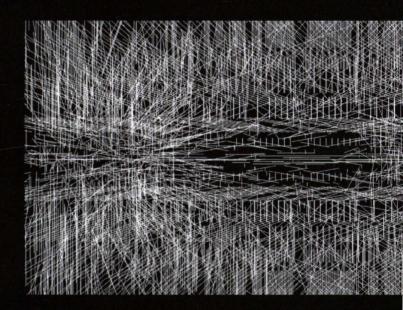
ng|media

edited by bernd herzogenrath



media|matter

the materiality of media, matter as medium

Launching Bloomsbury's thinking|media series, media|matter introduces readers to the nascent field of media philosophy. Contributors urge readers to re-adjust their ideas of media studies, by both extending the understanding of "medium" to include a concept of materiality that encompasses "non-human" transmitters (elements such as water, earth, fire, air) and by understanding media not only in the context of cultural or discursive systems or apparatuses, relays, transistors, hardware, or "discourse networks," but more inclusively, in terms of a "media ecology."

"Each essay in **media|matter** seeks within its domain to explore the form and matter of contemporary media without resorting to either technological or cultural determinism. Everyone interested in the current condition and the future of media studies should read **media|matter**."

 $-{\sf Jay}$ David Bolter, Wesley Chair of New Media, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA

'media|matter continues the important work on materiality of media. The chapters offer inspiring and rich analyses into how voice and sound, film, and text open up to realities unthought of. The book is an important addition to the growing body of work on new materialism."

—Jussi Parikka, Professor of Media & Design, Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton, UK, and author of *What is Media Archaeology?* and *A Geology of Media*

"The non-existence of media—as an essential or arche-logical category—clearly creates a vacuum that demands to be filled, in this instance with an almost kaleidoscopic variety of investigations, addressing media materiality in text, film, art, sound, and meta/physics. Beyond simply registering an obligatory 'turn' in media studies, the contributors demonstrate what is to be gained in the fundamental re-thinking of mediation from which media|materiality proceeds."—Stuart Moulthrop, Professor of English, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA, and author of *Victory Garden*

"media|matter is a wonderful collection of essays that document the move beyond the cultural, discursive, and ever changing technical limits of media studies, reassessing the status and condition of media studies in order to take it into the problematic (in both the material and conceptual senses) future that the world now faces. Reading media|matter is like being splashed in the face with cold water and looking up to see the world anew."

—Andrew Murphie, Associate Professor of Arts and Media, University of New South Wales. Australia

bernd herzogenrath is Professor of American Studies at the University of Frankfurt, Germany.

MEDIA STUDIES/PHILOSOPHY

www.bloomsbury.com

Cover design by Daniel Benneworth-Gray Cover image © Paolo Sanfilippo



Also available from Bloomsbury

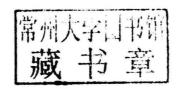




media matter

the materiality of media matter as medium

edited by bernd herzogenrath



Bloomsbury Academic
An imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Inc

B L O O M S B U R Y
NEW YORK · LONDON · OXFORD · NEW DELHI · SYDNEY

Bloomsbury Academic

An imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Inc

1385 Broadway 50 Bedford Square
New York London
NY 10018 WC1B 3DP
USA UK

www.bloomsbury.com

BLOOMSBURY and the Diana logo are trademarks of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

First published 2015
Paperback edition first published 2017

© Bernd Herzogenrath and Contributors, 2015

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publishers.

No responsibility for loss caused to any individual or organization acting on or refraining from action as a result of the material in this publication can be accepted by Bloomsbury or the author.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Media matter: the materiality of media, matter as medium/edited by Bernd Herzogenrath.

pages cm—(Thinking media)

Summary: "A materialist attempt to redefine the concept of 'medium' by expanding it to include the elemental"—Provided by publisher.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-62892-383-4 (hardback)

1. Mass media–Philosophy. I. Herzogenrath, Bernd, 1964- editor.

P90.M3675 2015 302.2301-dc23 2015004741

ISBN: HB: 978-1-6289-2383-4

PB: 978-1-5013-2010-1 ePDF: 978-1-6289-2384-1 ePub: 978-1-6289-2385-8

Series: Thinking | Media

Typeset by Deanta Global Publishing Services, Chennai, India

media|matter

thinking|media

series editors: bernd herzogenrath patricia pisters

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my gratitude to Bloomsbury (in particular the wonderful Katie Gallof and Mary Al-Sayed) for giving me and us the opportunity to publish this book, and to all those wonderful people that contributed to this volume—it has been a pleasure!

Special thanks go out to Yasmin Afshar and Sebastian Scherer, for all the work you have put into this!

I would also like to thank the *DFG* (the German Research Foundation) for their generous support of the *media*|*matter* conference, which was the original seed of this book.

I dedicate this book to Janna and Claudia, and to the memory of Frank.

Two of the essays in this book had a previous life in online journals, in slightly different versions and both are republished with kind permission:

Bernd Herzogenrath's essay appeared in Cinema: Journal of Philosophy and the Moving Image 6 (2014)

Milla Tiainen's essay appeared in *Necsus: European Journal of Media Studies* (Autumn 2013)

Contributors

Hanjo Berressem teaches American literature and culture at the University of Cologne. He has published books on Thomas Pynchon (Pynchon's Poetics: Interfacing Theory and Text. University of Illinois Press, 1992) and on Witold Gombrowicz (Lines of Desire: Reading Gombrowicz's Fiction with Lacan. Northwestern University Press, 1998). He has coedited, Grenzüberschreibungen: Feminismus und Cultural Studies (with D. Buchwald und H. Volkening, Aisthesis, 2001), Chaos-Control/Complexity: Chaos Theory and the Human Sciences (with D. Buchwald, Special Issue: American Studies, 1. 2000), site-specific: from aachen to zwölfkinder-pynchon|germany (with L. Haferkamp Special Issue: Pynchon Notes, 2008), Deleuzian Events: Writing History (with L. Haferkamp LIT, 2009), and Between Science and Fiction: The Hollow Earth as Concept and Conceit (with Michael Bucher and Uwe Schwagmeier, Lit, n-1|work—science—medium, 2012). His articles are situated in the fields of French theory, contemporary American fiction, media studies, the interfaces of art and science, as well as "nature writing" and ecology. He has just completed two "complementary" books, one on Gilles Deleuze and the other on Félix Guattari.

Benjamin Betka works on the relationship between films, brains, and existential desperation. After the first contact with communication and information science he studied English, philosophy, and pedagogics in Lower Saxony and Texas. His main field of research is the intersection between media, ontologies, and concepts of suffering in a (post-?) Deleuzean context.

Eva Ehninger is Laurenz-Professor for Contemporary Art History at Basel University, Switzerland. She has taught at the Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main, Hochschule für Künste, Bremen, Bern University and Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She's the recipient of fellowships and grants by the German National Academic Foundation (2002–2010),

ix

Fulbright Commission (2003–2004), Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles (2009), Max Weber Stiftung (2013), Swiss National Science Foundation (2015) and Terra Foundation for American Art (2016). She has published the book *Vom Farbfeld zur Land Art. Ortsgebundenheit in der amerikanischen Kunst 1950–70* (Silke Schreiber 2013) and co-edited the volume *In Terms of Painting* (Revolver Publishing 2016). Recent essays include "'Man is Present'. Barnett Newman's Search for the Experience of the Self" (2012); "What's Happening? Allan Kaprow and Claes Oldenburg Argue about Art And Life" (2014); "Mobile Criticism. Mike Kelleys passivaggressive Institutionskritik", *kritische berichte* 2 (2014), 46–57. Her current research is focused on the norms of photographic representation.

Lorenz Engell is professor of media philosophy at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany, where he was the founding dean of the Faculty of Media from 1996 to 2000 and is now codirector of the Internationals Kolleg für Kulturtechnikforschung und Medienphilosophie (IKKM), a research institute funded by the German Federal Government. His research interests comprehend philosophy of film and of television, media anthropology, philosophy of the comedy and studies on seriality and causality. Recent publications are "Fernsehtheorie zur Einführung" (2012), "Playtime" (2010), and "Körper des Denkens" (2013, co-ed.). Forthcoming is "Mediale Anthropologie" (co-ed.) and "Film Denken. Essays zur Philosophie des Films" (coauthor). He is also the coeditor of the "Kursbuch Medienkultur" (1998), "Zeitschrift für Medien- und Kulturforschung (ZMK)," and the "Film Denken" book series.

Bernd Herzogenrath teaches American literature and culture at Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main, Germany. He is the author of *An American Body*|*Politic: A Deleuzian Approach* and editor of two books on Tod Browning, two books on Edgar G. Ulmer, *The Farthest Place: The Music of John Luther Adams* and *Time and History in Deleuze and Serres.* At the moment, he is planning a project, *cinapses: thinking*|*film*

that brings together scholars from film studies, philosophy, and the neurosciences (members include Alva Noë and António Damásio).

Florian Hoof is an assistant professor at the department of Theatre, Film and Media Studies at the Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main. His PhD thesis "Angels of Efficiency. A Media History of Consulting" was funded by the German National Academic Foundation. He was guest professor at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milano (2013); scientist in residence at the Swiss Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich (2010), at Australian School of Business, University of New South Wales (2013) and at The University of Sydney Business School (2015). His research interests include Sociomateriality Studies (www. sociomateriality.de), Science and Technology Studies, Media History, Industrial- and Sport-Films. Recent publications: Engel der Effizienz. Eine Mediengeschichte der Unternehmensberatung. Konstanz University Press (2015); "Medien managerialer Entscheidung. Decision-Making 'At a Glance," Soziale Systeme 21,1 (2015); with S.K. Boell, "Using Heider's Epistemology of Thing and Medium for Unpacking the Conception of Documents: Gantt Charts and Boundary Objects," Proceedings of the 12th Annual Meeting of the Document Academy 2,1 (2015), 1-14.

Thomas Köner studied at Musikhochschule Dortmund and CEM Studio Arnhem. He is a distinctive figure in the fields of contemporary music and multimedia art. For more than three decades his work has been internationally recognized and he has excelled in all the areas of his artistic activity, receiving awards such as Golden Nica Ars Electronica (Linz), Transmediale Award (Berlin), Best Young Artist at ARCO (Madrid), and many more. His familiarity with both the visual and sonic arts resulted in numerous commissions to create music for silent films for the Auditorium du Musée du Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, Centre Pompidou, and others. Likewise, he created installations for diverse situations, for example, International Symposium on Electronic Art (ISEA), the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes Santiago de Chile, to name a few. His works are part of the collections of significant museums such as Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Pompidou Paris, Musée d'art contemporain, Montréal.

Köner is continuing his close relationship with sound art by creating radiophonic works for the National Radio in Germany (Deutschlandradio Kultur, WDR Studio Akustische Kunst,), while also working as a live performer and composer and producer. His music compositions from the early 1990s, including albums Permafrost, Nunatak, and Teimo, were considered pioneering in the field of minimal electronic and are still in print. Köner's acclaimed production skills with his more beat-oriented duo Porter Ricks, whose album Biokinetics is considered "a classic of techno sound," resulted in remix commissions for a.o. Trent Reznor's Nine Inch Nails.

Katerina Krtilova Katerina Krtilova is the coordinator of the Kompetenzzentrum Medienanthropologie (Competence Center for Media Anthropology) and researcher at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, where she also holds a PhD in Media Studies. In 2013/2014 she initiated and coordinated the DFG funded research project 'Positions and Perspectives of German and Czech Media Philosophy'. Since 2014 she is a member of the editorial board of the Internationales Jahrbuch für Medienphilosophie (International Journal of Media Philosophy). She studied Media Studies, Philosophy and Humanities in Prague and Regensburg and worked as a research assistant at Charles University in Prague. Recent publications: 'Gesten des Denkens. Vilém Flussers Theorie des Gesten als Medienphilosophie, in: T. Hildebrandt, F. Goppelsröder, U.Richtmeyer (ed.), Bild und Geste. Figurationen des Denkens in Philosophie und Kunst, Bielefeld 2014; 'Intermediality in Media Philosophy', in: B. Herzogenrath (ed.), Travels in Intermedia(lity). ReBlurring the Boundaries, Dartmouth 2012.

Sebastian Scherer completed his MA in art history and American studies at the Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main in 2010. He subsequently taught International Journalism at the University for Applied Sciences in Darmstadt. Since 2011 he works as a scientific

assistant for the American Studies department at Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main, where he teaches classes on American Avant-garde Music, the Electronic Frontier, and American Landscape Painting and Photography. His research interests include sound studies, modern and contemporary art, music, and film, as well as audio engineering, and American countercultures.

Currently, he is working on his PhD project on the artistic strategies of Christian Marclay.

Walter Seitter was born in Austria and studied philosophy, political sciences, history of art in Salzburg, Munich and Paris. He translated many philosophical books from French to German. In Aix-la-Chapelle he wrote his habilitation thesis *Menschenfassungen*, and since 1985 he has been teaching media theory in Vienna. He is an active founding member of Vienna's First Philosophical Coffeeshop, the New Vienna Group/Lacan School and the Hermesgroup. His main fields of interest are Political Theory, Philosophical Aesthetics and Physics. Publications include *Poetik lesen* 1, 2 (Merve Verlag 2010, 2014), and *Menschenfassungen*. *Studien zur Erkenntnispolitikwissenschaft*. (Velbrück 2012).

Garrett Stewart, James O. Freedman Professor of Letters at the University of Iowa, has authored, among many books on literature and film, including the *Closed Circuits: Screening Narrative Surveillance* (2015), three studies of reading and its figuration: *Dear Reader: The Conscripted Audience in Nineteenth-Century British Literature* (1996), *The Look of Reading: Book, Painting, Text* (2006), and *Bookwork: Medium to Object to Concept to Art* (2011), all published by the University of Chicago Press. He was elected in 2010 to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Milla Tiainen completed her PhD at the University of Turku, Finland, and works currently as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Musicology at the University of Helsinki. Her research interests range across musical performance, the voice in contemporary arts and media, cultural and feminist musicology, and new materialist and posthumanist

Contributors xiii

thinking. In addition to a monograph and a co-edited collection of essays (in Finnish), she has published widely in international edited volumes and in journals such as *Body&Society*, *Cultural Studies Review*, and *NECSUS – European Journal of Media Studies*. She is completing a book about a new Deleuze-inspired approach to operatic performance (under contract with The University of Minnesota Press). Milla is a founding member of the COST-funded research initiative "New Materialism: Networking European Scholarship on How 'Matter Comes to Matter?'" (2014–2018).

Stephen Zepke is an independent researcher living in Vienna. He is the author of Sublime Art, Towards an Aesthetics of the Future (EUP 2016 forthcoming) and Art as Abstract Machine, Ontology and Aesthetics in Deleuze and Guattari (Routledge 2005). He is the coeditor (with Sjoerd van Tuinen) of Art History After Deleuze (Leuven 2016 forthcoming), and (with Simon O'Sullivan) of Deleuze and Contemporary Art (EUP 2010) and Deleuze, Guattari and the Production of the New (Continuum 2008).

Contents

Ack	knowledgments	vii
Coı	ntributors	viii
Me	dia Matter: An Introduction Bernd Herzogenrath	1
Par	t 1 [Theory Matter]	
1	[Meta]physics of Media Walter Seitter	19
2	Media Matter: Materiality and Performativity in Media Theory <i>Katerina Krtilova</i>	28
Par	t 2 [Text Matter]	
3	Between Print Matter and Page Matter: The Codex Platform as Medial Support Garrett Stewart	47
4	"Local Color": Light in Faulkner Hanjo Berressem	69
Par	t 3 [Film Matter]	
5	Figure Ground: Stills from the Films of Bill Morrison Bill Morrison	99
6	Matter that Images: Bill Morrison's <i>Decasia</i> Bernd Herzogenrath	111
7	Moving Images as Ontographic Images (According to Pier Paolo Pasolini) Lorenz Engell	138
8	Brain Matter and New Phrenologies: Challenging Brains with Melancholy and Vice Versa Benjamin Betka	156
9	The Media Boundary Objects Concept: Theorizing Film and Media Florian Hoof	180

vi Contents

Part 4 [Art Matter]	
10 Borderline: Nauman's Balls and Acconci's Shoot Eva Ehninger	203
11 The Romantic Readymade: Toward a Material Vitalism of Contemporary Art Stephen Zepke	226
Part 5 [Sound Matter]	
12 Revisiting the Voice in Media and as Medium: New Materialist Propositions <i>Milla Tiainen</i>	251
13 Sonic Matter: The Material Cut-ups of Christian Marclay Sebastian Scherer	276
14 Media Disenchantments <i>Thomas Köner</i>	302
Index	307
Concepts/keywords	