

CHAT THREAD
Meeting #3

From 2:57 ff, a key prompt, and a sent of replies...

Prompt from Sonali: "Riffing on Stanislavski's "An Actor Prepares," what attentional exercises might be included in "A Citizen Prepares"? Your challenge is to design an attentional exercise that could be cultivated as part of the preparation for citizenship, that is, the task of working with strangers and neighbors on the collective project of self-governance?"

13:59:49 From Gabriel Perez-Barreiro : stop showing off Graham!!
14:15:56 From D. Graham Burnett : David you are popping in and out a bit...
14:16:03 From D. Graham Burnett : You might want to turn off your video...
14:16:26 From Grace Caiazza : #lovetheglitch
14:16:32 From D. Graham Burnett : amen!
14:16:35 From Sal Randolph : #feelingit
14:17:03 From Sal Randolph : Soon we'll need to record #glitchtone for our #zoommovies
14:17:55 From D. Graham Burnett : ATTENTIONAL THRESHOLD: remember the Collin Cherry article on Dichotic listening....
14:21:36 From D. Graham Burnett : 3 mins of listening to your room
14:22:01 From D. Graham Burnett : and you will cut us all off at the end?
14:27:51 From carlanappi : duuuuuuuude this is super cool
14:28:04 From Khaled Malas : I love it too.
14:28:08 From Sal Randolph : Gorgeous
14:28:22 From Dominic Pettman : Reminds me that Alvin Lucier's I Am Sitting in a Room could be *the* quarantine anthem
14:28:40 From Sal Randolph : Yes
14:29:38 From Grace Caiazza : Amazing!!!!
14:29:43 From Matthew Strother : Funky Town
14:29:49 From elena : greeeat
14:29:58 From Gabriel Perez-Barreiro : thank you David
14:30:01 From Joanna Fiduccia : Beautiful, David. Thank you!
14:30:05 From Maxwell Taylor-Milner : Superb!
14:30:15 From Katarzyna Kasia : David, thank you!
14:30:18 From Marina McDougall : We have arrived!!
14:30:20 From Casey : A room from everywhere.
14:30:23 From Iciar : Thank you David!
14:31:13 From Sal Randolph : That was super beautiful, especially in the part before we were consciously making noise. Really movie-like.
14:31:27 From carlanappi : Looooooooooooove. So much.
14:33:48 From Grace Caiazza : Plz send syllabus!
14:33:58 From Sal Randolph : Indeed!
14:34:13 From Sal Randolph : Perhaps we need a supporting email listserve.
14:35:18 From David Richardson : We could set up a Google Doc
14:35:26 From Sal Randolph : Nice, yes.
14:35:44 From Grace Caiazza : perhaps friends of attention website for archive?
14:36:22 From D. Graham Burnett : Behaving truthfully under imaginative circumstances...
14:36:55 From D. Graham Burnett : WORLD MAKING
14:37:59 From D. Graham Burnett : !
14:39:41 From Matthew Strother: Very stimulating parallels between this and The Enacted Thought [course website: <https://enactedthought.wordpress.com/>] ! Sonali seems to be picking up and further developing one the provocations of that seminar: what if Fourier and not Descartes was the founder of modernity — not the man thinking alone in the room but the actor on stage?
14:39:53 From D. Graham Burnett to Matthew Strother: Yes!
14:43:15 From D. Graham Burnett : Sonali: I have the groups ready to go...
14:43:15 From John Muse : Fun that Graham started with a "we..." and not a "you..." which means the point of view couldn't be switched!
14:43:35 From D. Graham Burnett : True! I'm a communitarian....
14:43:36 From Marina McDougall : So true! Does anyone know whether David Mamet was influenced by Meisner?!
14:43:45 From D. Graham Burnett : Yes, he was...

14:43:46 From John Muse : Relation of thinking to attention...

14:43:50 From Gabriel Perez-Barreiro : do we change the point of view?

14:44:31 From elena radice : Any language?

14:44:37 From Alexandru Balgiu : oui

14:44:46 From elena radice : or we keep English as a common?

14:45:05 From John Muse : deep grammar of listening!

14:51:02 From D. Graham Burnett : Anna has you in an infinite loop!

14:55:35 From John Muse : We broke the rules and talked about what we did! Sorry!

14:55:50 From William Lamson : it was worth it !

14:56:30 From Matthew Strother : You should write that book, Sonali!

14:56:36 From Matthew Strother : Or maybe you are...?

14:57:04 From Sonali Chakravarti : Riffing on Stanislavski's "An Actor Prepares," what attentional exercises might be included in "A Citizen Prepares"? Your challenge is to design an attentional exercise that could be cultivated as part of the preparation for citizenship, that is, the task of working with strangers and neighbors on the collective project of self-governance?

14:57:08 From Sal Randolph : Is that what we're discussing in the breakouts?

14:58:05 From Sal Randolph : And we should put some of that into the chat?

14:58:41 From John Muse : 2 parts: reflect on the exercise and then reflect on Sonali's question in relation to the reading and the exercise?

14:59:41 From Gabriel Perez-Barreiro : how long is breakout?

15:11:03 From Casey : Damn we were about to get somewhere!

15:11:11 From carlanappi : Us too!

15:11:16 From Kyle Berlin : On the edge of profundity

15:11:27 From David Richardson : My memoir title ^

15:11:29 From carlanappi : We were talking about the importance of the third/mediating person, and how it's not quite about a dyad

15:11:36 From Sal Randolph : Marco Polo as a phatic exercise: Marco! Polo! Marco! Polo! Tuning your phatic instrument

15:11:47 From Joanna Fiduccia : It already exists! THE HUMAN MICROPHONE

15:11:59 From Sal Randolph : The microphone has content

15:12:01 From D. Graham Burnett : BOOM!

15:12:14 From Joanna Fiduccia : BOOM

15:12:19 From John Muse : When you leave yourself behind you somehow are most yourself.

15:12:59 From Sal Randolph : Making use of the singular plural, the chorus, the borg voice.

15:13:08 From D. Graham Burnett : Justin smith made a GREAT point — that when he took the OATH of Canadian citizenship, the repetition of the oath was EXACTLY this exercise....

15:13:11 From carlanappi : Also Meisner seemed like kind of a dick. (Can I say this here?)

15:13:17 From Helen Singh-Miller : Repetition

15:13:33 From John Muse : Snap! carlanappi for the win.

15:13:34 From Katarzyna Kasia : Yes you can Carla

15:13:37 From Joanna Fiduccia : As are all pledges and oaths...

15:13:38 From Lane Stroud : Carla, you may.

15:13:41 From Khaled Malas : I agree with Carla.

15:13:52 From John Muse : On the edge of profundity.

15:14:13 From William Lamson : variable pronouns, repetition: bruce naaman, I am good boy: reference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9BW2SraYeo>

15:14:14 From John Muse : But boy do I love teachers like Meisner... the dickish ones. That's about me.

15:14:15 From carlanappi : The women were all, like, "And Jane, with her sexy luxurious hair and alluring adorable wrongness" and with the guys it was like, "And then he talked to Josh, who ultimately was correct."

15:14:24 From carlanappi : (In the meisner piece I mean)

15:15:24 From Sal Randolph : Some notes from our meeting, various speakers

15:15:27 From Sal Randolph : The theater as a foundational scene of democracy.
The magic circle of play (the boundary of rules)
Room tone includes (secretly) the crew because their bodies change the tone
Music is a good model of participation
Waterfall of prosody, shared composition, Cornelius Cardew
Interpreting as a moment of shared composition
Vilem Flusser "Chamber Music" from Into the Universe of Technical Images
Woman walking in Central Park with a 6 foot pole.
Who runs right past up to you without a mask
Tension between Demos and Polis

- Marco Polo phatic communication
 Also: Marx meets Nietzsche — Invisible Labor + The Politics of the Scene
 Self-policing
 What IS phatic music?
 Phatic music, call and response
 Stevie, Grace, Jared speaking together
 the singular plural, the borg
 Pauline Oliveros
- 15:15:47 From Dominic Pettman : Don't forget DJ Phatik!
- 15:15:50 From Dominic Pettman : :-)
- 15:16:20 From Sal Randolph : I wasn't able to copy the notes from the end of our conversation, so those others present please add
- 15:16:21 From Matthew Strother : (Who hosts phatic-raves of mass participation, for those not familiar with the artist)
- 15:17:13 From carlanappi : Sorry for going there! Thanks Sonali. I also thought a lot was generative.
- 15:17:15 From Grace Caiazza : We want more spaces that facilitate playful/random interactions with strangers as a basis for world-building. A public theater situation is a good jumping off point, but maybe also a space that has different prompts for interacting with others, so it's not strictly a theater/audience relationship.
- 15:17:32 From Steven Duval : to really listen is to break from thought and that in itself is a break from our own mindset. for a moment of connection and solidarity. can that be built upon is the question for community negotiation
- 15:17:44 From Grace Caiazza : also funny hats for all citizens
- 15:17:49 From Matthew Strother : i second this!
- 15:17:51 From Joanna Fiduccia : Thinking of Richard Serra's 1974 film with Nancy Holt — Boomerang (?) — speaking while hearing her own voice, through headphones, with a short delay
- 15:17:54 From Khaled Malas : The more I think about it, the more keen I am on the flirtatious potential of this exercise. At the risk of stating the obvious: Flirtation, or even fictive and non-fictive love-making, as a form of citizen protocol.
- 15:18:03 From Maxwell Taylor-Milner : Yes! Also thought of Boomerang
- 15:18:06 From Tal Eshel : Yes boomerang
- 15:18:07 From Grace Caiazza : Hot ref Jo!!
- 15:18:09 From Sal Randolph : Would it be possible to walk through public space and tune our phatic instruments by silently repeating what you hear, without emotion or interpretation, pre-humanly?
- 15:18:11 From Joanna Fiduccia : Thanx
- 15:18:17 From Alexandru Balgiu : Presence as play
- 15:18:30 From Alexandru Balgiu : Play as music
- 15:18:35 From Maxwell Taylor-Milner : We wanted a fun, public, game (its a tripartite structure) but couldn't get quite get to its form - somewhere between hopscotch and the confessional booth
- 15:18:36 From Alexandru Balgiu : Music as presence
- 15:18:38 From Marina McDougall : Check out this cool project organized by Rob Blackson at Tyler Contemporary. It has evolved a lot, not sure how it will exactly manifest:
<https://www.pewcenterarts.org/grant/are-we-listening-working-title>
- 15:18:43 From Grace Caiazza : Creative short interactions with neighbors
- 15:18:44 From D. Graham Burnett : VERY struck by the idea of the ritual of repetition in the "Human Microphone" ritual of Occupy, etc. I think it is exactly specific FORMS like this that we are looking for or thinking about. I am also struck by the way the rites of citizenship that we do have (like OATHS) are pretty THIN and OLD. Why would we not have a specific ritual of eye to eye listening as part of registering to vote? For instance?
- 15:18:47 From Grace Caiazza : funny hat or not
- 15:19:00 From John Muse : Holt and Serra! Great reference... If you have tried that (easy to build using Garage Band) it puts you right in the meat of your brain; very compelling.
- 15:19:06 From Dominic Pettman : Apologies for the self promotion, but my book Sonic Intimacy explores a lot of these themes
- 15:19:07 From Maxwell Taylor-Milner : sign me up for funny hat
- 15:19:14 From Joanna Fiduccia : I will affirm and affirm again the human mic as the technology we have for doing this
- 15:19:16 From Dominic Pettman : "deep grammar of listening" etc
- 15:19:17 From Kyle Berlin : Practice speaking towards the truth from every imaginable pronoun. Switch environments and begin again. Switch truths and begin again. (We cannot say the truth for others (you, them), but nor can we say it only for ourselves (I); truth is in the space not expressed by the authoritative "we" but somewhere between it.)

15:19:23 From Helen Singh-Miller : A commitment to repetition: what falls away with repetition? what can emerge (repetition as a foil)? (- postmodern music and dance)

15:19:29 From Alexandru Balgiu : Absorption

15:19:30 From Sal Randolph : Just thinking all the time now about rules in public space, how we individually and collectively interpret them, how the choreography of that is made visible (masks, spacing, body language)

15:19:32 From Steven Duval : dialogical vs monological bakhtin

15:19:34 From William Lamson : the cognitively difficult parts for me related to using "you" pronouns, and the possibility of the both statements being true or one being false, thus being an assertion of power and conflict.

15:19:44 From Matthew Strother : Free copies of Sonic Intimacy for all citizens!

15:19:49 From John Muse : The myth of the streets as the ultimate scene of contest, the myth of contest as well... would have to give way to something else, no?

15:19:57 From Dominic Pettman : i do have pdf if anyone is interested

15:20:12 From David Richardson : Jo - similar mic/headphones work in Moyra Davey's films

15:20:12 From Sal Randolph : Yes please Domenic - my own copy is elsewhere at the moment, out of reach

15:20:13 From Izik Alequin : The idea of interpersonal play as a cathartic (safer?) space for human interaction. Shaving off the built-up tension as an exercise in preparation for "real" (non-acted) relationships.

15:20:18 From cleveland : I am, Dominic, and with a funny hat!

15:20:20 From Gabriel Perez-Barreiro : make listening great again

15:20:28 From John Muse : I love seeing people laugh and react.. especially when I can't tel what might be prompting it...

15:20:29 From Grace Caiazza : Unfiltered public board that neighbors can send messages to

15:20:35 From Grace Caiazza : *Unfiltered

15:20:59 From Joanna Fiduccia : Oh but Graham we love your mouth sounds

15:21:02 From Matthew Strother : SONIC INTIMACY

15:21:04 From Lane Stroud : The NY Times article from several years back about the 36 Questions / Exercise to make anyone fall in love with you was referenced, as was how one group found that they were witnessing actual flirtation. Made us ask how actual listening while looking at each other would lead to connection / citizenship..

15:21:08 From David Richardson : Mouth tone

15:21:13 From Joanna Fiduccia : Mouth tone!

15:21:17 From William Lamson : thank you Sonali and David!!

15:21:17 From Dominic Pettman : Yes, thanks both!!

15:21:24 From Tal Eshel : mouth tone

15:21:25 From Marina McDougall : Loving friends of Attention. Thank you all!

15:21:25 From elena radice : Thank you!

15:21:26 From Sal Randolph : Yes! Thanks to both! So good.

15:21:27 From Joanna Fiduccia : Sonali, thank you!

15:21:32 From Katarzyna Kasia : thank you so much!!!

15:21:35 From Grace Caiazza : Thanks everyone!!!

15:21:39 From Maxwell Taylor-Milner : Thank you all!!

15:21:42 From Casey : When the exercise worked for me as one observing, there was no mimicry or meaning imbued into the statements ping pong back and forth, no intentional variation. What became salient was the essence of each person, a primary emotional color. For example in the repetition i began to detect that one seemed sad and the other seemed angry while saying this benign made up sentence.
An essence emerged.
The exercise seemed intended to liberate the self from inhibition and self-censoring.
However, in the context of the political/civic sphere, the common currency of the politics has become "I feel your pain", (Clinton) the opposite of what Arendt suggests.

15:21:56 From Natascha Nanji : Thank you, enjoyed my first session

15:21:59 From Iciar : Thank you Sonali!

15:22:12 From John Muse : Thanks, everyone!

15:22:18 From carlanappi : Thanks all!

15:22:21 From Khaled Malas : Thank you everyone.

15:22:24 From Alexandru Balgiu : Merci :)

15:22:27 From Gabriel Perez-Barreiro : thanks!!!