

Philosophy of Human Technology Lab 1_

Thinking with Dieter Mersch's >>Ordo ab Chao- Order from Noise<<

with Dieter Mersch, Alexander Gerner, José Marmeleira and Nuno Nabais

Ordo ab chao-> Order from Chaos <: This secret motto, which originates from Freemasonry, changes in the regimes of a Second Order Cybernetics to the formula> Order from Noise <. The thesis of the book of Dieter Mersch (2013) „Ordo ab Chao- Order from Noise“ that we will debate in presence of the author, follows the theoretical inventories of cybernetics from channels, information and cyclic causalities to recursive systems, in order to make life, consciousness, learning processes, or the socialization of the social world equally intelligible. Even if the claim of cybernetics as a universal paradigm is faded today, it still seems to be important to present the emergence of order from the equilibrium of mathematical models and algorithmic programs to establish a kind of "ontology of the mathematical" for thinking a Philosophy of Human Technology. But what does it mean when mathematics alone seems to take over the systems of governmentality, and not only technology and its apparatuses, but as well defines our ideas of freedom, the Utopian, and the politicality of the political and all start to be controlled and steered by a >mathematical condition<?

Dieter Mersch studied mathematics and philosophy at the Universities of Cologne and Bochum and made 1993 his dissertation on Umberto Eco and 1999 his habilitation on the limits of semiotic reasoning, both at Technical University of Darmstadt. 2000-2004 he was director of the 'forum for theory' at the Muthesius Art School in Kiel, 2004-13 full professor for Media Theory and director of the Department for 'Media and Arts' at the University of Potsdam, and since 2013 director of the Institute for Critical Theory at Zurich University of the Arts, Switzerland. Main publications are: *Was sich zeigt. Materialität, Präsenz, Ereignis*, München 2002, *Ereignis und Aura. Untersuchungen zur einer Ästhetik des Performativen*, Frankfurt/M 2002, *Medientheorien zur Einführung*, Hamburg 2006, *Posthermeneutik*, Berlin 2010, *Ordo ab Chao/Order from Noise*, Zürich/Berlin 2013, and *Epistemologies of Aesthetics*, Zürich/Berlin 2015 as well as several articles on semiotics, art theory and aesthetics. Between 1981 and 1993 he also worked as a mathematician at the University and University of Applied Science in Cologne and wrote during the same time broadcasts for German radio broadcastings (ARD).

