Data Poets in Urban Spaces:
Enhancing Human Perceptions
through AI-Assisted Psychogeographic Walks

The Infrastructures
of Socio-Ecological
Knowing in the City

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January 2024

Intro:

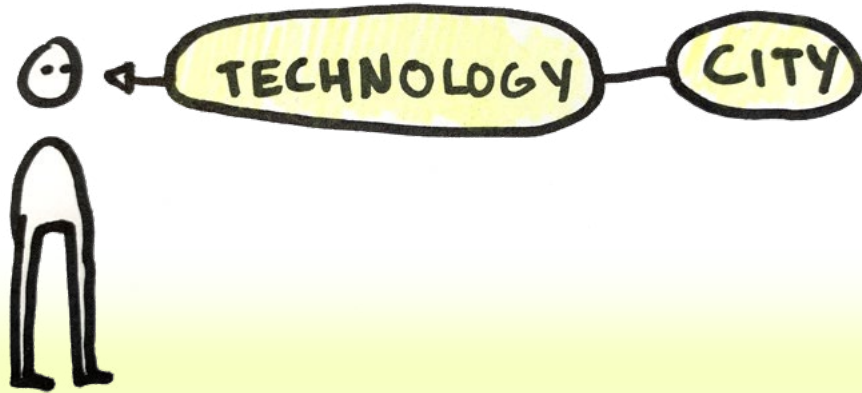https://fortune.gaston.pro/

Don Ihde's 4 Human-Technology Relationships

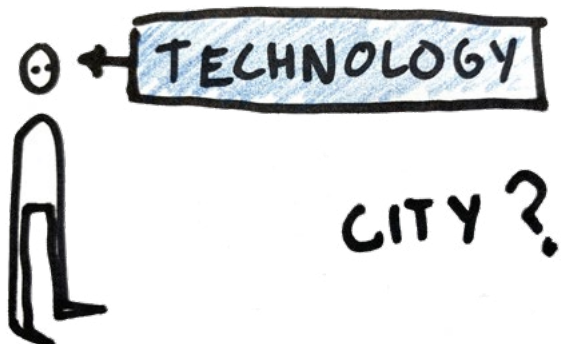Technology and the Lifeworld: From Garden to Earth (1990)
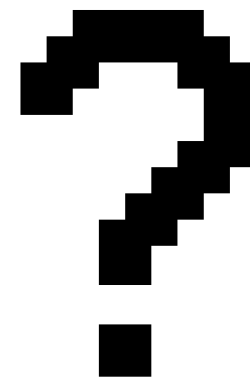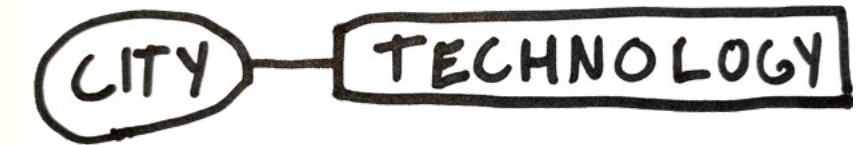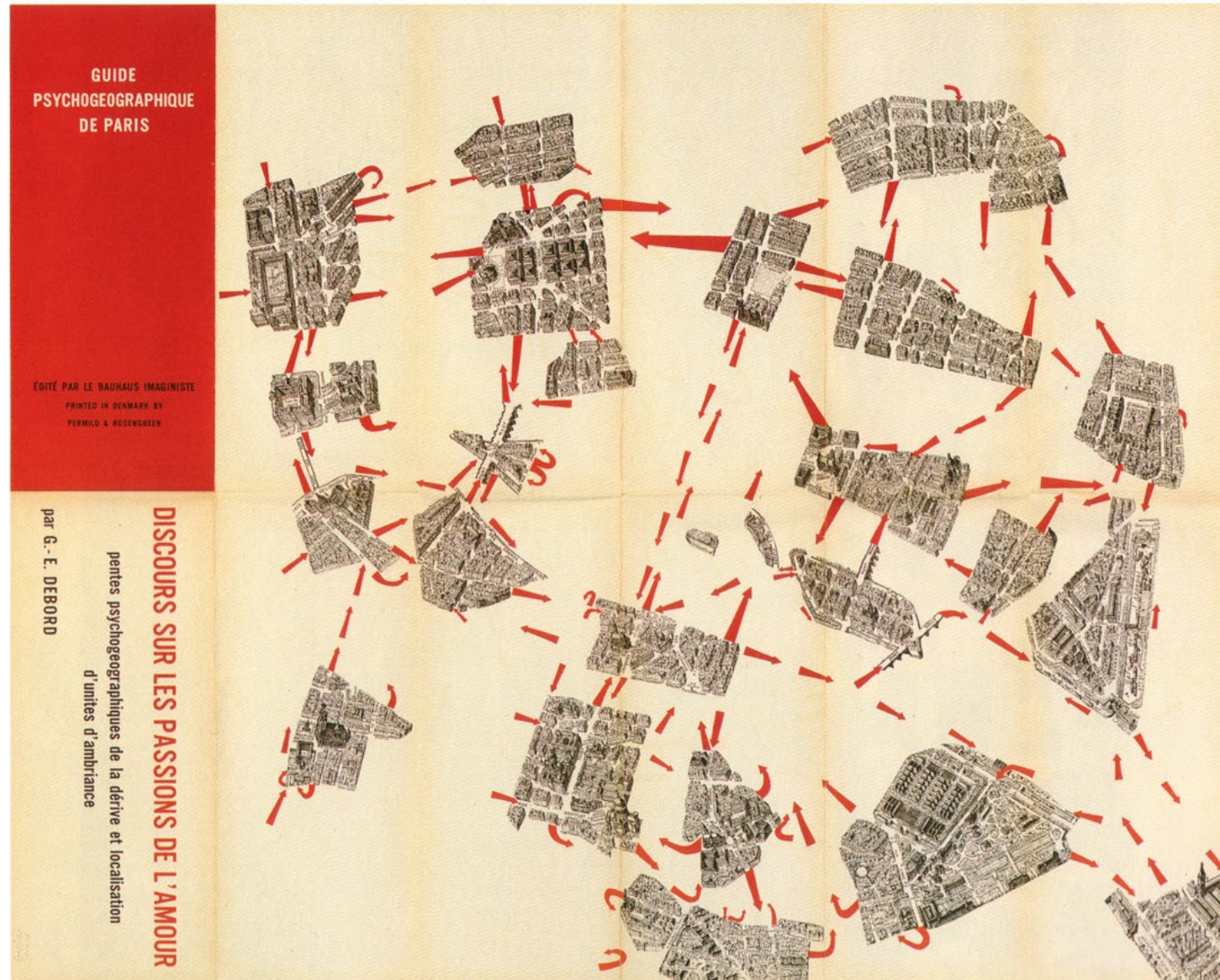

-Embodiement

-Hermeneutic

-Alterity

-Background

Psychogeography as a method of counter-mapping

McQuillan, Daniel. 2017. Counter Mapping the Smart City

Hermeneutic Tool of "derive" (drifting)

Guy Debord, Guide Psychogéographique de Paris (1956)

Hermeneutic Tool of surveillance
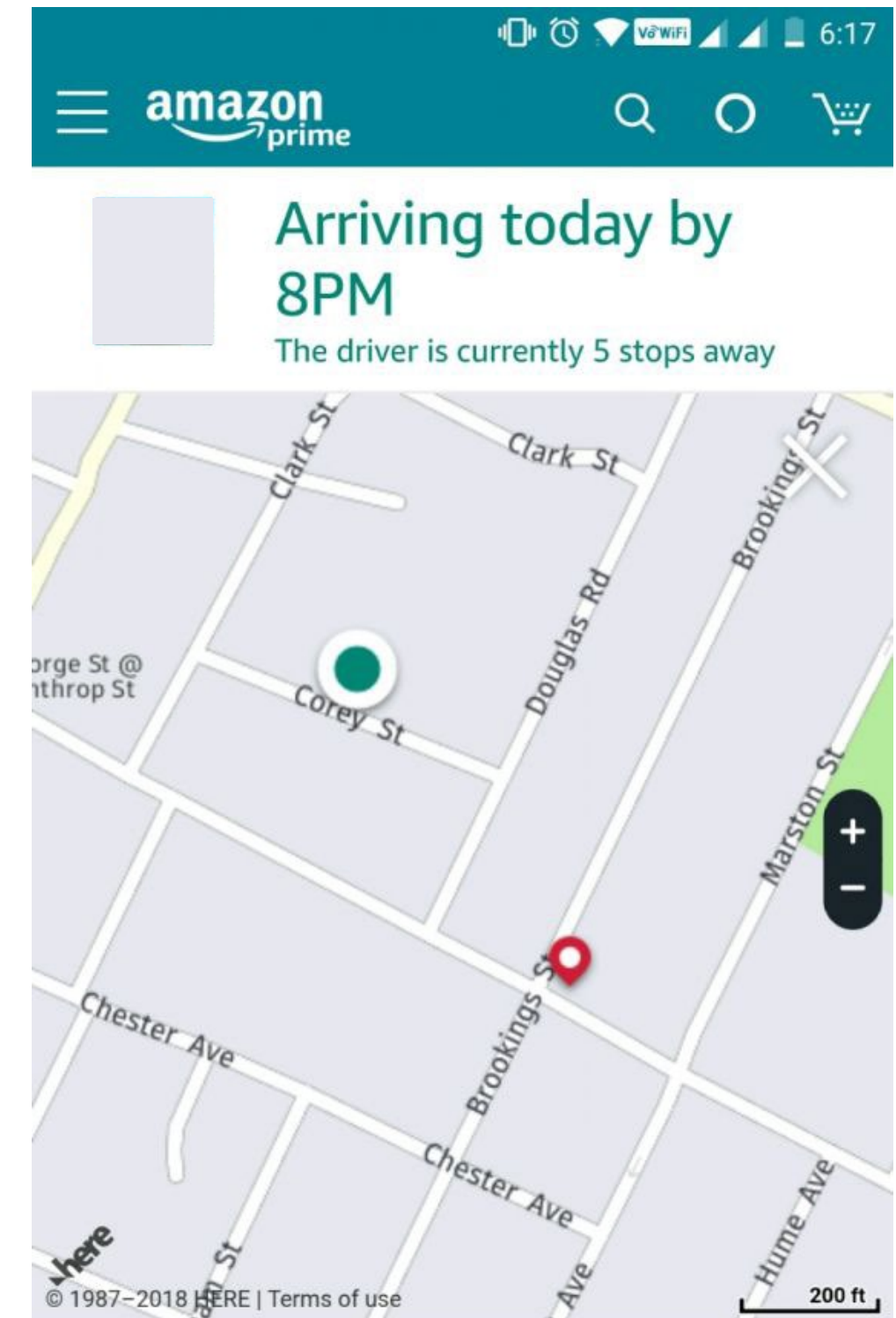
The "Dérive"

Guy Debord, 1956, Theory of the Dérive

HOW

–Drop daily routines and plans.
–Wander aimlessly, led by the city's terrain.
–Preferably in small groups (2–5 people).
–Duration: A few hours to a day.
–Observe the urban landscape's effects on emotions and behavior.

WHY

–Break from routine for new perspectives.
–Understand urban and ecological effects on emotions/behavior.
–Creative exploration in urban settings.
–Critique societal impacts of urban and ecological environments.

What does AI phenomenologically ""perceive"?

Lane   96%

St...

Road   94%

Town   93%

Pedestrian   90%

Urban Area

Transport

Human Settleme

Neighbourhood

#9FA0A5, RGB(159, 160, 165)   38%

Crop Hints

Aspect Ratio: 0.8

Web Entities

Animal shelter   0.38015
Facade   0.3032
Cage   0.29149
Urban area   0.28796
Recreation   0.21428
Shelter   0.1899
Window   0.1826
4K resolution   0.1679
Glass   0.02744
Unbreakable

people-36.jpg

Public Space   91%
Pedestrian   89%
Snapshot   88%
Street   83%
Standing   82%
Urban Area   80%
Sidewalk   79%
Event   63%

people-32.jpg

First TEMPORARY STOP 3 6 7 7A 18 75 263 267 N18 N267

+Block 2

First TEMPORARY
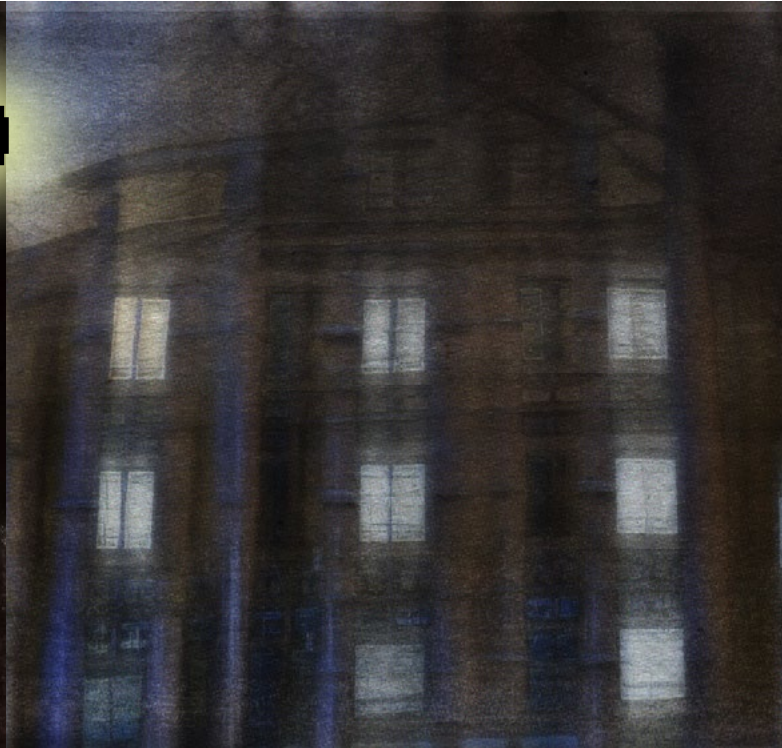
STOP 3 6 18 75263 267 N18 N267

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+Block 4

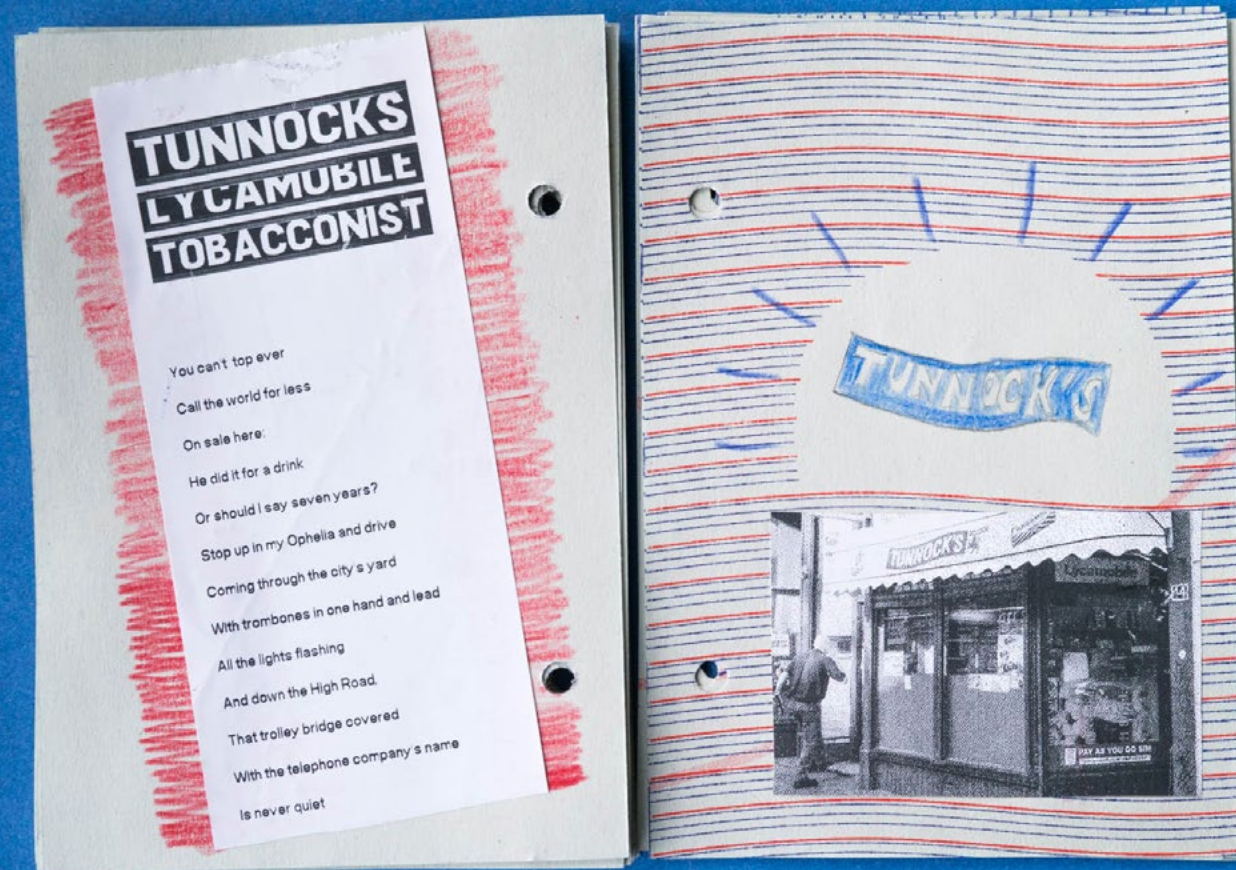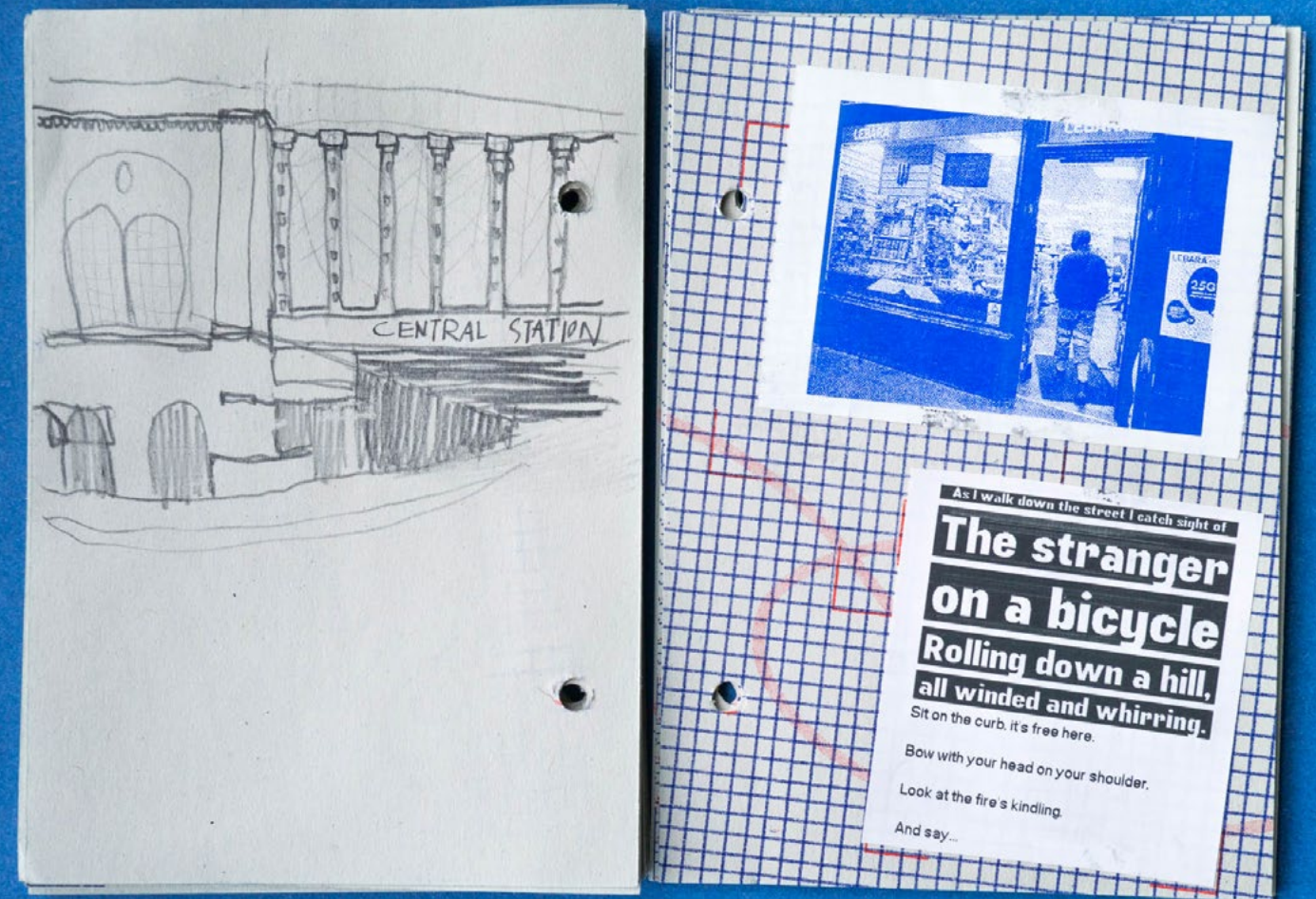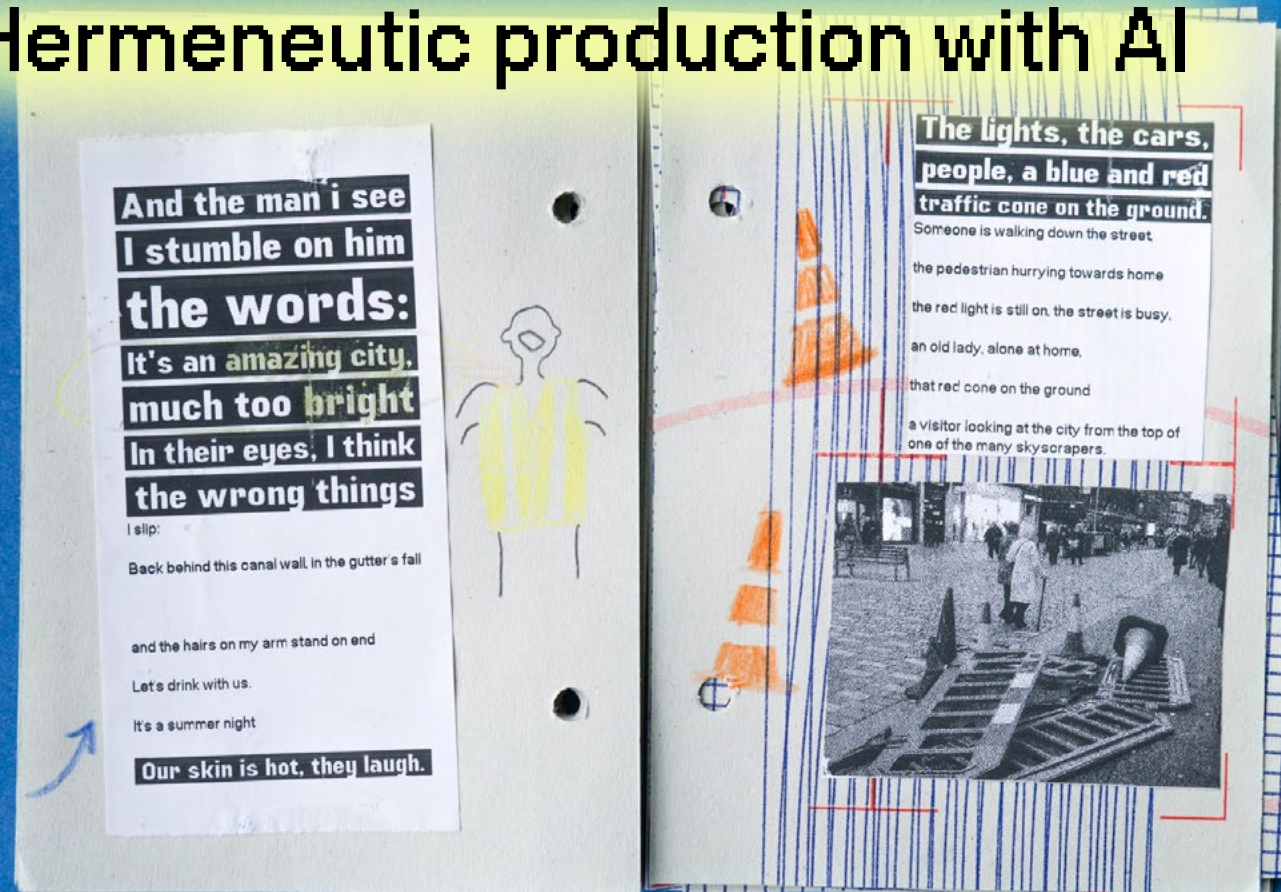25 / 11 / 2019 12 . 50

+Block 5

Christmas Lights Switch On

Stylegan 2 (2020)

Data Poets (2020)

And the man i see I stumble on him the words: It's an amazing city, much too bright In their eyes, I think the wrong things

I slip:

Back behind this canal wall, in the gutter's fall

and the hairs on my arm stand on end

Let's drink with us.

It's a summer night

Our skin is hot, they laugh.

The lights, the cars, people, a blue and red traffic cone on the ground.

Someone is walking down the street

the pedestrian hurrying towards home

the red light is still on. the street is busy,

an old lady, alone at home,

that red cone on the ground

a visitor looking at the city from the top of one of the many skyscrapers.

CENTRAL STATION

As I walk down the street I catch sight of

The stranger on a bicycle Rolling down a hill, all winded and whirring.

Sit on the curb, it's free here.

Bow with your head on your shoulder.

Look at the fire's kindling.

And say...

TUNNOCKS LYCAMOBILE TOBACCONIST

You can't top ever

Call the world for less

On sale here:

He did it for a drink

Or should I say seven years?

Stop up in my Ophelia and drive

Coming through the city's yard

With trombones in one hand and lead

All the lights flashing

And down the High Road,

That trolley bridge covered

With the telephone company's name

Is never quiet.

TUNNOCKS

SMELL OF BACON & CHIPS.

From here and there the work went Dashed home, darted off to the pub

We saw it all go by, we'd work, we'd work:

Little children did it in the playground

Work it as a badge of honour.

And so did we with worn boots and loosened sleeves.

Datacatchers (2015) – Goldsmiths Interaction Research

The Datacatchers also revealed a more insidious limitation of the datasets that increasingly characterise our world — and determine the ways corporations and governments act within it.

They are all about people, not individuals. Datasets do what Holmberg and her colleagues call 'populationisation': they aggregate individual characteristics into distributions and then use these distributions to understand individuals.

The group becomes the norm, against which any single instance is compared. And this happens at multiple levels, so that a household can be compared to its neighbourhood, the neighbourhood to its district, the district to the city, and so on.

Datacatcher Walking Tours 2015
Interaction Research Studio
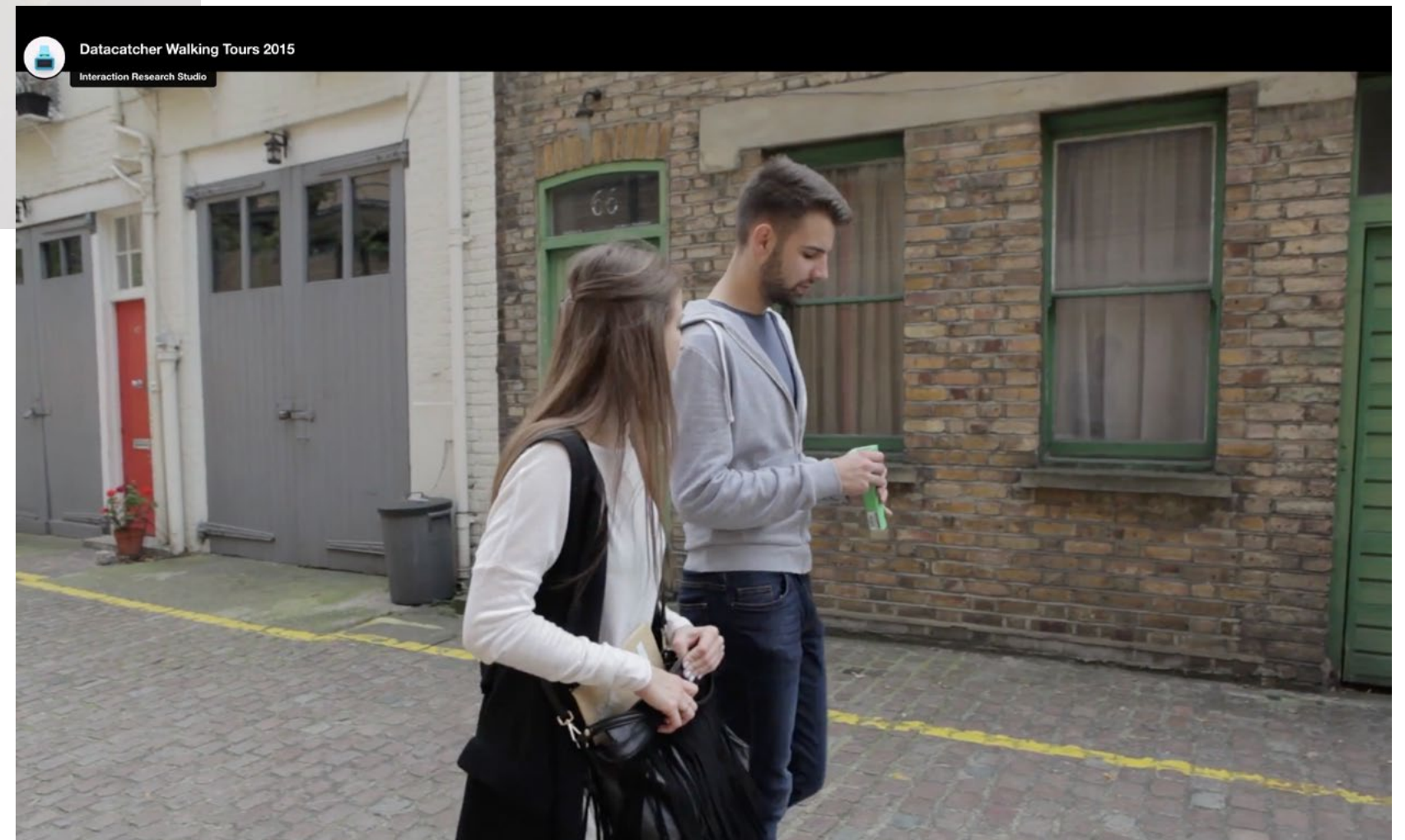
McLuhan – AI as a media

Mediated window on the world
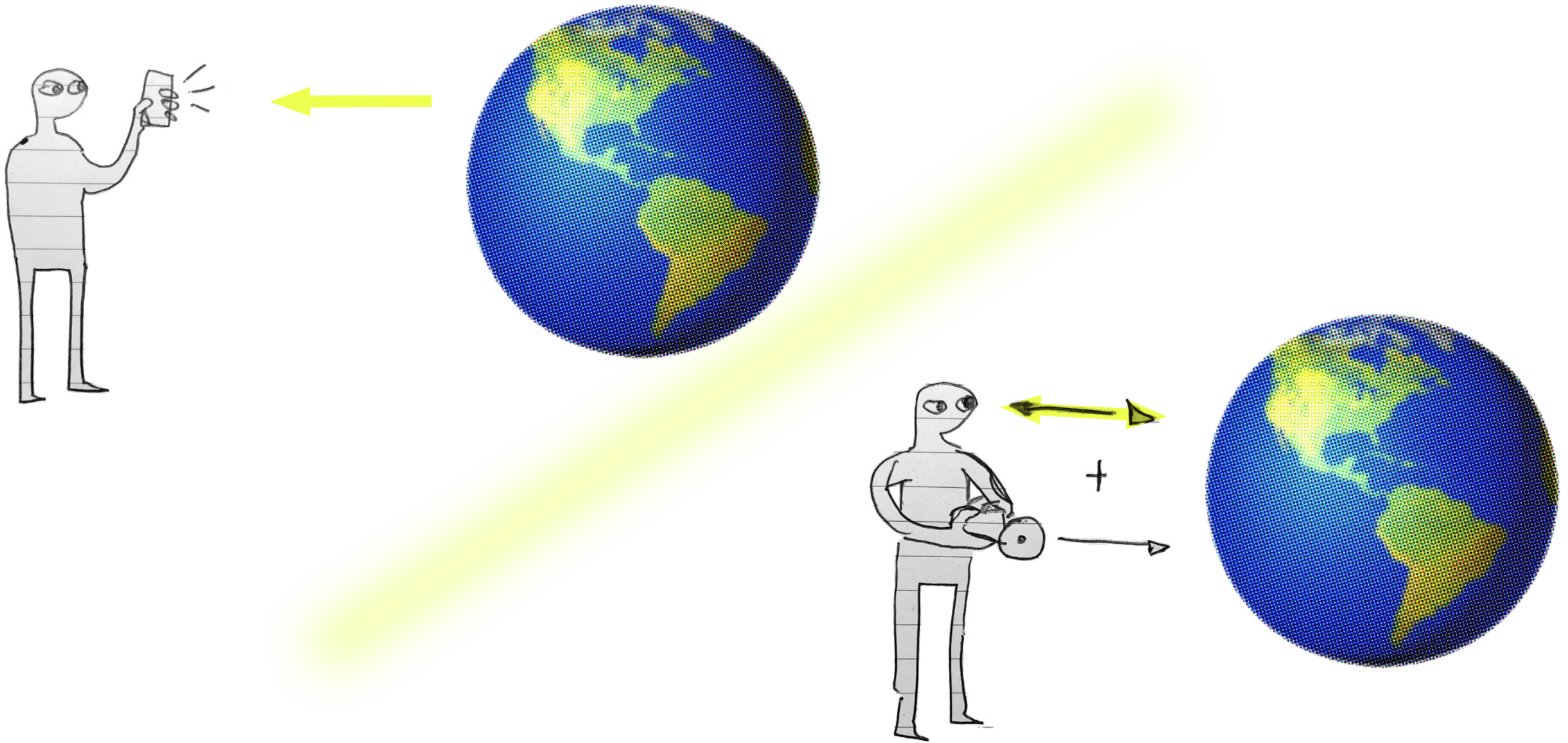
Active interface with the world

Study actor network

Participants

Researchers
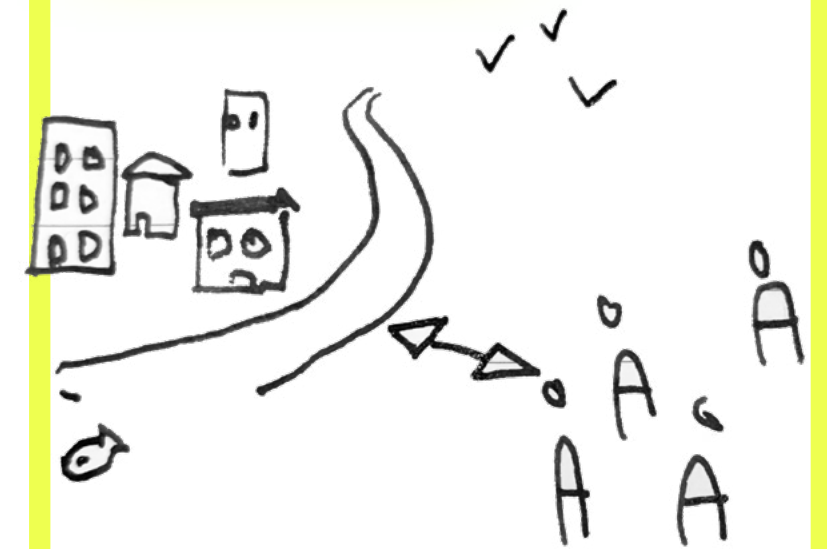
City

Ecologies

Interfacing

Reading

Alterity

Poems

Symbol

"Percieving"

Data Poets

Dasein – Heidegger and Being-in-the-World

Dasein is:

AI (LLMs in particular) is:

-Temporally Embedded

-Atemporal

-Phenomenological experience

-Hermeneutical interpretation

-Motivated / Proactive

-Amotivated / Reactive

-Context-Dependent (socially situated)

-Context agnostic (normative)

-Embodied (Merleaux-Ponty?)

-Disembodied (or presented as such)

-Interacting with the world

-is interacted with

What do I want to find out?

Assess Participant Reactions: Gauge responses to AI-generated poetry during walks.

Explore AI as Dialogic Tool: Investigate AI's role in enhancing psychogeographical discussions.

Contrast Human-AI Interpretations: Highlight differences in environmental perception between humans and AI.

Study Urban Ecological Perceptions: Examine changes in sensory experiences of urban ecologies with the Data poets tool.

Psychogeographical Analysis in Govan: Observe emotional and sensory responses to Govan's environment

Discuss Urban Ecology Narratives: Integrate AI perspectives with human experiences to challenge conventional data-centric narratives.

Context: Govan

Raymond Depardon (1980)

Govan Old Parish Church

Dr Michael Pierre Johnson
(Design Innovation)

Professor Deirdre Heddon
(art historian, performance)