

ON GOOD NIGHTS MAY I PREPARE OF

To help with this question, here are some antonyms of standing:

- sitting
- laying down
- sleeping
- dead
- alone
- lost
- weak
- unbothered
- defeated
- passionless
- purposeless
- directionless

Kit Kuksenok (SoC 2022) and Emily Fong spoke about digestion and other non-cognitive functions of the body during in here / out there, an online drawing session on 27 November 2022. These words were written before, but they resonate with this event that I moderated.

"Consent hates guilt", I write to Pule kaJanolitji in a WhatsApp conversation in the summer of 2022. Consent operates outside emotional debt. Consent must be more everyday, must be more commonplace, must not be grave, or owed. What I mean is that consent must be a necessary sustenance routine, like sleep or eating.

Exceed yourself and your own definition. Capture the excess in the next definition. Rewrite it all again in the following, and leave that trail as exposed as you can, to show that you were present.

(I just wrote this and it didn't save, so I'm writing it again, in effect begrudgingly performing what this line suggests.)

In a MAPP lab meeting on 4 May 2022, Pule kaJanolitji suggests EXPLAIN rather than DEFINE, because "explaining usually allows for complexity whereas defining simplifies". He offers: "KEEP IT COMPLEX, MAKE IT CLEAR" from Kathrin Böhm. A representation of complexity is certainly the aim in this line.

I wonder about explanation, and about the time that it takes to both explain, and receive that explanation. I worry about the finality of that time. Once time is spent on giving and receiving an explanation, there is a risk of the illusion of finality, closure, an ending. How to make this time eternal, ongoing? How to make an explanation revizable?

I wonder if repeatedly offering definitions - many brief and impossibly concise definitions, inevitably unable to contain the complexities of a thing - is a move towards the temporality I'm looking for. "As frequently as you can" - continue to redefine, and to face your definitions and their inaccuracies. Re-define them, and keep that archive of change somewhere. Love futility.

This is 4 times longer than the original note. Perhaps repeating a definition is towards an explanation. Proving that it produces excess.

This question was first on Goldsmith's student union manifesto writing tips website. I was desperate in the studio one day, getting self-aware and feeling imposter syndrome (21 April 2022), having convinced myself I didn't know the definition of a manifesto.

I do, but it's one of those kinds of knowledges that I digest until it materially decomposes and transforms to energy. I can use the metaphor of food digestion to understand how I perform knowledge without being able to materially (verbally/ textually) reproduce it (regurgitation). But what a question: WHY ARE YOU STANDING?

Written initially as notes from Shahd Omar via Engy Mohsen and Gabriel Hensche's project How to Love Many in Many Ways (SoC 2022).

These moments are often the loudest and most active ones.

As inspired by something Khajag Apelian (SoC 2022) shared about getting paid by IBM to produce an open-source typeface many people are using, during his presentation with Naïma Ben Ayed at School of Commons, 20 April 2022.

Day-job recognition.

Words taken from a Facebook post by Pule kaJanolitji (SoC 2021-22) on 7 November 2022:

"We see those who are living far beyond what they require, and are meant to understand them as being admirable. Why is it admirable to have so exceeded what you need? How is that admirable?"

From a comment made by Deniz Kırkalı (SoC 2022) in a meeting with MAPPs lab of School of Commons in April 2022.

Many practices that involve gathering information from subjects can be extractive if the destination of the information granted is unclear or not yet known. These are co-authors. Participation can be refused. Contact must be maintained, so consent is actively reinforced. This work should be long and hard like any collaboration.

From Joseph Baan's reference of a conversation between Lauren Berlant and Michael Hardt called "No One Is Sovereign In Love".

As inspired by artist Kameelah Janan Rasheed's project "Scoring the Stacks" in the Brooklyn Public Library (2019), where she wrote a score for wandering and (mis)using the library's stacks.

via a presentation by Kit Kuksenok's very thorough work in audience expectations and energy. Something they share in relation to their artistic practice and as a yoga teacher: meet people where they are, and don't leave them there.

INSIST ON THE SPACE TO WARM UP AND COOL DOWN.

RESIST LINEAR TIME. PURSUE MULTI-LINEARITY OVER DIFFERENT SCALES OF TIME AT THE SAME TIME.

TRAVEL BACKWARDS.

ANSWER WHY ARE YOU STANDING? FROM THE CONTEXT OF EVERY DAY.

DO NOT LET THE REGIME OF SCARCITY PRODUCE FEAR THAT TRANSFORMS INTO GREED AND COMPETITION.

REPEAT YOURSELF, AND NOTICE THE INEVITABLE CHANGE.

ASK FOR CONSENT.

NEVER ASSUME THE WORDS YOU USE AND THE WAY YOU USE THEM ARE UNIVERSALLY UNDERSTOOD.

PUNCTUATE WITH STILLNESS, SILENCE, AND APPARENT INACTIVITY.

EMBEZZLE softly.

RECOGNIZE MOMENTS OF NON-FINANCIAL EMBEZZLEMENT, AND WRITE THEM DOWN.

ARE YOU EXCEEDING YOUR NEED? GET RID OF THE EXCESS WITH INTENTION.

ACCEPT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FULLY "KNOW", AND DEPART CONFIDENTLY FROM THIS POINT.

REFUSE GRANTING INFORMATION THAT IS INTENDED TO BE USED FOR QUALITATIVE PURPOSES.

RECOGNIZE HABITS THAT ARE NON-CONSENSUALLY EXTRACTIVE, AND DIVERT THEM WHEN THEY INEVITABLY EMERGE.

TRAIN AND VALUE YOUR OWN AND OTHER'S INCOHERENCE.

WITNESS AS A CARE GESTURE.

EXCEED YOURSELF. MAKE LEFTOVERS FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS TO FIND LATER.

AS FREQUENTLY AS YOU CAN, OVER AND OVER AGAIN, DEFINE YOUR COMPLEXITY.

MISUSE ORGANIZED SYSTEMS.

DO NOT RUN AT AN ENERGETIC DEFICIT.

KNOW AND REMIND OTHERS THAT THERE IS A POSITION TO DEPART FROM IN NOT KNOWING.

REJECT A SENSE OF URGENCY.

ALWAYS MAKE SPACE FOR PEOPLE TO DENY PARTICIPATION.

ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR:

via Eirini Sourgiadaki's (School of Commons 2022) project Warmups and Cooldowns, a MAPP Lab.

Bring old ideas into the present. Reconnect with past collaborators, past institutions, past conversations. Insist on moving backward, as the only method of moving forward.

These are words from an Instagram Live conversation between Rebecca Walker & Adrienne Maree Brown, on Walker's 2022 book 'Women Talk Money'.

Toddler method. Why why why. Also a method of manifesto writing. More notes to come, I hope. Learn by noticing how the children do it.

An abandoned list of:

1. some words that come up regularly in my field that I always appreciate more context for:
 - Commons Community
2. words that I use that I need to define more:
 - Entangled Orientation

This word was edited out. Notes on an elaboration are below:

Without negative consequence to other people. Either for the benefit of other people, or your own survival. Without personal greed or gain. An example: using a part of a grant to pay for education. Working on your personal unpaid work during the hours of your paid job. Funnelling a portion of salary towards funding workshops that teach other people skills that can earn them a similar salary.

During a presentation of this text in its preliminary stages, Manuela Viezzer (SoC 2022) asks if I mean "quantitative".

It is possible I mean both. It is possible I mean, in other words: make the possibility to refuse homework that proves your worth real in your world.

You want me to be honest? This is from an intentional acid trip with artist and friend Merve Kılıçer in September 2022 in Rotterdam. We spent the following two days transcribing our conversation on a hand-drawn map from memory. We spoke about a potential ancestral calling to be a witness. This relates also to practices of transcription, collective note-taking, and active listening practices.

I received a voice note from friend and artist Katharina Cameron on 29 November 2022 letting me know that monotheistic Christianity introduced linear time, and a worldview with a beginning and end.

This could be from an affirmation text I wrote myself while at Index Foundation in Stockholm in 2020:

I will travel backwards. I will bring old works into the present. I will reconnect with past collaborators, past institutions. I will insist on moving backwards, as a new way of moving forwards.

This IG live conversation was sometime in May 2022. As I read this in November, I am connecting it to a Facebook post by Pule kaJanolitji (SoC 2021 and 2022) from 7 November that shook me so much I have written it out by hand and taped it to my studio wall. Here is an excerpt:

It would appear that one requires a fear of brokenness and a phobia of broken people in order to perpetuate such a cultish celebration of excess. It appears it is a fear response; a repulsion not only to the state of poverty, but to those in that state, by which one self-defines against.

More notes:

Carefully represent this embezzlement publicly as much as possible, without compromising its distribution. Say where your money has come from when communicating every public project or moment - including your shitty day job, including your student loans, including your rental income, including your credit card, including your inheritance. There are also non-financial forms of embezzlement: try to identify them.

via a comment by via Eirini Sourgiadaki in a MAPP meeting on 11 April 2022.

Notice when you are "full": when you cannot take in more information.

Via Kit Kuksenok and their Energy ROI calculator, which is a spreadsheet tracking "units in energy" in "Perceived hours per year". The spreadsheet includes hours, energy, costs, etc., but cannot contain creative output type, inspiration, action, "long term enablement", etc. Kit: "the benefit of this was articulating that this was a scale that existed in my head that I've never written down before. It makes me understand the architecture of my mind, even though I'm off-roading anyway".