

THEME 1: GOOGLE IS GOOD! (?)

Feb 26

The theme for the week is the accessibility of scientific data (and information overall) via the internet. Please do form an opinion of your own regarding whether portals like google, Wikipedia, etc are 'good', 'bad', or 'x' and come in ready to share why!

Remember that you will each give roughly a 5 minute presentation of the scientific understanding of your volcano (Part I of the 'adopt a volcano' project). As we decided in class you should each PRACTICE THE GOOGLE EARTH FLIGHT SIMULATOR in order to feel comfortable doing a fly-over tour for everyone of your volcano.

ALSO, stemming from our discussion of rhizomatic thinking, we decided that you will each download any mind mapping software of your choice (if you google 'mind mapping software' you will get a plethora of options). Find one that you prefer that is free or offers a free trial version and practice using it by making a MIND MAP MOCK-UP OF YOUR POSSIBLE FINAL PROJECT ABSTRACT. Put at least 5 elements in the mind map.

Your readings (and non-readings) for the week are:

Brel, J. 1959. "Ne me quitte pas," (song from the album 'La Valse à Mille Temps'), Philip Records. Available on youtube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKMqCqjixyo> (the lyrics are posted in English on the wiki for you as well)

*this riffs off of the 'metaphor' theme of last week in the way that the volcano is used in the lyrics. It also plays nicely into this week's theme as without youtube we would likely never have access to this video. How is this use of the volcano similar or different to the way it is used metaphorically in the Volcano in My Tummy book or in the western imagery discussed by the Frierson 1991 reading of last week?

Cohen, A. 2010. "What's hot on this BBC podcast? The Siege of Munster (1534-35)," in *The New York Times*, Feb 17. New York. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/17/opinion/17wed4.html>

*this is just fodder for your 'google is good' vs 'google is bad' thoughts....

Humboldt, A. v., and (translated by Jason Wilson). 2007 [1800]. "Jaguars & Electric Eels," in *Great Journeys*, pp. 19-21. London: Penguin.

*This is just to give you a flavor of Humboldt's writing about volcanoes so that you are not simply reading *about* him talking about them in the Sachs 2006 reading for this week.

Sachs, A. 2006. *The Humboldt Current: 19th Century Exploration and the Sources of American Environmentalism*. Pp. 1-57. New York: Viking.

*please also read the 'book overview' on Google books for the description of the book from which this excerpt is taken:

http://books.google.com/books?id=qKArAAAYAAJ&cd=1&source=gbv_ViewAPI

* Humboldt's work resonates with my own research interests due to his personal belief in the wonder and importance of volcanoes, his studies of Latin American volcanism, and his strong belief that national, disciplinary, and dogmatic borders are inappropriate research barriers. Social and natural realms are deeply connected and inextricably linked. I am scanning p 1-57, which is a somewhat long chunk; do not get too bogged down in it [particularly as the gutters are unfortunately quite messy in the scan]. You may find other parts that interest you as well and do bring them up in class if you do, but the reasons I assigned the section were primarily for these pages/issues and these are really all I expect you to have read as you will have work to do for your adopt a volcano project and also your mind map:

- issues of social class (p 14-16: i.e. who was able to 'do' science/volcanology in Humboldt's time period; Compare this to the description of Muir on p 27, and note the reference again to Hetch Hetchy on p 29). You can keep in mind parallels to William Hamilton, another early volcanologist, from the reading we've already done by him [Wall, F. 2004. Letters from volcanoes. *Geology Today* 20 (5):181-184].

-p 42-5 highlights Humboldt's particular fascination for volcanoes as well as reference to the 'passion' element that Darwin sought in our earlier reading

-p 46-48 may be fun to read only because you are currently being swamped by emails regarding the COV6 (Cities on Volcanoes) conference in Tenerife

-p 49 relates to the goal of the class overall; that is to try to see things (or one thing at least) 'deeply, in context, and in connection to everything else...'

P 52 I personally just like the 'unity in diversity concept'

Serres, M. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michel_Serres

*I was originally going to assign you some readings by Serres, but given the fact that you will be presenting your adopted volcano I don't want to overburden you with reading. Given the theme of the week, too, it DOES make sense to read his Wikipedia!

*do note the difference in the socioeconomic status of Serres in comparison to Humboldt

Wojnarowicz, D. 1987. "Fire," pp. Synthetic polymer paint and pasted paper on plywood, two panels, 6 x 8' (182.9 x 243.8 cm). New York: Museum of Modern Art.

<http://images.google.com/images?hl=en&source=hp&q=david+wojnarowicz&gbv=2&aq=0&oq=david+woj&aqi=g1> (scroll to page 2 to find "Fire").

*like the Brel video/song lyrics, this artwork plays both to last week's theme of metaphor and this week's theme of internet accessibility. Without google images, it would not be readily possible for us to see how this work – incorporating the volcano – fits within the body of the artist's other work.

*in the context of the painting itself and in reference to the rest of Wojnarowicz: why do you think he used the volcano? What does it 'mean'??