

FRIENDS OF ATTENTION – GATHERING #4
HELEN MILLER (drawing exercise) & DOMINIC PETTMAN (Libidinal and Attention ecologies)

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 2:07 PM

SCHEDULE:

2-2:06 - breakout greetings
2:06-2:15 - FoA housekeeping, etc.
2:15-2:30 - Helen's Exercise
2:30-3:15 - Dominic and Discussion, etc.
3:15-3:20 - breakout farewells ...

From Sonali Chakravarti to [Everyone](#): 2:13 PM
yeah, David!

From Carla Nappi to [Everyone](#): 2:13 PM
Congrats, David!

From Sal Randolph to [Everyone](#): 2:13 PM
Go David!

From Grace Caiazza to [Everyone](#): 2:13 PM
YeHAW dave

From David Richardson to [Everyone](#): 2:14 PM
thank you ever so much, dear g

From Marina McDougall to [Everyone](#): 2:15 PM
Kudos, David!

From Marina McDougall to [Everyone](#): 2:15 PM
Kudos, David!

From Carla Nappi to [Everyone](#): 2:25 PM
Thank you, Helen xo

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 2:27 PM
friendsofattention@gmail.com

From Sal Randolph to [Everyone](#): 2:28 PM
Thanks Helen!

From Katarzyna Kasia to [Everyone](#): 2:28 PM
Thank you Helen!

From cleveland to [Everyone](#): 2:29 PM
Thank you, Helen, that made drawing
physically absorbing and expanding. It was
great!

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 2:31 PM

"Studium" - i.e. "learning" (a Bird no-no, but otherwise a fine thing in many ways ...)

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 2:37 PM
Dominic: What is it to "historicize" this notion of libido?

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 2:41 PM
You are a committee of consultants to the Minister of the Libidinal Economy (i.e., Dominic Pettman). You have been charged with conceiving a "stimulus package" to not only RESTORE the ailing libidinal economy, but to REINVENT it.

From Iberger to [Everyone](#): 2:45 PM
Chats in breakouts are still there forever - it is we who can never return to them.

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 2:51 PM
You are a committee of consultants to the Minister of the Libidinal Economy (i.e., Dominic Pettman). You have been charged with conceiving a "stimulus package" to not only RESTORE the ailing libidinal economy, but to REINVENT it.

Please report back to the Minister the outlines of your package, plan, or policy; paying special attention to the ways in which the libidinal economy is inextricably linked with: a) the attention ecology; and b) the various rhythms of daily life (work, thought, speech, etc.).

From Iberger to [Everyone](#): 2:52 PM
Mr. Minister - do you want the libido to be equitably distributed?

From Ed Quinnan to [Everyone](#): 3:10 PM
Committee of Central Affairs and Salutary Award a series of public service announcements who form of messages, suggestions such as:
Enjoy the moon, Enjoy the sky.
Image of beauty, be seduced, be obsessed.
Uproot your love of power.

From Marina McDougall to [Everyone](#): 3:10 PM
Brilliant!

From Sal Randolph to [Everyone](#): 3:11 PM
The general thing we all focused on was TIME.
The need for more time of some kind, more

awareness of time.

NOTES:

Sal:

The difficulty of the solution as framed is that gifts are also demands - anything given, no matter how sensuous/inspiring/intimate/good also has the possibility of being inherently oppressive if the receiver is not already libidinous, already in a state of desire and reception.

So what, then, renews the possibility of reception?

I might suggest that what is needed is sheer time, time to be purposeless, to be bored, to have attention and desire actually unravel. The opposite of effort, of drive,

From Sal Randolph to [Everyone](#): 3:11 PM

But then there is also the need for hope, the hope of reception. A gesture that cannot be received is robbed not just of its momentary joy and energy, but the root is also poisoned, at least somewhat.

Is libido in giving or receiving? Ideally in a dance of both. Do each of these need to be attended to differently? Or is it the same problem?

The ability to desire to give, to gesture, is actually almost the exact ability as the ability to

More blue sky more blank paper

From Sal Randolph to [Everyone](#): 3:11 PM

Lane: Aphorisms are all easy to say, hard to do, as in Be Here Now.

The Desire for more time. Is there a way to expand time?

Sal: Zazen is one method of using time to expand time.

Will: Zero sum - a question - is it really a zero sum?

Steigler - care and lack of care - Investment in future love and care

Khaled: a possibly technocratic solution, a measuring device for the passage of time, to be more aware of its happening. A mechanical watch I was wearing was comforting, despite its mechanical nature.

From Sal Randolph to [Everyone](#): 3:11 PM

Lane: Forgetting time, measuring time, being more aware of the passage of time.

Khaled: these technologies of course exist
Not a watch or a sundial but something more
marvelous in its mechanics .

What about the clock of the long now - the
10,000 year clock that is designed to require
maintenance and have a kind of priesthood to
keep it going

Will: A thing on your phone that interrupts and
reminds you to orient

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 3:11 PM
Oh! Like the national debt clock!

From William Lamson to [Everyone](#): 3:11 PM
well said Lane!

From Sal Randolph to [Everyone](#): 3:11 PM
Thank you Lane!

From Sal Randolph to [Everyone](#): 3:13 PM
I put our stuff in the thread

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 3:14 PM
Toy seeds

From Sal Randolph to [Everyone](#): 3:16 PM
But I like the crazy version of the toy seeds
that I imagined - as if there was somehow a
giant dispersal of tiny seeds that BECOME toys
of all kinds

From Gage McWeeny to [Everyone](#): 3:16 PM
Group 3: Libidinal Economy Stimulus Package
We propose a boredom stimulus package, in
the form of Boredom Stimulator App for your
phone ("iEternal Return"). This app will take
over the OS of your phone and repeat for
eternity the last hour of your activity on that
phone. Our hope is to disrupt the 24/7
rhythms of micro-stimulation that
smartphones incite and monetize. If attention
is related to waiting, as Stieglitz writes, this
app will enable an end to the expectation of
the end of waiting.

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 3:17 PM
Wait! Are you gonna keep ignoring time?
like, RIGHT NOW?
When you have NEGATIVE 30 seconds!

From John Muse to [Everyone](#): 3:18 PM
Time shaming!

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 3:19 PM
BOOM!

From Jeff Dolven to [Everyone](#): 3:19 PM
Attentional Census

Each citizen should send an object of special attention in their own life and history to the Post Office. Those post office will redistribute those objects according to an algorithm that maximizes social and cultural difference. Recipients should live with the care package for a time, allowing it to affect their idiorhythms, and after sixth months a) return to sender and b) fill our a complete census report on the sender.

From Gage McWeeny to [Everyone](#): 3:20 PM
Like a super-charged anti-Yankee Swap

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 3:21 PM
"The refusal" vertex

From Grace Caiazza to [Everyone](#): 3:21 PM
Group 4, COMMITTEE OF SEASONAL
DISPERSED PLAY: We are suggesting Fluxus inspired investigation kits sent by the government in accordance with seasons. Each kit contains a toy for probing or altering your surroundings for yourself and the community (ex: a slingshot that shoots a wildflower seed ball)

From Marina McDougall to [Everyone](#): 3:22 PM
Katy, Let

From Alexandru Balgiu to [Everyone](#): 3:22 PM
(and the seeds can also be nanotoys that puff up to larger size with air friction)

From Marina McDougall to [Everyone](#): 3:22 PM
Katy, Let's ratify that stimulus policy package!

From katypinke to [Everyone](#): 3:23 PM
GROUP 7 : (take the stimulation out of)
stimulus-package : THE NEW TRIANGLE
MODEL OF RELATIONSHIP TO BEING:
rolling out a new triangle diagram but this one isn't a food pyramid
so its not just routine and switching off from the routine - its the third point of the neither routine/"work": segmentation of time allows disengagement from destabilizing question of being

escape into porn etc "pleasure": dissolution of self and therefore time
third point of the neither: time exists without guidelines as to what to do with it, being is present, so no pole of stasis to cling to, eternal dynamism, discomfort
question: how to bring together work and pleasure with eternal dynamism/discomfort - so that a sense of pleasurable work is found in relating anew to the discomfort of being

From Lane Stroud to [Everyone](#): 3:23 PM
Group 5 acted out Group 2's question: is it the measuring of time (DGB) or disengaging in time (Carla + Matthew, et al) that actually gives us more?

From Carla Nappi to [Everyone](#): 3:23 PM
I love that, Lane.

From Sal Randolph to [Everyone](#): 3:24 PM
Our group (2? 3?) might be reformulated as a spectacular timepiece which has the dual function of making one aware of time passing and interrupting other activities that reorients you to the present.

From Carla Nappi to [Everyone](#): 3:25 PM
Love love.

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 3:25 PM
Libidinal Insurance ...
"PettmanCare"

From Matthew Strother to [Everyone](#): 3:26 PM
SEXUAL PHILANTHROPY

From katypinke to [Everyone](#): 3:26 PM
<3

From John Muse to [Everyone](#): 3:26 PM
Using an Orgone Energy Accumulator!

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 3:26 PM
A libidinal safety net...

From Stevie to [Everyone](#):
sensual philanthropy

From Khaled Malas to [Everyone](#):
"you ring we bring"

3:26 PM

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#): 3:27 PM
Do the flashing red lights ALSO play Donna
Summer songs?

From cleveland to [Everyone](#): 3:28 PM
Come drive in Beirut!!
From Sal Randolph to [Everyone](#): 3:28 PM
A red light district

From Brad Fox to [Everyone](#): 3:28 PM
Group 10
Considering how traffic lights actually cause
traffic accidents
we began to consider deprivation and
depravity
reversing liberty and obligation
so that we are liberated from libido, from being
obliged to be libidinous
a state of
delicacy and care
like how Barthes describes neutrality
which is not a matter of being deadened, but
heightened attention in order to maintain an
unstable condition
We recommend:
A situation where the traffic lights are set only
to blinking red,
like in the middle of the night,
when we are thrown back onto our own
devices

From John Muse to [Everyone](#):
Thanks, Brad!

3:28 PM
From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#):
Charles Fourier

From Adam Jasper to [Everyone](#):
Group 8 Public Service Announcements
delivered from trucks by caged birds reporting
on the state of the tides .

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#):
(And Barthes did a book on Fourier ...)

From Iberger to [Everyone](#):
Pettmanicare: we all pay into a communal
insurance fund of libidinal attention when we
are blessed to have enough . And then when
one is experiencing a crisis of libido, one can
file a claim that enables one's libidinal deficit to
be reimbursed . But there are minimal co-pays

required .

From Adam Jasper to [Everyone](#):

Group 8 (continued): announcement of caged birds of crucial importance , because the city is cut off at high tides by the bridges being lowered below the tide lines.

From Justin Smith to [Everyone](#):

Thanks Dominic!

From Dominic Pettman to [Everyone](#):

Thanks so much everyone! . . . Delightful and generous

Not to mention sincerely stimulating

From D. Graham Burnett to [Everyone](#):

Hey! Jumping out but sending giant hugs!