

# Partial Reading List and Notes February – May, 2022

Lawrence C. Chin

## 9 February

Started reading Rosa's *Beschleunigung und Entfremdung* (with Robin Celikates) and also *Rendre le monde indisponible* (on and off).

## 11 February

Back to reading Reckwitz's *Das Ende der Illusionen*.

## 14 February

Checked out Kirk McElhearn, *The Mac OS X Command Line: Unix under the Hood* (2005) and Bob "Dr Mac" LeVitus, *MacOS Big Sur for Dummies* (2021).

Also read the translator's introduction to the Chinese translation of Rosa's *Beschleunigung und Entfremdung*:



## 22 February

Had thought:

*The logic of patriarchy in the West* (1600 – 1950): the egoist rational man dominating a chaotic nature – hence he must dominate the woman as part of his imposition of his rationality on the irrational nature.  
*The logic of patriarchy in China* (1000 – 1900): the holistic man attempting to be in tune with the encompassing nature – hence he must dominate the woman as part of his attunement with nature.

Skylight. Took notice of Kevin Thomas and Perry Zurn ed., *Intolerable: Writings from Michel Foucault and the Prisons Information Group*.

## **25 February**

Stories. Took notice of this excellent book, Charles Freeman's *The Closing of the Western Mind* (2002). The rise of faith and the suppression of reason in consequence of Constantine's conversion to Christianity.

During the discussion on the financialization of capitalism (*Das Ende der Illusionen*), Reckwitz mentions how the greater availability of capital for new companies on the stock market nowadays has prompted them to prioritize short-term profitability (since the immediate satisfaction of share-holders is now the most important concern). Thus a traditional enterprise like Koch brothers', by never going public but staying within the family, is not under pressure to consider only short-term profitability but is able to plan for the long-term. What a model!

Also started listening to Luc Boltanski and Arnaud Esquerre talking about their book *Enrichissement*. Auditorium MO.CO., Panacée, 08.11.2017.

## **26 February**

Also started listening to Arnaud Esquerre, "Langage et censure", EHESS Spring Talks, 2021 (28.06.2021).

## **28 February**

Listened to Petra Bartosiewicz, "What is a terrorist?", TEDxUofM, 12.04.2014.

## **3 March**

By now, several videos in which this Dr. José Luis Flores López, an expert on Dostoevsky, appears. (Las Veladas Rusas.)

Ellen Kositzka introduces her translation of Brittany's book, *An vorderster Front*.

## **5 March**

Watched: (1) "On the ground in Ukraine: a Vice News Tonight special report", Vice News, 04.03.2022. (2) "Frauen im Regiment Asow in der Ukraine", Fokus Europa, DW Deutsch, 01.03.2017. (3) "Why

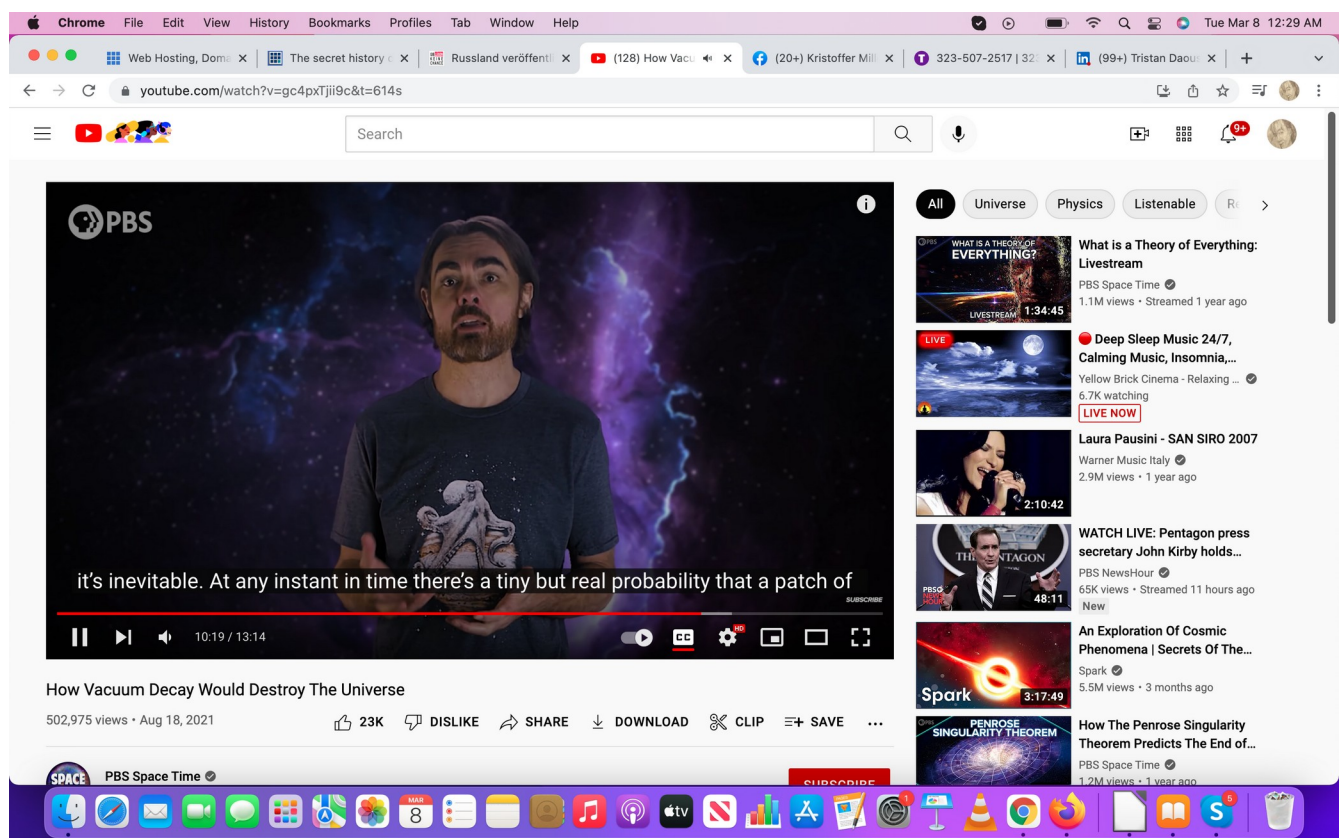
the far right joined the 2013 – 2014 Ukraine crisis: Decade of Hate”, Vice, 14.05.2021. (Mikael Skillt, who has once joined the Asov Battalion, noted that, among the European far right, pro-Russia is the dominant position, while pro-Ukraine is the minority position.) (4) “Ukraine: allegedly neo-Nazi armed groups fighting Russia-backed separatists”, Al-Jazeera English, 13.02.2022. About this “Freikorps”.

## 6 March

Today PBS Newshour reported on the UC Davis studies showing that special additives (e.g. seaweeds) in cows’ feeds can reduce methane emissions from cows by 80%.

## 7 March

“How vacuum decay would destroy the Universe”, PBS Space Time, 18.08.2021. Is the Higgs Boson stuck in false vacuum or in true vacuum?



Also read Thomas Röper’s translations of Putin’s answer about the invasion of Ukraine (05.03.2022, while with the flight attendants) and the Russian Ministry of Defense’s explanation about the discovery of US bio-weapons labs in Ukraine (07.03.2022). (Part of the program is on detection and prevention, but part on the cultivation of potential harms of certain pathogens.)

## 8 March

Struck by this description in Dostoevsky's *The Devils* – Drozdov says this to Stavrogin about Lisa: “Out of her intense hatred of you, a hatred that is absolutely sincere, there come every moment flashes of love and – infatuation – the most sincere and immeasurable love and – infatuation!”<sup>1</sup>

## 10 March

Today PBS Newshour reported that the Census 2020 has over-counted whites and Asians and under-counted blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans – it has finally come to light that “Asians are favored by white supremacy.”

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player with the title "CENSUS MISCOUNTS BY RACE". The video content displays a bar chart with the following data:

Race	Count Type
White	Overcount
Asian	Overcount
Black	Undercount
Hispanic	Undercount
American Indians, Reservations	Undercount

The video player interface includes a search bar, a live chat replay toggle (turned off), and a list of related videos on the right side. The video has 47,547 views and was streamed live 78 minutes ago. The video player also shows a like/dislike/share/download/save menu and a progress bar.

## 15 March

Listened to Jason Blazakis' “Trump’s deployment of terrorist designations: a look at the IRGC and the Russian Imperial Movement”, 21.07.2020.

## 17 March

Introduction to the Spanish translation of Christina Sweeney-Baird's first novel, *El Fin de los Hombres*.

## 20 March

<sup>1</sup> So the Spanish translation: “Por debajo del odio que siente por usted, un odio que es continuo, intenso y sincero, rebulle a cada momento el amor y... la locura..., ¡amor también sincero e infinito y... locura!”

Ricardo San Vicente's comment on *The Demons* in his introduction to the Spanish translation, *Crimen y Castigo/ El Jugador*. In regard to Dostoevsky's view on the goal of human life:

Para él lo importante no era conseguir la felicidad en este mundo, liberar a los hombres de la opresión, rescatarlos del fango y la miseria, sino alcanzar como sea, con un panfleto incluso, su objetivo: hacer triunfar su verdad.

In regard to how these revolutionary ideas will bring Russia to its tragic end:

Y la tragedia estribaba en que unos objetivos morales en apariencia honorables y justos se iban a lograr en realidad a través de medios inmorales.

## 26 March

While continuing on with Dostoevsky's *The Demons* and Reckwitz's *Illusionen*, took notice of these in Stories: (1) Vincent Bevins' *The Jakarta Method* (2020); (2) Peter Kropotkin's *The Great French Revolution* (Introduction by David Berry); and (3) Ilham Tohti, *We Uyghurs Have No Voice* (collection of essays from the defunct uyghurs.biz).

## 4 April

Within the past week, had finished reading Reckwitz's *Das Ende der Illusionen*.

Within the past week, watched TechAltar/ CuriosityStream, "Why Russia can't survive tech sanctions" (10.03.2022); introductions to Thomson Reuters' CLEAR; Mark Felton Productions, "Putin: the KGB agent" (13.03.2022) (Putin's role in the Stasi's running of the RAF); and the excellent MrWissen2Go, "Kontrollieren Neonazis wirklich die Ukraine?" (26.03.2022). (On the life of Stepan Bandera.)

Stories. Took notice of this brand new book: Rob McKenzie (with Patrick Dunne), *El Golpe: US Labor, the CIA, and the Coup at Ford in Mexico*.

## 9 April

Read this special phrase in *The Demons*, from Verkhovensky's phrases during the fête:

Señoras y señores, yo he descifrado todo el secreto. ¡Todo el secreto de sus efectos consiste en su estupidez! – Le chispeaban los ojos – Sí, señoras y señores, si esa estupidez fuera deliberada, calculadamente fingida, ¡ah, eso sería una ocurrencia genial! Pero hay que ser absolutamente justo con ellos: no han fingido nada. Se trata de la estupidez más sencilla, más candorosa, más limitada... *c'est la bêtise dans son essence la plus pure, quelque chose comme un simple chimique*. Si hubieran puesto un ápice más de perspicacia, todo el mundo habría visto enseguida la absoluta nimiedad de esa estupidez. **Pero ahora todo el mundo anda perplejo: nadie piensa que puede ser una estupidez elemental. «Imposible que eso no venga con segunda», dice para sí cada cual, poniéndose a buscar el secreto, viendo en ello un misterio, queriendo leer entre renglones...** ¡y así se logra el efecto! Nunca antes ha recibido la estupidez tan triunfal galardón a pesar de haberlo merecido muy a menudo... Porque, dicho

*en parenthèse*, la estupidez, como el genio eximio, son de pareja utilidad en la configuración del destino humano...

In the same way, with our scandal:

(1) When it breaks open, people will not believe that these women can be this dumb and this bad, that social justice can be this dumb and this bad, it would not seem right to them, and they will see a mystery somewhere...

(2) These women's stupidity is indeed just as useful as the greatest genius in shaping human destiny.

### **10 April**

Stories. Read Stephen Mitchell's introduction to his translation of Rainer Maria Rilke's *Letters to a Young Poet* (1984).

Also took notice of this very important book: Angela Saini, *Superior: The Return of Race Science* (2019).

### **11 April**

Downtown library: checked out Saini's book.

### **15 April**

Received, and started reading, Reckwitz/ Rosa, *Spätmoderne in der Krise*.

### **20 April**

At the downtown library. Read Dostoevsky's "The Possessed" in *Masterplots*, revised 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, ed. Frank N. Magill, Dayton Kohler, and Laurence W. Mazzeno, Salem Press, 1949 – 1996. Then, checked out W. J. Leatherbarrow, ed., *Dostoevsky's The Devils*, Northwestern University Press, 1999. Had also exchanged Magarshack's translation of *The Devils* for Michael Katz's (Oxford World's Classics).

### **21 April**

Michael Katz cites these important words from Dostoevsky's letter in regard to *The Devils*:

"Exactly the same thing happened in our country: the devils went out of the Russian man and entered into a herd of swine, i.e. into the Nechaevs... et al. These are drowned or will be drowned, and the healed man... sits at the feet of Jesus. It couldn't have been otherwise. Russia has spewed out all the filth she's been fed and obviously there's nothing Russian left in those spewed-out wretches... this is the theme of my novel in essence. It's called *Devils*, and it describes how the devils entered into the herd of swine."

And so America is supposed to spew out the filth she has been fed with and let it go into the bad examples, who will then be drowned. The healed America will then sit at the feet of Jesus. Such is the operation.

## 24 April

An excellent episode from MrWissen2Go, “Die Wahrheit über Netflix” (23.04.2022). Netflix is not environmentally friendly since the streaming costs so much electricity and produces so much CO-2 emission; and Netflix avoids paying taxes in Europe by headquartering in the Netherlands.

In the afternoon, in downtown library. Read through more of Dostoevsky’s in *Masterplots* (revised 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.): “Crime and Punishment” (Johanne G. Kashdan) and “The Brothers Karamazov” (J.G.K. again).

Also checked out both the English and Spanish translation of *Crime and Punishment* (Constance Garnett and José Fernández Z.).

Then, Stories. Briefly: Katrin Bennhold, “The ex-chancellor who became Putin’s man in Germany”, *The New York Times*, 24.04.2022.

## 25 April

After the CNN report, found: Vivian Salama, Joe Parkinson, Drew Hinshaw, and Justin Scheck, “Putin’s reputed girlfriend spared US sanctions”, *The Wall Street Journal*, 25.04.2022. The Treasury Department had prepared the sanction package against Alina Kabaeva, but the National Security Council pulled her name off the list in the last minute. Kabaeva has lived in Cologne, Switzerland, for long stretches of time. On Saturday (23.04), she showed up at Moscow’s VTB Arena to present a performance for the “Alina” festival, to be aired in May. It is said that she traveled to Switzerland in 2015 to give birth to Putin’s child, staying at the most expensive maternity clinics, the Sant’Anna. After the birth, she stayed in either Lugano or Cologne. In 2019, she gave birth to twins in Moscow.

## 26 April

Downloaded Dominique Arban’s *Dostoïevski* (to look at the Chronology).

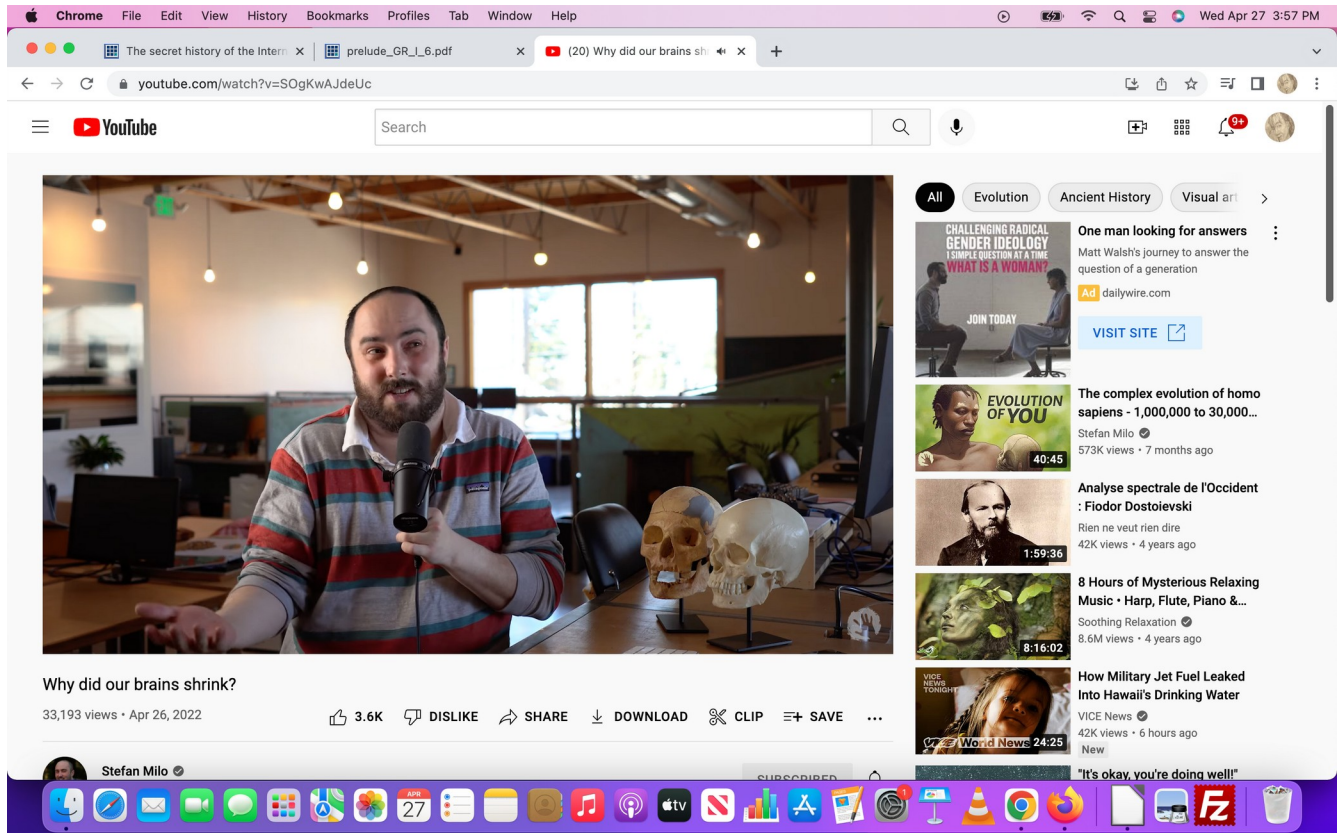
Downtown library. More of *Masterplots*: “The Gambler” (Keith Neilson); “The Idiot” (Joanne G. Kashdan again); and “Confession” (St. Augustine). Note Kashdan’s interesting comment, that *The Idiot* is so peculiarly Russian that many Westerners fail to understand it. Among the many “Russian” peculiarities is the “belief in the messianic destiny of Russia... The next morning, Rogozhin confesses to the police that he murdered Natasya. These doubtful observances of honorable behavior are, in the context of the novel, attributed to proper Russian conduct. As such, they are individual contributions to Russia’s manifest destiny in fulfillment of her obligation to save the world from perdition.”

Then, checked out Henri Troyat’s Dostoevsky book – for the third time!

## 27 April



An excellent video from Stefan Milo: “Why did our brain shrink?” (26.04.2022) Our brain has shrunk since the end of the last ice age. Possible causes: (1) human self-domestication (the decrease of intra-group violence). Domestication (peacefully living with one another) causes the decrease of brain-size even in domesticated animals. (2) The decrease in body-size due to the switching from hunting-and-gathering to agriculture. (3) The increasingly complex division of labor in society, so that people don’t need to know much anymore in order to survive in society.



Downtown library: checked out Dostoevsky’s *Notes from the Underground* (trans. Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky). Had also downloaded the Spanish translation, *Memorias del subsuelo* (lectulandia.com).

## 2 May

Became acquainted with M. Bazzell’s new project, *Unredacted Magazine* (22 & 29.04.2022), and downloaded the first, May, issue.

## 3 May

Skylight. Took account of the collection on Zizek (the latest):

- a. *The Sublime Object of Ideology* (1989 – but a new edition): a psychoanalytic theory of ideology.
- b. *Disparities* (2016): exploring “disparities”.



c. *The Relevance of Communist Manifesto (Die verspätete Aktualität des kommunistischen Manifests)* (2018): Bill Gate and Jeff Bezo and so on didn't become rich by exploiting the workers, but by appropriating "rent" for the participation in the commons.

d. *Sex and the Failed Absolute* (2019): a new dialectical materialism.

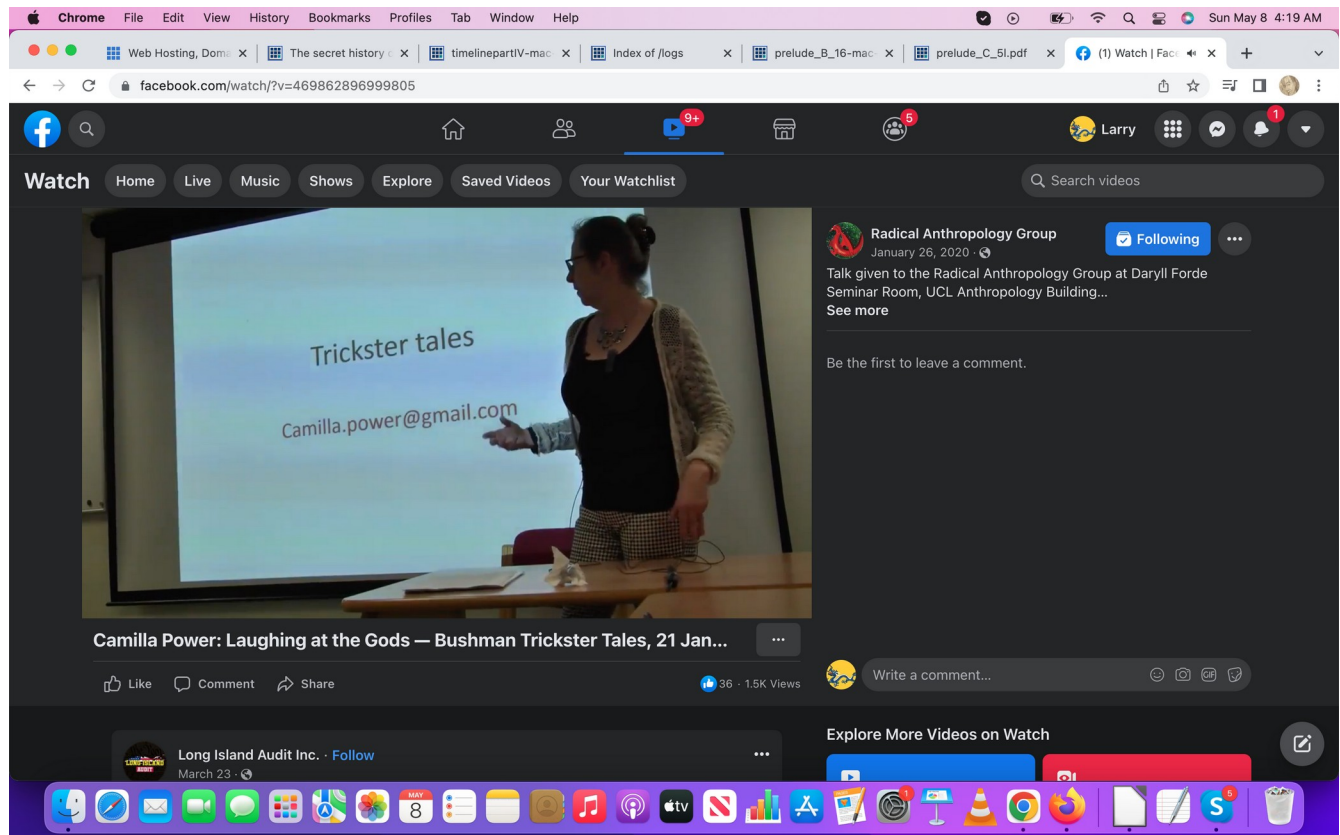
e. *Heaven in Disorder* (2021): a collection of short commentaries.

## 5 May

Had been watching this 1946 French adaptation of Dostoevsky's *Idiot*, with Gérard Philipe and Edwige Feuillère.

## 6 May

Camilla Power's lecture on Radical Anthropology Group's Facebook, "Trickster", 21.01.2020.



## 7 May

The latest from Vice News, "Journalists in Mexico fear cartels – and Facebook". About the anonymous Facebook pages set up to report on narco-related murders in Tijuana (which one narco group has set up to expose the rival group). One hears for the first time about the Facebook page "Tijuana en guerra 2 oficial".

## 8 May

At the downtown library. Picked up the Spanish translation, *Memorias del subsuelo* (Bela Martinova).

### **9 May**

Still on Rosa's "Was ist und was kann eine Theorie der Gesellschaft?" Rosa's notion of a *Sozialformation* as the interaction between the semi-independent structural and cultural sides of a society, and of social pathology as the incompatibility between the two, is highly inadequate – in that it completely contradicts a historical materialist notion of how a society works (the cultural being merely the effect of the structural side).

### **10 May**

Downtown library. Checked out Gus Khawaja, *Kali Linux Penetration Testing Bible* (Wiley, 2021). In the chapter "Internet Information Gathering", the OSINT tools listed are TheHarvester, Dmitry, and Maltego.