



The body and calculative consciousness. How we establish the interplay of "virtual" and "real" spaces.

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My dissertation investigates the phenomenological status of 'virtual space' and the reciprocity of space, body and technology. 'Virtuality' was a keyword during the Internet boom. The virtual world was something we could enter through our PC monitors which had, by then, become a normal feature of every material desktop. Today, we find a second generation of virtuality structuring our everyday life. Whereas our Internet access is normally framed by the edges of our monitors, newer examples of virtual spaces are more integrated into what we used to call "the real world". Intelligent systems such as RFID-chips, Global Navigation Satellite Systems (GPS, Galileo) or electronic monitoring are part of the everyday world though we can't see the extensive digital system behind their material presence. In tomorrow's intelligent world, goods will communicate between themselves and manage your stereotyped consumption autonomously.

In my theoretical work, I want to focus on the interplay between 'real' and 'virtual' spaces and the way they form hybrid spaces in daily actions. From some phenomenological points of view (Husserl, Merleau-Ponty), there is a feedback between space and the body. I will examine how we can conceptualize the integration of virtual spaces in our 'Lebenswelt' from a phenomenological position. Possibly, our body appears to be the interface between the 'real' and the 'virtual'. Flusser forces a paradigm shift from ontological and epistemological categories to probability theory. At a time when the whole world is being de-constructed into pixels and we generate technical images to project a meaning into this empty world, we can only think in categories of the calculative consciousness. I reinterpret Flusser's analysis of the digital world from today's point of view and confront his mentalism with phenomenological revitalization of the body as a category for establishing the world.