle) not which might not be of its own, but which it in effect it already "has", a method cloned in this case from cybernetics. Though there are very many paths to noise....

Noise does not "illustrate" a theory, and its validity, ~~truth~~, or reality (which is better) is independent of any theory, including this. In much the same way as in art, theories of form and colour, do not invalidate an artists work when the theory is found to be false, Seurat, or in music, the truth or not of Catholicism is not able to falsify Tallis etc.

Theory here arrives after the noise. It could explain it, in which case it would merely be a doubling, but of something perhaps already doubled, and something which is non totalizable.

Two: Where to Begin

Unpacking, some notes.

NOISE VS CULTURE

Excess, affect, and the destruction of 'sense'.

Excess: The exorbitant, The Dangerous Supplement. - (Derrida of Grammatology)

Excess: The Event - Badiou.

Excess/ Affect: The singularity on the plane of immanence - Deleuze

Destruction - Heidegger's destruktion - the authenticity of creativity Vs the representation of the same - chatter.

Sense: (Deleuze) Good sense as the guarantee of Common Sense (Doxa) which is the ability to ground the faculties. In the case of Kant, Imagination, understanding, reason, ideas. The truth of Doxa, and its good nature, which guarantees - for instance the Cogito. "Everybody knows" is a form of representation, RE PRESENT, so not a genesis, but from this is derived the Cogito... yet this moment in order to be not an "image" but real (a singularity / event) needs to be founded on "an individual full of ill will who does not manage to think, either naturally or conceptually. Only such an individual is without presuppositions. Only such an individual effectively begins and effectively repeats" The Cogito is underwritten by the Doxa of an already formed idea of "Concept" and of "Nature"! - and good will - (The Image of Thought (Difference and Repetition))

Noise - is the many

Culture - the one (doxa)

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Three: Versus

Definitions? Vs.

1. (esp. in a competition or lawsuit) against; in opposition to Abbreviation v (esp. US) vs.

2. as opposed to; in contrast with

[from Latin: turned (in the direction of), opposite, from *vertere* to turn]

Music: Organised sound

Noise: Unwanted sound / Signal without Data / Meaningless Data.

Noise music: A genre of music related to Power Electronics, Punk / Metal. Anti music
Anti art anti establishment.

Within modernity, and its culture - are structure, form, meaning and purpose, it also includes as culture - deconstruction, popular non-culture, anti-art, anti-culture, as culture. A critique of culture is culture, is an essence of modernity and post-modernity? Of Art, Music and Science. Of the Dialecticetc. How *typical* of both modernity and post-modernity is **"Questioning!"**

It is the possibility of Noise in the first instance above, of Unwanted sound / Signal without Data / Meaningless Data which I wish to propose.....

Four: SWOT (analysis)

Given a 'combative' situation - so avoiding in this instance a musicological, aesthetic, philosophic, historic proposals of Noise, and the need to be precise and brief, my model will be taken from Computer Science, from where the definition "Meaningless Data" derives. Firstly because this can be precisely shown without (and secondly) recourse to metaphysics/philosophy. (and the problematics, legislation associated with these)

"And what now takes the place of philosophy?" "Cybernetics" - (Heidegger.)

Von Neumann Architecture.

(Why you sometimes perform "illegal" operations with your computer.)

The Von Neumann Architecture is how modern computers work. One of the features of this architecture is a shared memory. The computer's memory (RAM) is used by Data, Addresses and Instructions. Data - a picture you are drawing, a text file you are editing, a music file, Mp3 etc. Addresses - these are pointers the computer uses to find "stuff" in memory, and take data there. (Think of a letter with data inside, and an address on the outside). Instructions, these tell the computer what to do, are low level machine code. For example take these bits here, fetch some bits from there. The bits could be data, the here and there places in memory. The point is rather than have three types of memory, one for data, one for addresses and one for instructions they all share the same space, for technically good reasons. (keep it simple stupid). Though this simple idea is efficient problems can occur when data, addresses and or instructions get muddled.

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Five: Beginning in the wrong place.

A "typical" bit of code might look like this...

Instruction	Data	Address
Do this	to this	from here or send it here

Each would consist of Bytes made of Bits=

0101001010010000 11100001101010110 100101010001010

However there is no way of knowing what 11100001101010110 means. If its in the first part - its an instruction, in the middle its Data and if at the end its an Address. The computer treats whatever arrives in its processing unit as such. If a bit goes missing then

0101001010010000 11100001101010110 100101010001010 becomes....

101001010010000 1 100001101010110 1 00101010001010 +

(the next chunk's first bit of the next instruction - in this case it becomes part of this instruction's address part. Here the instruction now starts with a 1 and uses the first bit of its data to complete the Op Code. The Data now has a missing bit at the beginning and uses the first bit of the address. If the "new" opcode doesn't exist 1010010100100001 isn't recognised then the computer will not be able to continue. This is an illegal instruction! If the "new" address is not correct this is an "illegal" address, if the data is altered then the text file or mp3 / picture will have nonsense or rubbish at that place.

The above was an example - simplified to demonstrate the principle behind "executing data". "executing code from a non-executable memory region" (This fact is often exploited by "hackers"!)

An actual example:

Here the Microsoft Explorer program crashed trying to write data to a place in memory. This caused an "exception" - a problem - that the program couldn't handle and so the operating system, windows NT, gives the message-

```
Unhandled exception at 0x0a153739 in explorer.exe: 0xC0000005:
Access violation writing location 0x090afc40
```

If we look at the place in explorer.exe where this occurred we see-

Address	OpCode	Meaning	English!
04893739	movd	dword ptr [edi+edx],mm2	move some stuff
0489373D	psrlq	mm2,20h	Shift some bits left
04893741	movd	dword ptr [edi+edx+3],mm2	move some stuff

The actual code will be just binary 1011001010010100100000000001010101011 etc. Here the debug program helps! by printing addresses in hexadecimal and the opcodes as mnemonics.

Above is a dump (picture!) of memory showing where an opcode - an instruction- tried to move some data to an area of memory it should not do. Either this address in

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RAM (memory) was not there*, or this process (program or App) hadn't got the rights to do this, that location was being used by another app for instance. *Say a street has 100 houses - (Addresses) then the postman can't deliver a letter to house number 125.

Once the context of the bit string is lost, it effectively becomes noise. Such noise causes the program to fail, data to become destroyed and the system fails.
Coherence, structure and meaning is lost.

This might be ignored in non computing contexts where redundancy can mean information is recoverable. Thus the ability to complete crosswords, to fill in the blanks. “ _ _ _ _ or not to b be.”

However Saussure established that in language signs are arbitrary. And this was further developed by Derrida in *Of Grammatology* to argue that language worked as a play of differences without any being privileged! There is nothing with the letters “C” “A” “T” that is catty... CAT and DOG could be interchangeable for what they signified. Or in Albanian - QEN MACE.... Which is CAT and which is DOG? In effect - its been said - we are all speaking “dead languages” - ('Brassier' et. al.)

Six: Nothing inside or outside.

So there is nothing inside the text, and the text here could be an image or a sound structure, where its meaning can be derived. 1001001010010100101 ?
An unknown language is lost. A one time pad in cryptography is impossible to decode.

Further - its been argued - there is nothing outside of the text which can provide it with a fixed definitive meaning. Famously “il n'y pas de hors-texte” (Derrida - *Of Grammatology*) By which there is no arbiter of a fixed and final meaning of a text, not the author, (death of author & the intentional fallacy) or a theory of interpretation - psychoanalytical et al, or metaphysical, God.

The semantic horizon which habitually governs the notion of communication is exceeded or punctured by the intervention of writing, that is of a dissemination which cannot be reduced to a polysemia. Writing is read, and "in the last analysis" does not give rise to a hermeneutic deciphering, to the decoding of a meaning or truth.

<http://hydra.humanities.uci.edu/derrida/sec.html>

(writing here includes any representational act)

What then is in culture in which these “texts*” perform a structuring role?
*its art/philosophy/religion/science

“Ulysses was quite a famous book before it appeared..... If ... it didn't have important people (like Eliot) ... writing about it, Ulysses might have sunk.... Books die if they are not talked about” - Sir Frank Kermode (former professor of English Literature Cambridge University)

Where do these structures come from if not from the context? From God, Will to Power, Evolution, an Elite, Randomness... from Intention.

Is culture then just noise under a certain violence, authority, force, power, capital?

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Seven: Noise and the World / Universe - as finitude.

Here I will develop further the idea that the origins of culture is noise, and culture's violence towards it. First we will use some "model" universes to present the idea in a simplified way, still using very simple computer theory.

In a very small universe of two states (binary) and two possibilities we can represent 4 things. Here I use 0 and 1, though as above any two things that are different, A and Z, a Cat and a Dog... a dot and a dash... will do.

0	0
0	1
1	0
1	1

Given two possibilities .

We can "represent" 4 possible realities.

00=	00= red	00= DOG	00= 0
01=	01= blue	01= CAT	01= 1
10=	10= yellow	10= MAN	10= 2
11=	11= green	11= WOMAN	11= 3
			Etc.

And no more!

2 possibilities = 4 actualities

3 = 8 4 = 16 5 = 32 etc 2 to the power n where n is the number of possibilities.

$$2^3 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$$

Web pages typically use 24 bits to encode colours. 8 bits for red 8 for blue and 8 for green...

"The combination of Red, Green, and Blue values from 0 to 255, gives more than 16 million different colors (256 x 256 x 256)."

16,777,216 to be precise!

Audio CDs use 16 bits for each sound sample.

A sample (of the sound as a number) is taken every 1/44100 of a second.
(two for stereo)

16 x 44100 x 2 = 1 second of sound.

16 x 44100 x 2 x 60 = one minute of sound.

16 x 44100 x 2 x 60 x 74 = 74 minutes of stereo sound on an audio CD.

This is $2^{6265728000}$ Maximum possible CDs. Roughly $10^{2000000000}$

Our universe has 10^{118} particles approx

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Eight: 2⁶²⁶⁵⁷²⁸⁰⁰⁰

2⁶²⁶⁵⁷²⁸⁰⁰⁰ is a finite number of possible CDs. "Culture" in effect! Selects from these and the rest is regarded as noise.

And what is selected can also be NOISE in the wrong context. If the CD contains an image file, JPEG - this can be "played" and the result heard as NOISE.

It is ONLY the context (as in the computer machine code example above) which gives structure, meaning, beauty, CULTURE.

And as above this context is arbitrary, but based on "power".

Thus I call the selection "VIOLENT" and it "PRIVILEGES" some data strings from others.

OK this privileging is useful, has value.....

It is not Comprehensive!

It is the grammar of culture & Capital. The grammar of meaning and use. Power.

The reality of NOISE (here as sound) escapes the violence of human meaning, human selection and privilege. The makers of noise - as noise qua noise as I call it - either deliberately or not, renounce the selection process. For as we have seen noise can easily be created accidentally. Incompetence in making noise qua noise 'replaces' skill in making art / music, alternatively the perpetrator - as opposed to artist - wilfully overwrites and disrupts the mechanisms of skill and selection, though this might be more difficult! (The results of deliberately crashing a car and accidentally doing so are much the same in effect.)

There is then in the lack of skill no hierarchy within noise, harsh noise and harsh noise wall. Given this idea the attitudes found within the genre become clear. A proviso is that some within the genre regard noise as a sub genre of music, one with expressive capabilities and they have developed the need to apply discernment and skill in its production. I have written elsewhere about these two noises. It should be obvious that 'noise music' is a sub genre of music, but noise in itself is not only a superset which contains music, but a set which contains and is far bigger than, culture.

Nine: Noise and the Infinite.

Given a finite reality then much of this reality is meaningless noise. Does it make sense to ask what does Saturn “mean”. It is only within the context of culture that “value” arises, and the source of this is neither absolutely outside or inside the object. Its source is in the power of privilege and selection. (this relates to other types of privileging within culture, of race, religion sex etc. which has slowly been exposed as lacking any metaphysical validation, but being enabled only by physical force.)

However it might be argued that knowledge in itself, truth in itself, logic in itself (non contradiction), is not a privileging force but a universal fact and through the employment of this on the observed world an objective truth can be established which is unlike noise, singular, one, and coherent as an explanation to what *is*.

However an infinite universe or universes makes matters more clear regarding culture and noise, for an infinite universe (AKA multiverse / The Bulk) -

“Leads inevitably to a depressing end to science. What is the point of exploring further the randomly chosen physical properties of our tiny corner of the universe...?”

- Paul Steinhardt Princeton University

Our truths in this case are only local, like town plans, useful only within the actual town in which we are and in the period that it remains accurate as a map, useless in any other town, useless if the town is altered in the future. To think from ones own local map that every town has a “main street” or a high street or a boulevard is the same mistake for thinking a uniformity of value, truth, and cultural worth, of a single, the individual and not of the multiple.

Given a finite universe our culture makes a very very small difference - however in an infinite universe it makes no difference at all.

Infinity minus 10^{118} = infinity.... (Perhaps?)

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What follows-

The matters of true philosophical interest at this point in history are those which Hegel, agreeing with tradition, expressed his disinterest. They are nonconceptuality, individuality, and particularity- things which ever since Plato used to be dismissed as transitory and insignificant, and which Hegel labeled 'Lazy Existenz.'" - Adorno - Negative Dialectics.

Adorno's negative dialectics - critique of system as the untruth of identity- "the concept does not exhaust the thing conceived.... Dialectics is the ontology of the wrong state of things. The right state of things would be free of it; neither a system nor a contradiction.....Theory and mental experience need to interact"

Laruelle's critique of philosophers "decision", Harman's "Allure" of 'THE' Object point to a signified which language only ever captures and in doing so without poetics, a vision of self is that of the chaos of personal memory and affectation within the milieu of technology, pedagogy, science, history, philosophy & art.

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PRAXIS:

The particular noise which exists is typified by a lack of structure, meaning, (Vomir) skill. The simplicity of its making or finding, and its ubiquitous de-value it.

There is no legitimation, noise qua noise is de facto non capitalist.

(this is not to be confused with noise as music, as expression of power, of failure, of hatred, of nihilism etc.)

Resources / Links:

<http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

<http://www.goldwave.com/>

<http://www.jliat.com/HNW/index.html> and more from jliat.com

<http://www.mattin.org/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcPLxZr1Kfg> - JLIAT video - historical "path"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBXJxPsnbVk> JLIAT harsh noise wall and OOP!