



Helicopter deck at Troll A. Photo: Arne Reidar Mortensen

If a *syndrome* is a mesh of interlocked causes and effects, and *trauma*—in the psychoanalytic tradition—is a state of *narcissistic infatuation* with a syndrome; then, at the other end the syndrome (seen as a potential), there are *cultural paradigms* bordering to linguistic repertoires. Then a paradigm can be defined as a comparatively *stable* fiction, moving *beyond* neurosis onto a *medial zone* where it can be submitted and discovered: in a longer than life-time span as of an *archive*.

“The *Troll A Condeep platform* is the tallest structure ever moved by people over the surface of the Earth. Its gravity-based substructure has been built for a producing life of 70 years. Troll A was the first platform on the NCS to receive power from shore. We took over the Troll Gas operatorship from Norske Shell on 19 June 1996 with gas coming on stream in the first half of that year, marking the completion of the gas development. Gas deliveries from field under the Troll sales agreements started on 1 October the same year.”



Disordered systems: “The physics of solids that are interacting and, at the same time, disordered are currently of general interest in solid-state physics.”

interception of signs of risk, malfunction and accident (adding to the whether, the sea and the ground conditions), hatch a *semiotics* of operations: that are only really integrated at this level.

The nature of [deposition](#)—seen as a transition *from* a private collection *to* a public archive—can thereby be seen as a passage from a given syndrome to a cultural paradigm. The term *syndrome* is here not used in a psychological sense, but in the sense of complex causal networks studied by natural historians: that is, a category of disciplines that study natural phenomena under open field-conditions, always dependent on archives, and today also reliant on *big data*. The syndromes are here closer to assemblages, multiples or rhizomes ([Deleuze & Guattari](#)).

The impact of *Anti-Oedipus I & II* is to move from I) *capitalism & schizophrenia* to II) the creation of *the thousand plateaux*: this is what is intended by the passage *from* the syndrome *to* the paradigm: also a transition from psychoanalysis as a clinical/therapeutic practice, to the analytical field-study of large operations. The broader interest of large operations—the construction of the *Troll A* platform—lies in the multitude of non-same/competing actors who depend on each other in a large engineering project. High edge/high end.

Capitalism and schizophrenia operates at the coupling of non-same technologies that are *cutting edge* and subject to industrial confidentiality (such as the [moorings](#) developed by Rolls Royce)—and regimes of controlled access of visitors to the construction/production facilities—and regimes of non-disclosure on *assembled* technologies from different companies in the supply-chain. To make up for this the

Hence, the semiotics of building, towing and running a platform come about in the *cross-pressure* between *endogenic* and *exogenic* risk-factors: that is, it is a textbook definition of a *disordered system*. The endo-/exo- *cross-pressure* generates what one might call the *semiotics* of running the platform. This is the cost of “bigness” in the sense that the factors at play cannot be overlooked: because it would be disastrous not to. But, of course, they exist at all levels.

The cross-pressures that appear very clearly in mega-operations like the *Troll A* platform, can serve to indicate a what one—from lack of a better term—could call *manometric zones*: zones that are sensitive to pressure from *two* sides. Another example of this is from a [report](#) by Jorun Solheim and Jon Hanssen-Bauer (1983) from the *Statfjord A* platform: featuring the *contrast* between the *concise* operational hierarchies on the job, and *community* events on the platform.

In this case, the counterpoint of the *exo-pressure* of the high risk and small margins of the operations on a platform, is the *endo-pressure* of *wo/man-power* coming-and-going, on a fortnight shifts basis: working two-weeks on and two-weeks off. Here, a semiotics emerges as the knowledge people have of different platform cultures. For instance, according to the same report, the milieu at Statfjord B platform, was more imbued with the existence of *subgroups* and *clique-mentality*.

In a diplomatic residence—like the platforms also governed by the rules on discretion on matters concerning national security—the *manometric zone* is formed at the *crossroads* of **1)** the *endo-pressure* of domestic matters of diplomatic hospitality, and **2)** the *exo-pressure* from the large-scale operations like the *Troll-project*. It is the same cross-pressure but moved laterally, between the *many* locations impacted by the activity. A body without organs morphing discrete series.

But going on co-laterally on the surfaces defining the ‘thousand plateaux’—the point being that the *traffic* of the manometric zone is ethnographically *unique*, but *substantially* the same across the plateaux. Which means that, given a minimum of *three* plateaux, it should be possible to establish dimensions of *comparison* that are such that the more *actively* we compare, the better we understand each *separate* case. The possibility of the *Trolling words* project hinges on this.

We can assume that *La Kahina’s 71 diaries*—from her years as a diplomat’s wife—constitutes *one* of the membranes of the manometric zone, while *K’s selected documents*—from his years as a diplomat—yields the *other* membrane: the diaries subject to the *endo-pressure* of the *diplomatic residence*; the documents as subject to the *exo-pressure* of the *communicative interaction* from the large scale operations in which *K* became involved. They are the imprints of cross-pressure.

The mission was for them to keep the two *together* as one unit. The manometric zone emerging precisely the *lack of tight fit* between them: featuring the information generated from a *disordered system* is not generic, but the information emerging from a process of *individuation* (Simondon). Hence the idea of *Troll A* as an *expanded field*, held and manifested by *tensional* signatures, moves it from the problem of capitalism in a state of schizophrenia, to one of platform-neurosis.

That is, defining in on a *critical* level where we can deal with it, rather than at the schizophrenic level of its self-understanding. What is meant by schizophrenia here—in this specific setting—is a regimen where a *set of rules* are set to *govern*, but are *not* set to apply. That is, it is a legal regime without jurisprudence: a sense of norms and rules that are thought to compute on their own, *without* seeking council in their *application, precedent* and *provenance*. This is the “schizophrenia”.

Which, in a different language, means that the possibility of defining the initiative to *act* with rules as a *constraint*, is diminishing: perhaps it can be characterised as a *conquest*—featuring the simulation, substitution and erasure of jurisprudence—*without war*. It simply follows from the *computerisation of norms and rules*: the application of rules is assumed to be *automatic* rather than active (customised rather than assigned in the tension between existential and discursive).



Offshore mooring system

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theodor.barth@khio.no