

The Method of Investigation

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The canal under the line crossing of the York Way Street in central London serves as a marker for the cars passing below it and the rail tracks for the trains that roll above it. The 'Method of Investigation' project is an attempt to gain a deeper understanding of this place by means of continuous observation and the keeping of records. The canal as a railway is located in the middle point between 'Caledonian Road & Barnsbury' and the 'Camden Road' station. Therefore, the observations of this area have been narrowed down to only this railway section during the process.

This project is based on the approach that the trains interact with the people as one in space. This investigation, which began with an interest in the 'train' running at a superhuman speed and the relative movements of the persons in it, led to repeated observations and records of passengers both outside the canal and on the train. The passengers in the train were conscious of each other and observed others, and most of them demonstrated similar movements. This shows that the spatial characteristics of trains have encouraged people to engage in limited movements.

This approach can also be found in *Are We Human?* (Colomina and Wigley, 2016) where authors mention that humans and human-made artifacts have interdependency (ibid., 2016, pp. 23-25). According to the text, "Artifacts are interfaces, enabling different forms of human engagement with the world but equally enabling the world to engage with the human differently" (ibid., p.25). Going by this approach, the train as artificial transportation becomes a means of space and interacts with passengers to create a new invisible relationship with and among them.

This project, which mainly uses observation and the collection of movements as a method, has a similar structure to Agnes Varda's 'The Gleaners and I' (2000). She observed and collected records about various people 'picking up' discarded items on the street. As the cases were added during the making of the documentary, the new social meaning of the action was built based on the similarities of each person's different 'picking up' actions.

The 'Method of Investigation' project also uses the process of observing and collecting people's movements by tracing and rotoscoping. After visualizing in this manner, the similarity of movement and the perspective of invisible relations between people are presented by stacking up the movements on screen. The result of stacked-up images is also an expression in the form of a Venn Diagram which expresses the similarities through its intersections.

By deriving the concepts of movement and non-movement through the process of observation and recording, this project attempts to understand the in-depth invisible relations between people, created by the spatial characteristics of trains. Influenced by the approach, method and structure in 'Are We Human?' and 'The Gleaners and I', respectively, this work shows that the spatial characteristics of trains interact with people. This appears to result in the formation of unspoken and invisible relations among the passengers who are unrelated to each other except by means of what the trains create via movement and interaction.

Reference List

Colomina, B. and Wigley, M. (2016). *Are we human? : notes on an archaeology of design*. Zürich, Switzerland: Lars Müller Publishers.

The Gleaners and I. (2000) Directed by Agnes Varda. [film]. Paris: Ciné Tamaris.