POP-UP PERFORMANCE PHILOSOPHY

(an experiment in spontaneous doing-thinking)

The “pop up” store is becoming quite common in the social landscape of the United States and, presumably, in other parts of the world. Local artists and entrepreneurs will lease a shop for a short time period in order to offer seasonal goods or services, and then they disappear. What might this look like in the world of Performance Philosophy?

Riffing on the Abandoned Practices of Alan Read, Matthew Goulish, and Lin Hixson, I’d like to open a pop-up Performance Philosophy event that will take place on one day in the middle of May. I had created a structure for an event to take place at the recent PSi in Daegu, South Korea, but it never materialized. I had to abandon it. Seeking to investigate the ruins of that abandoned event, however, I am inviting participants to “pop up” around the keyword “network.”

“Network” has been an operative keyword in Performance Studies scholarship for several decades. Due in part to the rise of Actor Network Theory (ANT) in the mid 1980s, and especially the work of Bruno Latour, Michel Callon, John Law, and Annemarie Mol, the notion of “network” has helped performance studies scholarship interrogate the foundational constituents of “subject” and “object,” the relationship between technology and society, and the participation of nonhuman actants in the making of worlds.

Though “network” surely continues to play a relevant role, alternate models of together-ness have also played important roles in our discipline. To name just a few, we have assemblages (Deleuze and Guattari), the *dispositif* or apparatus (from Foucault to Agamben), the knot (all sorts of mathematicians from Gauss to Thurston), edges and the edge-world (Casey), and meshwork (Ingold and Morton).

The questions to which we arrive are these: **is “network” a concept/term/spatial-social configuration that continues to serve us in the field of performance studies, or is there a different concept/term/spatial-social configuration that resonates more intriguingly with the complexity of the present?** **Should we continue to foreground the network or are there compelling reasons for moving along without it?**

I invite responses to this question in the form of pop-up panel discussion, impromptu dialogues in coffee shops, introspective interior monologues, flash mobs, doodles, and indeed any other format that can take shape on/around May 15, 2019.

All interested parties should send an email to me (w.daddario@gmail.com) explaining: 1.) What type of pop-up will you create? 2.) How will the pop-up speak to the questions about “network” articulated above? 3.) How will you document the event so that we can share it with the PP organization?

Send emails by April 22, 2019. Any and all questions welcome.