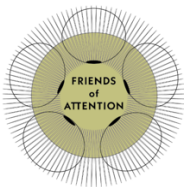


Chat Thread –
Friends of Attention
“First Friday” of 4 February 2022
Planning for the Spring “Attention Labs – Part II”
(led by Lane Stroud & Kirstin Lawler)



- 14:08:13 From Ana Marques to Everyone:
hi there! sorry I'm late!
- 14:12:35 From Leonard Nalencz to Everyone:
Wow!
- 14:20:48 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:
friendsofattention@gmail.com
- 14:25:02 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:
Kristin & Len: could you all say something ABOUT THE KIDS we will be working with on this lab?
- 14:25:42 From Leonard Nalencz to Everyone:
They are!
- 14:26:14 From Leonard Nalencz to Everyone:
Earnest, enthusiastic...
- 14:26:35 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:
(In APRIL, the session will be with upper Manhattan high school age youth)
- 14:30:42 From Ana Marques to Everyone:
day 5 matches perfectly to the 5th thesis on attention: V. An attentional path is the trace left by a free mind. To submit to the attentional path of another, to retrace it, is a form of attention. Retracing the attentional path of a free mind is one of the keenest pleasures we can take in each other and in the world.
- 14:33:55 From Leonard Nalencz to Everyone:
I'll scribe
- 14:35:44 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:
Providing a reference: Weil, "Attention and Will" an excerpt from the book GRAVITY AND GRACE....
- 14:42:13 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:
What is alive for you in this?
- 14:42:22 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

GREAT QUESTION!!!!

14:42:25 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

Love that....

14:43:00 From Peter Schmidt to Everyone:

For the purposes of the record (and putting it here since I'm conscious we have an agenda) - something I've been thinking about is how narrative style (I'm thinking prose) is a crystallization of a certain quality of attention - what sorts of qualities, movements, behaviors the narrator is reproducing (and, perhaps, endorsing??). This pre-exists the "path" - It's the quality of attention before the movement of that attention leaves a trace.... Sharing in the hopes this can serve a later convo, perhaps

14:43:30 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

Another ref, that is relevant to "play": Adrienne marie brown - "Pleasure Activism"

14:45:34 From Ana Marques to Everyone:

also did you play it as kids when one kid does something and the others have to repeat, maybe a new version of this game

14:45:54 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

"Exercises in Style" — coupled to the Exhaust a place in Paris exercise....

14:46:08 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

COLLECTING! Very interesting...

14:46:40 From Ana Marques to Everyone:

collecting with the phone — is it different to collect when the phone is regarded as an attentional device?

14:48:16 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

Very interesting emphasis by Moritz on COLLECTING

14:48:24 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

As a possible practice across the week...

14:48:42 From Joanna Fiduccia to Everyone:

I have to run to a meeting! What a pleasure to be with you all! Excited to hear the report-back on the workshop....

14:48:48 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

Also: We spent a lot of time on THESIS 5 of the 12 Theses.... As a theme

14:49:18 From Ana Marques to Everyone:

we were talking about attention and gaze: i watched "portrait of a lady in fire" by celine sciamma and it's a piece of art — and could also but not necessarily be used if there's a lgbt approach at some point

14:49:30 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

Really interesting — because that idea of following the ATTENTIONAL PATH OF ANOTHER...is a way of thinking about UNDERSTANDING....

14:49:49 From Brad Fox to Everyone:

Jessica:

Are we allowing or encouraging devices?

Lane:

They are already attending to the world through their phones, so an approach is to reimagine how they use the phone to intervene in attention practices.

Stevie:

There are many categories—community, neighborhood, food, body, past-present-future—

Might we create a taxonomy of exercises?

Lane:

I don't want to narrow things ... get all the ideas ... slow tasting ...

14:49:50 From Kristin Lawler to Everyone:

Rebecca:

- Create a situation in which people understand why this matters. Make it become self evident
- Purpose of being attentive is personal agency
- We are no longer embodying knowledge. Speed, outsourcing memories to phones computers etc is causing us to not embody and ingest info anymore
- Help people understand what is happening
- If you outsource your info to a device. If it doesn't function, you have no power
- 1. Mapping your local community from memory – you will see that
- Gps makes us lose our sense of place, how community hangs together
- 2. Put a painting in front of them for 5 minutes. Then remove, students have to recreate painting from memory.
- Then you will recognize what you are blank on
- A lot of the detail of their life is passing them by

Anne:

- Mapping involves the experience of how they go into the city
- Mapping their experience and mirroring it

- Subway?

Rebecca:

- Common Ground, parish map project: got communities to come together and create maps. CG got money to bring in an artist to each community, artist worked with the community to create a map with what they considered important in their community
- Created community

Joanna:

- Turn the content over to the students
- Give a prompt: give us an exercise that shows us what your generation sees that others don't, an object of attention that has just emerged. Let them choose a new object.
- Bring our attention to something that we olds would not easily see

Jared:

- Creative energy under your personal control is the point of attention practices
- Pay attention to the way you are surveilled
- Have them print it out, give their attention to it

14:50:01 From Brad Fox to Everyone:

Jessica:

Going out into the neighborhood and trying to put eyeballs where they haven't already been, looking for places that might be unexamined.

What is the critical mass that you can get in front of something and overwhelm it with attention. And then what happens to the object of attention and the people who are doing the attending?

Stevie:

Attending to someone who is from another generation, asking them to tell stories. Try to understand what it's like to be in another time. Perhaps borrow clothing, do an archaeology of experience.

Me:

That's a good opportunity to do the first-person exercise where you interview someone and then write first person in their voice.

Stevie:

Drawing maps that trace someone else's attentional path.

Lane:

I think Sonali suggested drawing a map of the room—like where there are certain concordances — not the physical space, but like where your grandparents might be from, how various languages relate...

Me:

Are we trying to devise exercises right now?

14:50:11 From Brad Fox to Everyone:

Lane:

We're trying to offer possibilities for projects, that would show that they have command of the subject.

Me:

So like trying to define deliverables?

Lane:

Maybe. We're just trying to produce possibilities.

Stevie:

We could do something on an every day object like a dollar bill that circulates

Lane:

How else could we use the phone?

Jessica: Audio recordings...

14:50:33 From Leonard Nalencz to Everyone:

Ana: 5th thesis and Simone Weil as "serving the other"; follow/revere the other = following the trace of the attentional path of another

That trace: writing? cinema? painting?

Peter: narrative style (I'm thinking prose) is a crystallization of a certain quality of attention - what sorts of qualities, movements, behaviors the narrator is reproducing (and, perhaps, endorsing??). This pre-exists the "path" - It's the quality of attention before the movement of that attention leaves a trace....

Peter: writing style and certain kind of noticing = exercise?

Ana: How can certain ways of paying attention be represented?
did you play it as kids when one kid does something and the others have to repeat,
maybe a new version of this game—

Moritz : collecting?

Ana collecting with the phone — is it different to collect when the phone is regarded as
an attentional device? -

Graham: attention and understanding— 5th thesis

14:53:55 From Brad Fox to Everyone:

obрати pažnju

14:54:18 From Peter Schmidt to Everyone:

Paying, lending, turning

14:54:18 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

I love TURN YOUR PATIENCE

14:58:48 From Peter Schmidt to Everyone:

Brad Fox:

obрати pažnju - turning your attention

Spanish:

Prestar atención

Graham:

Concentration

Focus

Noticing

Carrying

Studying

Attention and waiting

Coming into phase with the “infinity of the object”

Spanish asistir - to watch, pay attention to, but also to serve, assist

Anne:

How about other senses? Hearing? Feeling?

Graham:

History of abstraction of the senses, Aristotelian “common sense”

15:00:17 From Ana Marques to Everyone:

leonard: that was “vidrado”

15:00:17 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

Brad Fox:

obрати pažnju - turning your attention

Spanish:
Prestar atención

Graham:
Concentration
Focus
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Anne:
How about other senses? Hearing? Feeling?

Graham:
History of abstraction of the senses, Aristotelian “common sense”

15:00:29 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

^^^

15:00:41 From Brad Fox to Everyone:

Graham:

The TikTok where you imagine licking things shows the importance of finding what the kids have to add.

15:00:48 From Leonard Nalencz to Everyone:

apprehending / listening

hook / getting lost in

“in the world of the moon” = daydreaming (Portuguese)

“are you on?” = are you listening (Portuguese)

be present/aware

geeking out

paying attention/ lend attention / grant attention

make/do attention

attending along vs attending in a group

bear witness (carry, be burdened)

attention is a spectrum from spotlight to complete illumination to half light

wherever you are you can pay/grant attention to what you value (= to witness)

in the zone / locked in / dialed in / down in it / hamster wheeling / obsessing

vidrado = super focused (Portuguese)

15:00:53 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

Very interesting discussion in our group....

15:01:12 From moritz Schottmueller to Everyone:

Octagon and downwards triangle are "signs" of attention

Landing offering, fractioning attention, sharing, following attention

Connection between attention and waiting (attendre) Attending things that relevant, compelling to attend. Something is driving you to pay attending. Overriding your basic. Focus/emerged/attention Vibing out, feel, Paying attention seems attention is an economical attribute. How much does it costs?

15:09:10 From Jessica Gallucci to Everyone:

Dialed out

Zoned out

"Life is happening"

To be scattered

To have monkey brain

To go rogue

To be spaced out

To have spent your quota of attention

To have exhausted your attention

Not in the driver's seat

To be off

To be whack

Distracted

To be ADD/ADHD

To be hyper

To be blank

To be numb

To be listless

To be doom-scrolling

15:09:27 From Stevie Knauss to Everyone:

Co-opt

Interruption (stopping a train of thought)

Repelling your patience

Distracted (open) versus dispersed (interrupted)

Distracted as “off” or disconnected

Giving you the airplane (not paying attention to me) — Spanish expression

Walk like an Egyptian saying (side eye or profile posture)

Serbian phrase when something is “popped” (change in reality)

Untethered

Floating on the water

Head in space

Coming out of a trance

Distracted is the opposite of attracted

15:09:37 From D. Graham Burnett to Everyone:

Distraction as itself, in certain ways, its own kind of “attention” —very good stuff by Paul North on this...

15:11:28 From Ana Marques to Everyone:

all these lists remind me of some artist friends who started listing down words that sounded good together and recorded themselves saying them out loud with rhythm and rhyme and goofing around with the meanings - could be cool to do that with the teens!