### Photo Essay: After Life --- Survival of a Ph.D.

by Joachim Maier

#### ABSTRACT

Ben Walker's work (issue 4.2) is focusing on peculiar encounters within the process of writing seminar work. My big pictures will be relating to life after the accomplishment of an academic work: my PhD project at the Humanist University, Utrecht, Holland. My AFTER PhD LIFE displays the organising fabric of community --- through mean(ing)s of self-descriptive practices --- map-making, as Karl Weick would attribute similar kinds of radically contextualizing maneuvers. In order to answering the proverbial After Life (1998) quest follow up on what I have been doing: pick one image, the only image you can take to eternity! However, as you will experience in the course of Hirokazu Koreeda's movie: Imagining your coming memory takes careful preparation. But, don't be afraid --- everything is taken care of...

EDITOR'S NOTE: The order of the piece is in accordance with postmodern disblief in beginning, middle end. The paper is plates 1-15 counted upwards: 1,2,3,...,15 --- and plates 16-27 are counted downwards, 10,9,8,... 0 - like in a hypnotizing session, and in the billy idol song 'adam in chains' that marks the related pop culture reference. You will find the title page somewhere in the middle.

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SO, TO TRANSFORM A LONG STORY INTO ANOTHER NARRATIVE, LET'S SAY IT LIKE THIS: IF UP TO NOW, YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CLUE, WHAT ALL OF THIS IS GOING TO BE ABOUT, GO AND WATCH THE MOVIE 'AFTER LIFE' MADE BY HIROKAZU KOREEDA IN 1998. FOR ONCE, BECAUSE SEEING IT MAKES PART OF THE PROCESS THAT IS GOING TO BE DISPLAYED...





FUTURE.





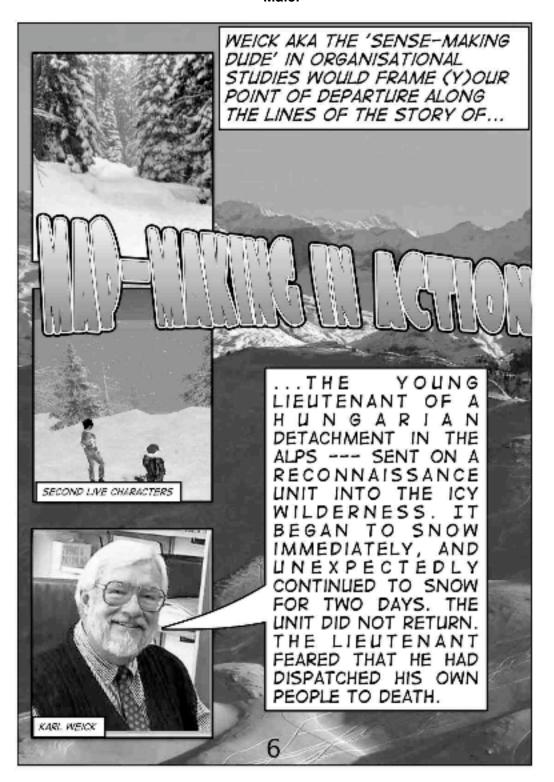
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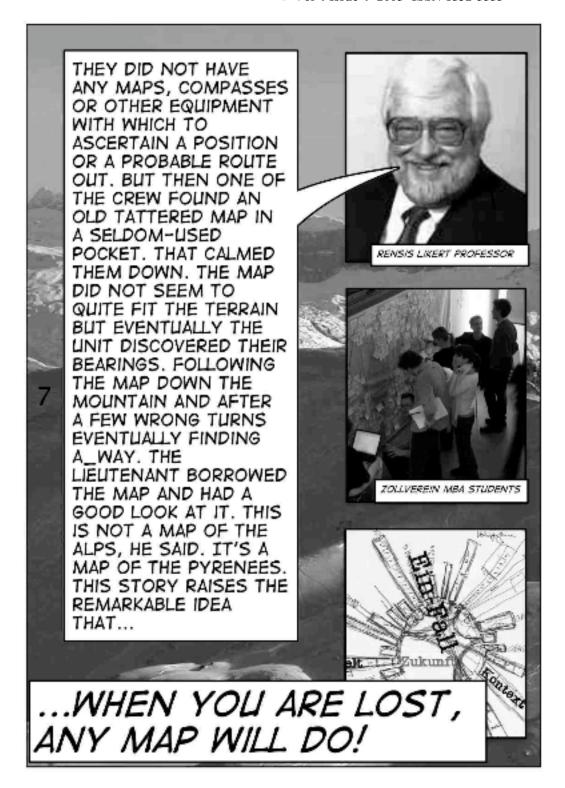


AFTER ALL, WHAT IS REALLY THE USE OF DAYS, WEEKS, MONTHS AND YEARS OF THINKING AND WRITING AND EXPERIMENTING, IF NOT TO MAKE ONES PARTICULAR EXPERTISE PRODUCTIVE --- IN AN(Y) DESIRABLE FORM AND FASHION...



...MY BIG PICTURE WILL BE RELATING TO THE ORGANISING FABRIC OF COMMUNITY --- THROUGH MEAN(ING)S OF SELF-DESCRIPTIVE PRACTICES --- MAP-MAKING, AS KARL WEICK WOULD ATTRIBUTE SIMILAR KINDS OF RADICALLY CONTEXTUALIZING MANEUVERS. IN ORDER TO ANSWERING THE PROVERBIAL AFTER LIFE QUEST: PICK ONE IMAGE, THE ONLY IMAGE CAN TAKE TO ETERNITY! HOWEVER, AS WE EXPERIENCED IN THE COURSE OF THE MOVIE: IMAGINING YOUR COMING MEMORY TAKES CAREFUL PREPARATION. BUT, DON'T BE AFRAID --- EVERYTHING IS TAKEN CARE OF...







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IF MAXI, AN ADVOCATUS
DIAVOLI OF THE GLOBALLY
INTEGRATED AND CREATIVE
SOCIETY (CURRENTLY BASED
IN BEIJING) GOT IT RIGHT --AND ANY PATH WILL DO, IN
CASES OF TRANSITION...

...THAN GIVEN SUFFICIENT CREATIVE AND PER-FORMING MASS, CERTAINLY ANYTHING GOES...

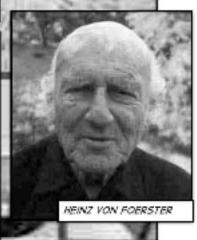
...WITH\_IN STATES OF EMERGENCIES SUCH AS BJÖRK SONGS, THE EMERGENCE OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM OR A COMING THIRD AFFIRMATIVE SCIENTIFIC PARADIGM ---DIFFERING FROM POST-, AND MODERN AND OTHER -ISMS...

...THUS, THIS PAGES LESSON HOMES IN IN HEINZ VON FOERSTER'S STYLE: (1) MAKE YOURSELVES LOST AND LOOSE YOUR MIND IN TRANSFOMRATION (2) TO GET BACK ON A DIFFERENT MAP IN ANY WAY YOU PLEASE. BUT FROM (T)HERE-ON, (3) RESPONSIBILITY IS GOING TO BE ALL YOURS!



DIRECTOR OF THE RESEARCH CENTER FOR SLOBAL RED MANAGEMENT









AND IF WALTER AND MYSELF GOT A POINT, THE MARKET MARKS THE UBIQUITOUS VANTAGE POINT. THE FINAL PROVE FOR (Y)OUR EXISTENTIAL DWELLINGS. ANSWER TO THE ULTIMATE CONSTRUCTIVIST QUEST: 'WHAT IS THIS, THAT YOU ARE UP TO PRODUCE AND MARKET'...

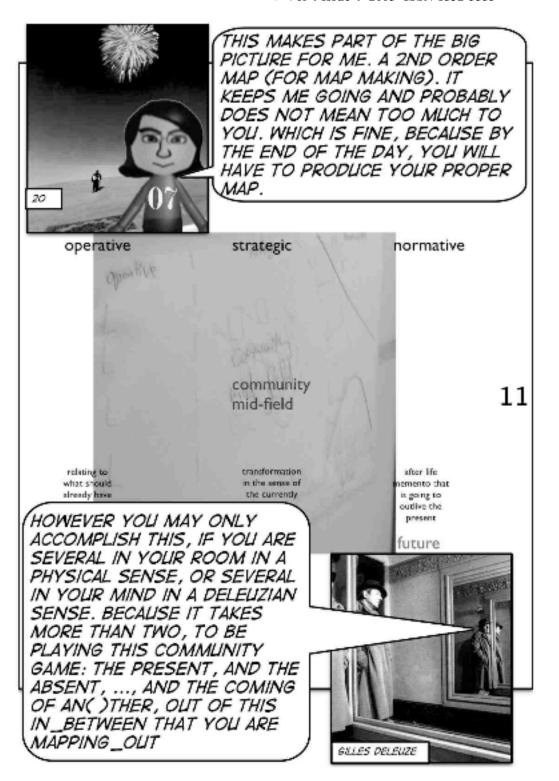
WOULD YOU KNOW
FOR YOURSELVES?
ANY IDEA, WHAT YOU
REALITY WANTED TO
DO, IN ORDER TO
BECOMING AN
IDIOSYNCRATIC
BEARER OF YOUR
COMING LIFE?

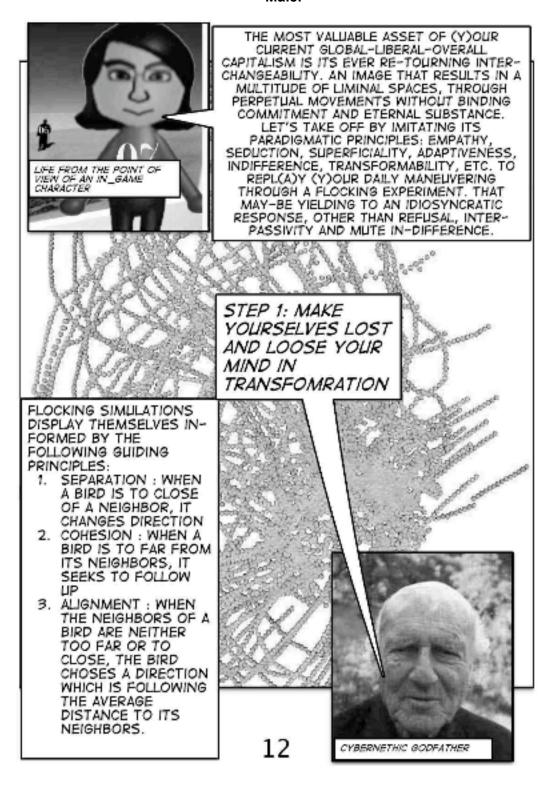
YOU GUESSED MY
ANSWER, RIGHT? I AM
GOING TO BE IN THE
MAP MAKING BUSINESS,
IN ITS SOCIAL VARIETY.
CATERING WITH MAPS
FOR MAP MAKING. STAY
TUNED, GRAB YOUR
COLLEAGUES FOR SOME
EXPERIMENTING AND
ENJOY THE PROCESS
TO YOUR OWN
MAP\_OUT OF HERE.



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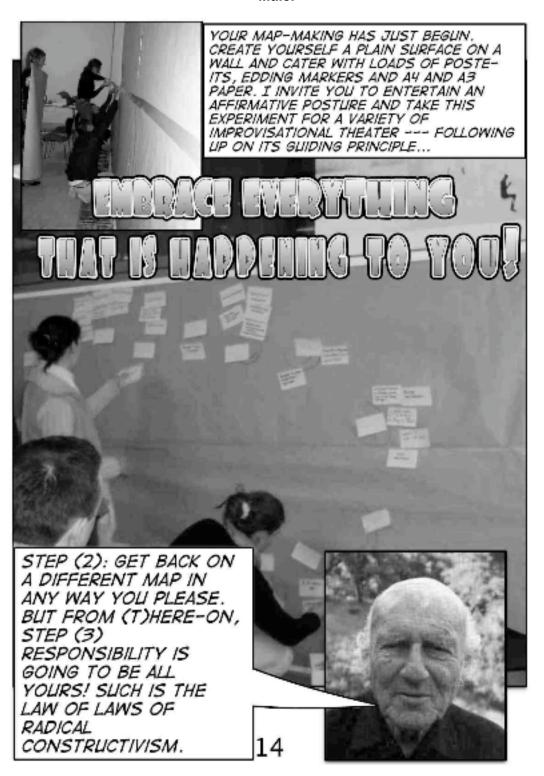




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COME HERE. AS CLOSE AS YOU CAN. TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND RELAX. FOCUS ON THE VERY POINT YOU ARE STANDING ON. NOW, CHOOSE, WITHOUT THEM NOTICING TWO PEOPLE FROM WITHIN THE PRESENT CROWD. FROM HERE-ON IS FLOWING THROUGH THE CIRCLE---FLINCH A FEW STEPS SLOWLY, PEOPLE SHIFT ALONG, TRANSFORM THEIR EN-BACK, LOOK AROUND, AND CIRCULATION BY PERPETUALLY GENERATING IMPULSES START MOVING AS LONG FOR YET OTHER'S TO REST ON-LINE --- THE AS YOU ARE POSITIONED SIMULATION FOR SOCIAL ORDER IS GOING ON AND IN EQUIDISTANCE VIS-à-TAKING ITS TIME, UNTIL EVERYONE FINDS AND HOLDS A (STAND)POINT. LATER, IN THE COURSE OF THE DE-  $\,13$ VIS YOUR TWO REFERENCE FOLKS...THIS MAY TAKE A BRIEF, I AM GOING TO SHARE MY SENTIMENT OF RELIEF; RELIEVED TO HAVE EXPERIENCED THIS WHILE --- DON'T WORRY. STANDSTILL PERIOD, AFTER ALL THE COMMOTION AND GO ON ALONG AND DO INSECURITY THROUGH THIS FIRST PHASE OF THE WHAT-EVER IT TAKES, AS EXPERIMENT. LONG AS YOU REACH EQUIDISTANCE...

--- NOW, WITHOUT ANY FURTHER COMMENTS, I CHOOSE SOMEBODY FROM WITHIN THE FROZEN CROWD, AND START MOVING THE PERSON AROUND. INSTANTANEOUSLY, THIS IMPULSE FROM OUTSIDE, IS TOUCHING, MOTIVATING AND MOVING THE SYSTEM FOR SOME TIME UNTIL IT RESTS, AGAIN --- THIS RESTING MARKS PRECISELY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS FLOCKING SIMULATION AND THE SELF-REFERENTIAL WORLD OUT THERE, BECAUSE REST\_IN IS NEVER TO HAPPEN, 'CAUSE THE BAME WILL INCESSANTLY TRANSFORM ITSELF.





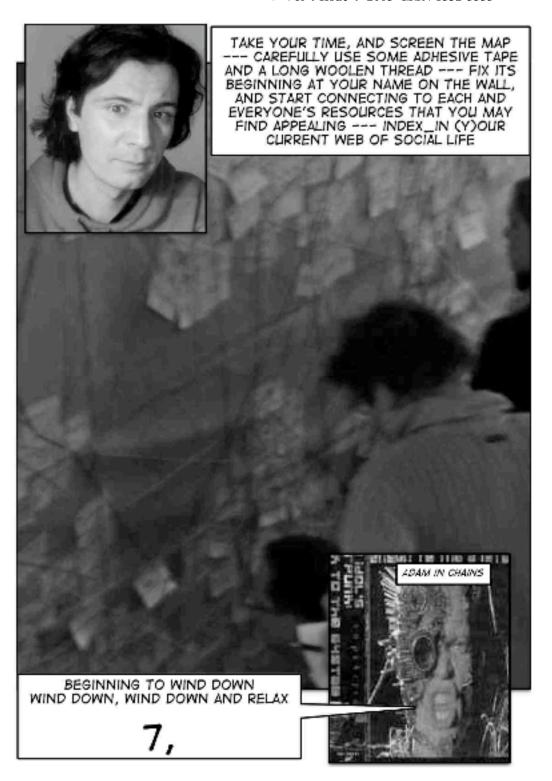
NOW ADD SOME CHARACTER. AND REPRODUCE THE FLOCKING EXPERIMENT IN A DI-SIMILAR WAY. BUT APART FROM FLOCKING AROUND AS MERE SOULLESS ADAPTIVE FISH, BIRD OR BOID --- REPLAY A BULLFIGHT. ENTER THE GAME AS EITHER TORERO (SEDUCTIVELY WAVING A RED FLAG), BULL (HORNY ATTACK MOVES) OR DISPLAY THE INTER-PASSIVE OBSERVER. AND MAKE SURE TO SWITCH IN\_BETWEEN CHARACTERS ANY WAY YOU PLEASE. COME HERE. AS CLOSE AS YOU CAN. TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND RELAX. FOCUS ON THE VERY POINT YOU ARE STANDING ON. NOW, CHOOSE, WITHOUT THEM NOTICING, TWO PEOPLE FROM WITHIN THE PRESENT CROWD. FLINCH A FEW STEPS BACK. LOOK AROUND, AND START MOVING AS LONG AS YOU ARE POSITIONED IN EQUIDISTANCE VIS-à-VIS YOUR TWO REFERENCE FOLKS...



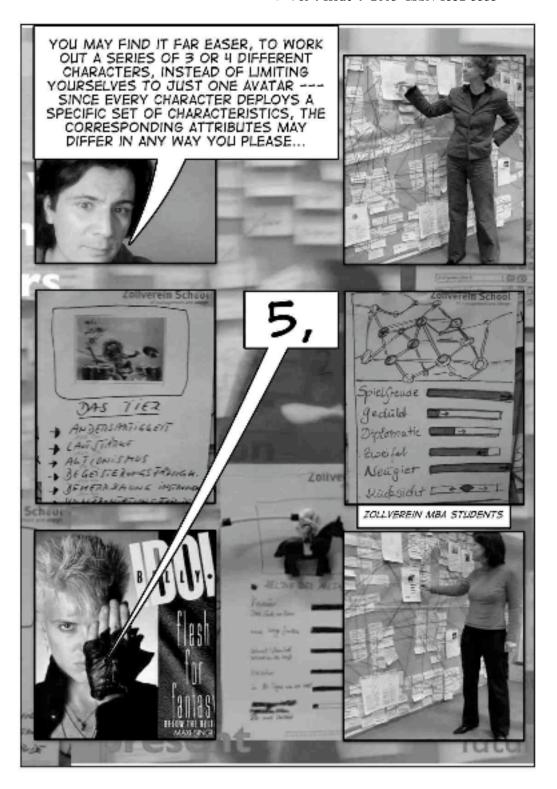




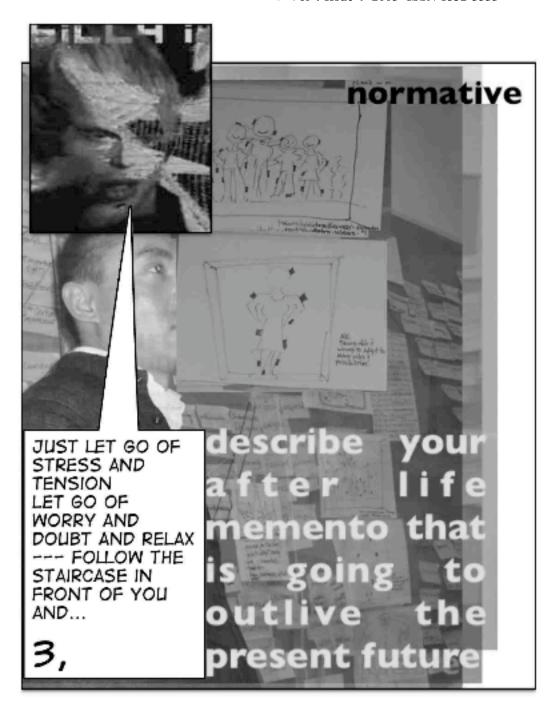
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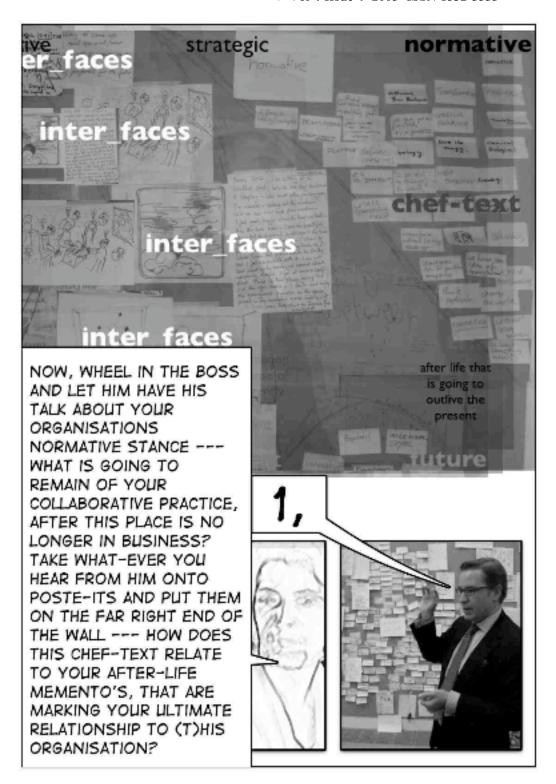


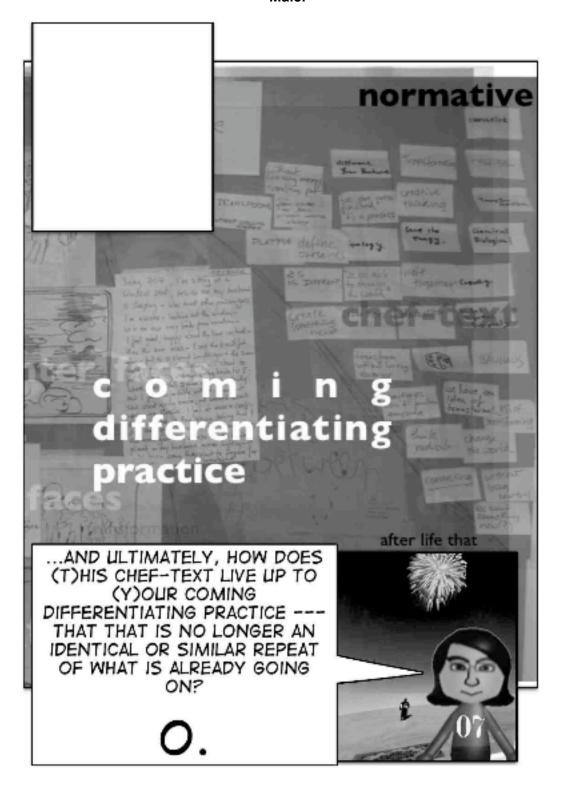






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