

Partial Reading List and Notes
June – July, 2021

Lawrence C. Chin

1 June

When the economy goes into a recession, everybody will try to be more cautious with spending in order to hold onto the few dollars he or she has. This will of course only worsen the depression. And so the President might say “Citizens, go spend money and don’t worry about not having money afterward.” While this can fix the depression overall, it is actually not a good advice for everyone. For a shop keeper, when s/he spends the little bit of money s/he has, s/he will indeed see an increase in sale. For an employee with a fixed salary, however, when s/he spends the little bit of money s/he has, s/he will be screwed. Hence the problem with affirmative action: the society imposes “diversity” on every one of its domain in order to increase flexibility overall, without calculating the effects within any specific domain. While diversity increases the society’s overall adaptability, in a few cases (e.g. academia) the imposition of diversity actually lessens the adaptability of the domain in question.

2 June

Discovered, and downloaded, Slavoj Žižek’s *Hegel in a Wired Brain* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2020).

3 June

Read Thomas Röper, “Protasewitsch gibt dem Weißrussischen Fernsehen ein langes Interview und nennt seine Hintermänner”, *Anti-Spiegel*, 04.06.2021. Protasevich claims that it is his own colleagues in the opposition movement who have sold him out (made the bomb threat). Simply couldn’t believe it! The Russian camp is really becoming the spreader of misinformation.

5 June

Watched (1) Seth Lloyd’s (MIT) lecture “Deriving general relativity from quantum measurement”, QFQI Conference, Decoherence & Friends, May 2013. (2) Jared Kaplan’s (John Hopkins) lecture on the holographic approach to quantum gravity: PSW-2411, 06.09.2019. The holographic approach suggests, interestingly, that a theory of quantum gravity should describe fewer dimensions, not more, with the third or fourth dimension being merely an illusion (resulting from zooming in on and zooming out of the lower dimension). (3) Carlo Rovelli’s (Aix-Marseille) lecture on quantum gravity: PSW-2442, 04.06.2021 (!). Downloaded his books, including his book on Anaximander.

Rosa, in *Resonanz*, makes the same complaint which I constantly make about this McDonaldized, postmodern American society:

Das weckt den Verdacht, dass eine durch die eskalatorische Steigerungslogik der Moderne unablässig beschleunigte Welt die Ausbildung solcher Resonanzverhältnisse – unter anderem durch die Zerstörung sozialer Rhythmen – systematisch erschweren und ›stumme‹ oder ›entfremdete‹ Beziehungen (der Menschen untereinander, aber auch zur Welt der

Dinge und zur Natur, zum Raum und zur Zeit, zu ihren eigenen Erlebnissen, Handlungen und Bedürfnissen und schließlich zu ihrem Körper) zur Folge haben könnte

Herein lies the paradox: If resonance is somewhat of a I-Thou relationship and therefore the kind of “feminine quality” which postmodern society (flexible accumulation) wants to cultivate – and if flexible accumulation means also “speeding up” and “McDonaldization” – then this postmodern society somehow has to destroy the very quality which it wants to cultivate. Indeed! When the postmodern society tells us to be flexible (feminine, emotional, and like an artist) in order to adapt to the faster pace of the new world, this very adaptation also makes it difficult to *really be* feminine, emotional, and like an artist. In consequence, we are forced to be I-Thou *only in a very superficial way*. Rosa seems to be referring to this when he writes:

Wie dargelegt, gibt es gute Gründe für die Annahme, dass das moderne Steigerungsregime dynamischer Stabilisierung vielfältig und intrinsisch verflochten ist mit einer kulturell institutionalisierten Weltbeziehung, welche die manifeste Gefahr birgt, Weltverhältnisse »verstummen« zu lassen. Tatsächlich jedoch wird sich zeigen, dass die Beziehungen zwischen beiden weit komplexer sind: Die Moderne kann nicht einfach als Geschichte einer beschleunigungsbedingten »Resonanzkatastrophe« erzählt werden, denn sie hat zugleich die Resonanzsensibilitäten gewaltig gesteigert und in vielerlei Hinsicht spezifische Resonanzfähigkeiten erst hervorgebracht.

6 June

Read something about the possible (but never observed) violation of Lorentz invariance on the quantum scale.

Watched Sabine Hossenfelder’s “The Five Most Promising Ways to Quantize Gravity” (06.09.2019). She mentions first of all the “perturbatively quantized gravity” (Feynman and DeWitt) from the 1960s. Then the current 5 candidates: (1) string theory; (2) Loop Quantum Gravity; (3) Asymptotically Safe Gravity; (4) Causal Dynamical Triangulation; and (5) Emergent Gravity. Google searches usually give “Perturbative Quantum Gravity” instead.

7 June

Watched Bloomberg Quicktake, “Inside China’s accelerating bid for chip supremacy”, 02.06.2021. “Advanced Logic Chip.” The only three chip manufacturers remaining in the world: TSMC, Samsung, and Intel. But Samsung makes mostly memory chips rather than logic chips. China’s main chip manufacturer is SMIC (Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation), which is behind TSMC by decades.

8 June

Woke up to suddenly feel the need to state my entire theoretical construct in one unified, single sentence: The rise of Asian economies has changed American culture because, when Asia absorbs America’s manufacturing capacities, it changes America’s accumulation regime. In consequence, the new service economy promotes (1) femininity and diversity in order to impose flexibility; (2) “victimology” (“victims”: women and (not-well-doing) “minorities”) in order to replace competence

with incompetence; and (3) “speeding up” (McDonaldization) in order to speed up the pace of life. One can see a clear congruence among femininity/ diversity, “victims”, and “speeding up” and all of them either contribute to the functioning of the service economy or increase consumption while facilitating the fall of white men (and, to a lesser extent, the suppression of Asian talents).

Night. While getting acquainted with Feroz Khan’s ideas on “accelerationism”, also read about the original “accelerationist” ideas in “Das akzelerationistische Manifest”, Deutschland Funk, 26.04.2015.

10 June

Listened to “Sabine Hossenfelder on the crisis in particle physics and against the next big collider”, Manifold (Steve Hsu and Corey Washington), Episode 8, 18.04.2019.

12 June

Listened to Max Planck’s December 1942 presentation about himself (“Geheimrat, Max Planck”). His life, and his choice of thermodynamics as the field in which to excel.

More notes on Rosa’s *Resonanz*:

Dieses Vorhaben werde ich in drei Schritten ausführen: Zunächst – in Kapitel XIII– versuche ich die sozialen Bedingungen und Einflussfaktoren zu bestimmen, die für die Qualität der Resonanzverhältnisse und für die Ausbildung oder Unterminierung von Resonanzachsen entscheidend sind. Zu diesen Bedingungen gehören neben anderen kontextuellen, institutionellen und kulturellen Faktoren ganz wesentlich auch die Temporalstrukturen und Zeitverhältnisse. Dies ist der Ort, an dem die soziale Beschleunigung wieder ins Spiel kommt als eine sozialwirksame Kraft, welche die Potenz hat, die Ausbildung von Resonanzachsen und die Bedingungen für Resonanzerfahrungen zu unterminieren – aber sie muss dies nicht notwendig tun: Wie wir sehen werden, gibt es keine unilineare Beziehung, kein einfaches Kausalverhältnis zwischen Beschleunigung oder Dynamisierung und Resonanz. In vielen Hinsichten und Kontexten entfaltet und ermöglichten die Dynamisierungsprozesse der Moderne überhaupt erst resonante Weltbeziehungen, während erstarrte und verkrustete oder eingefrorene und stillstehende Verhältnisse tiefe Entfremdungserfahrungen verursachen können. Ein permanenter und gleichsam blindlaufender Beschleunigungszwang aber erzeugt Resonanzpathologien insofern, als er instrumentelle Bezugnahmen auf Welt priorisiert oder sogar erzwingt, die Anverwandlung von Weltausschnitten erschwert, weil er die dafür benötigten Zeitressourcen verknappt, und die Stabilität von Resonanzachsen unterminiert.

When Rosa claims that the “acceleration” undermines our attempt to establish a “resonant” relationship with the world, this is very similar to my assertion that McDonaldization makes us dumber (inhibits the development of an intelligent perception of reality).

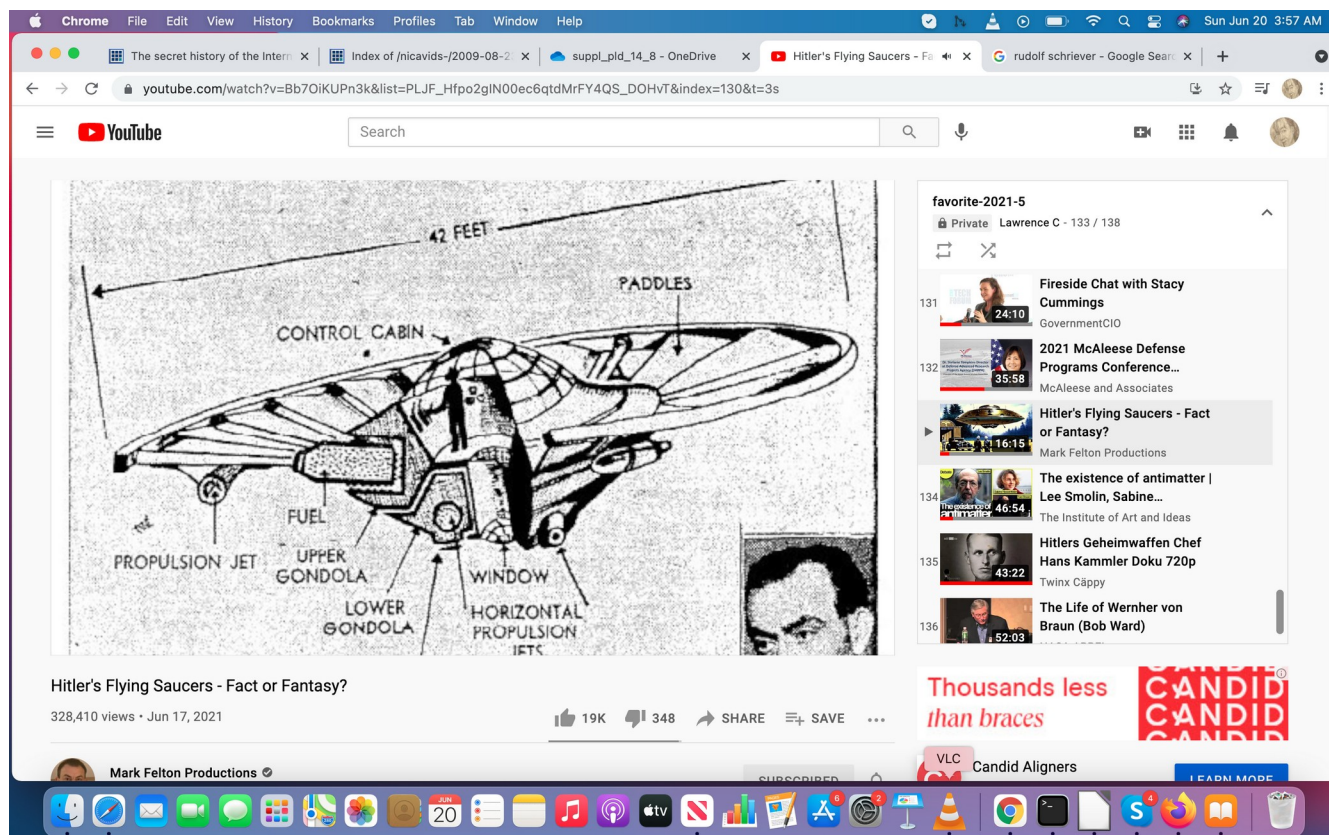
Then, watched another Planck documentary, “Umsturz mit Melancholie: Ein-Portrait-Essay”, 2002.

13 June

Watched Sabine Hossenfelder's excellent presentation "2 + 2 doesn't always equal 4" (12.06.2021). Also downloaded Jane Mayer's *Dark Money* to read about the Koch Brothers.

18 June

Watched Mark Felton's "Hitler's Flying Saucers". (He just uploaded it yesterday.) The Saucer Program, also ending up eventually with Hans Kammler, was taking place in Prague under Rudolf Schriever et al and had apparently test-flown a saucer in January 1945.



Compare this with the story, in Annie Jacobsen's *Area 51*, about what really happened with the Roswell UFO crash.

19 June

Watched ZDF History "Hitlers Geheimwaffen Chef – Die zwei Leben Hans Kammlers". (The video was uploaded to Youtube on 10.09.2019, but it was somehow posted on ZDF website on 18.06.2021.)

Also listened to Bob Ward's lecture on the life of Wernher von Braun, the 12th Masters Forum, NASA APPEL, 08 – 10.03.2006.

20 June

Listened to Christopher Leonard talking about his book, *The Secret History of Koch Industries and Corporate Power in America*: GBH Forum Network, 23.10.2019. Then downloaded, and started reading, this book. It's interesting to note that, other than their financial services, the Koch Brothers were only interested in industries that still operated according to the Logic of Generalization (those that were "non-competitive" and "monopolistic").

21 June

While continuing on with Hartmut Rosa and Michael Bazzell, this morning downloaded, and was reading, Max Planck, "Die Entstehung and bisherige Entwicklung der Quantentheorie" (the 1920 Nobel Prize address) and Dieter Hoffmann ed., *Max Planck und die moderne Physik*, Springer Verlag, 2010. (Especially the piece by Clayton A. Gearhart.)

Also started listening to Christian Joas' lecture, "Erwin Schrödinger und die Geschichte der Wellenmechanik", Göttingen, 26.06.2012.

24 June

Read Murtaza Hussain, "One Man's No-Fly List Nightmare", *The Intercept*, 30.05.2021. The story of Ashraf Maniar.

29 June

At Stories. Took notice of *The Cybernetic Hypothesis*, Tiqqun, 2001; English translation, 2020.

30 June

At Stories. Read about Susan Sontag and Arthur Danto. Also Žižek's *The Parallax View*.

2 July

Watched the latest PBS Frontline, "Germany's Neo-Nazis and the Far Right".

3 July

Downloaded, and started reading, Michael Bazzell's *Extreme Privacy* (2nd edition, 2020).

Watched Morpheus' reaction to STRG_F, "Drogen, Phishing, Malware: wie Herman X das Darknet eroberte" (19.05.2020). How a hacker group used a NATO bunker to run the world's second largest Darknet drug market.

Watched Sabine Hossenfelder's latest video, "Can we make a baby universe?" She claims that the expansion of the universe violates the principle of the conservation of energy: that Einstein's Cosmological Constant stipulates that there is a definite amount of energy per each volume of space, so that, when the space expands, the total energy in the universe also increases. I disagree: the fixed amount of energy per each volume of space must be counter-balanced by the same amount of negative

energy represented by gravity, so that, when the universe expands, the total negative energy in the universe must also increase, resulting in no net gain in energy for the universe.

4 July

Watched Morpheus' reaction to "Wie das FBI den meistgesuchten Hacker der Geschichte erwischte" (18.07.2020): (1) Commander X; (2) Hector Monsegur; (3) Marcus Hutchins; (4) Eric Taylor; (5) Martin Shkreli; (6) Cosa Nostra; and (7) Kevin Mitnick.

5 July

Watched ARTE "Kopernikanische Revolution und moderne Naturwissenschaft" (2012): Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, Giordano Bruno, Kepler, Galileo, and Newton.

6 July

Watched the excellent "Johannes Kepler, der Himmelsstürmer", SWR, 02.12.2020.

Hauptdarsteller Christoph Bach erweckt einen Getriebenen zum Leben, der die letzten Geheimnisse des Universums entschlüsseln wollte. Renommierete Forscherinnen wie die Kepler-Biografin Ulinka Rublack und die Astrophysikerin Suzanna Randall machen anschaulich, wie revolutionär Keplers Erkenntnisse waren.

Sein großer Verdienst

Er ist einer der Giganten der Wissenschaft und war seiner Zeit weit voraus: Johannes Kepler. Kaum einer weiß, welche dramatische Geschichte hinter Keplers bahnbrechenden Entdeckungen steckt. Erstmals erzählt ein Film, wie der Astronom in Zeiten von Krieg, Verfolgung, Chaos und Aberglaube vor 400 Jahren das Weltbild revolutionierte.

Mitbegründer der modernen Naturwissenschaft

Keplers Weg zum Weltruhm begann mit einem Schicksalsschlag. Im Zug der Gegenreformation wurde der Protestant 1600 aus Graz vertrieben. Schutz fand er in Prag am Hof von Kaiser Rudolph II., wo ihn der dänische Astronom Tycho Brahe in sein Forschungsteam aufnahm. Brahe war der bedeutendste Astronom seiner Zeit. Kepler übernahm die Aufgabe, die von Brahe gesammelten Beobachtungen zu erklären.

9 July

Read the Foreword to the translation of Foucault's 1975 – 6 lecture, "Society Must Be Defended". How Foucault operated while in the Collège de France.

Listened to this very important lecture by Arkani-Hamed, “The Doom of Spacetime: Why it must dissolve into more fundamental structures”, PSW 2384, 01.12.2017.

11 July

Read Dennis Schmidt’s Foreword to the revised edition of the Stambaugh translation of *Sein und Zeit* (2010).

12 July

Watched the PBS Frontline “Kill/ Capture” – the Kill/ Capture Program in Afghanistan as of 2011.

Downloaded, and was reading, Foucault’s *Il faut défendre la société* and the English translation *Society Must Be Defended*.

Stories. Was reading Michelle Alexander’s new preface to the 2020 edition of her *The New Jim Crow*. Plus excerpts from the book. This is precisely the point of view I disagree with. Mass incarceration is the function of globalization and the new service economy, not any rebirth of the old racial caste system.

14 July

Stories. Took notice of this book: Stephen Kinzer, *Poisoner in Chief: Sidney Gottlieb and the CIA Search for Mind-Control* (2019).

15 July

Have been listening to Reckwitz’s discussion, “Die Krise des Liberalismus und die Neuerfindung der Freiheit” (NZZ Standpunkte, 13.03.2020) and “Verändert Corona unsere Gesellschaft?”, ZDF, 30.09.2020.

Was also on Anti-Spiegel and read Röper’s translation of Putin’s article, “Russen und Ukrainer sind ein Volk” (13.07.2021) and then “Worum geht es bei den Protesten auf Kuba wirklich?” (13.07.2021) (his translation of a Russian report on the situation in Cuba on vesti.ru, 12.07.2021).

16 July

Rosa (*Resonanz*):

“Umgekehrt kann jedoch auch das Begehren eine resonanzfeindliche Tendenz ausprägen. Dies ist überall dort der Fall, wo aus dem Resonanzbegehren ein reines Objektbegehren wird: Wer Menschen, Dinge, Positionen oder Erlebnisse begehrt, um sie unter Kontrolle zu bringen oder sich nur anzueignen, begibt sich gerade darin der Möglichkeit der Anverwandlung und damit des Resonanzmomentes.”

Rosa is saying – in my terms – that people who are only interested in I-It domination are losing out on I-Thou sharing. Thus, fully human, resonance, is I-Thou.

18 July

Stores. Read the story of the friendship between Rumi and Shams. In Coleman Barks, *The Essential Rumi* (2nd ed.).

19 July

Watched: (1) Sam Gralla's lecture, "Space, Time, and Gravity", University of Arizona Science Lecture Series, 16.02.2017. Mostly about gravity waves and how they were detected. He notes that, in 1916, Einstein first came up with the equation to describe gravity waves:

h = $\left(10^{-44} \frac{\text{seconds}^2}{\text{kilograms meters}^2} \right) \frac{\ddot{I}}{D}$

Wave strain: fractional stretching/compressing of unbound material

A measure of how much matter accelerates how fast

Distance to source

(Einstein 1916)

(2) "Israel's cyber spies and the future of crypto warfare", 28.06.2020. On the Israelite Unit 8200.

(3) Dana Priest on NSO's Pegasus, which was found on Khashoogi's fiancée's phone (from Frontline, 18.07.2021). PBS Newshour reported on Pegasus today too, noting that a client in Mexico used it to spy on 15,000 phones there (Mexican journalists).

(4) "The untold story of 8200: A launching point for women in cybersecurity", RSA Conference, 2018, San Francisco, 16 – 20 April 2018.

20 July

An excellent Zeit Online summary of how Pegasus work (18.07.2020): (1) Mexico was the first Pegasus client in 2011; (2) the investigation by the Consortium “Pegasus Project”; (3) Pegasus works by breaking through Sandbox; (4) Pegasus’ client gets to the target by connecting to the NSO’s server; (5) the Israelite government forbids the sale of Pegasus to Iran and Qatar and its use on American phone numbers.

Read “Hacker aus dem Staatsdienst”, *Der Spiegel*, 40/2016 and Elizabeth Vos’ “The Finders”, MintPress, 03.06.2021.

23 July

Went to bed while listening to Michael Bazzell’s latest podcast, “Personal Ransomware Exposure” (ransomware data leaks).

25 July

Have been watching Andreas Reckwitz on SRF Kultur’s Sternstunde Philosophie, “Die Suche nach Einzigartigkeit”, 24.08.2020.

Listened to Whitney Webb’s latest podcast with Elizabeth Vos on “The Finders”. Also more of Michael Bazzell’s podcasts on Sound Cloud.