

Fig. 1 — the numbers 1-8 indicate the number of handouts (in this series) that have been a) operative [in the making] and b) distributed [in communication] from the point we agreed Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 that KHIO and the NLN should sandbox opportunities for strategic collaboration, till an invitation for a sandbox walkabout was sent from KHIO Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Since I today intend to drop into a class with Fashion on *feedback*—with [DASart](#) I thought I'd address the issue from the vantage-point of the *citizen* (cf, handout CITIZENSHIPS). How to give and get *feedback* as a citizen (given the definition of citizenship as 'the right to partake of the life in the city')? Evidently, I am not talking about state-citizenship, but the kind of *urban* citizenship: being a citizen in the *commons* of cultural history. That is, where the bond to the city is cartographic: featuring the things we have in common ranging from pipes and roads to schools, churches, hospitals.

Or, the bulk of which neo-liberalists are eager to privatise—or, leave to the hands of the corporations that built them—reducing to nil what we, in the still recent history, have called *utilities*. Of course, this has already happened in the energy and telecommunication sectors (which have, as they have been aptly coined, been *de/regulated*). In the light of this, developing some resources that might empower citizenship appear to be more than urgent: countering the idea that public regulation is somehow standing in the way of (if not progress then at least) wealth-accumulation.

We notice that democracy is suffering from these developments—all over the world, and particularly in countries that have been championing democracy (as the USA and Israel)—but it appears that we stand powerless in explaining *why*. My still recent attempts to establish a cartographic relation between the developments in Norway's adventures the fossil fuel sector and telecommunications (i.e., the development of the oil/gas sector and the computerisation of Norway) labours in that direction. A similar cartographic affordance may develop between the KHIO and the NLN (as national cultural archive), in their operative and distributive functions. It has been mapped by making/circulating 8 handouts.

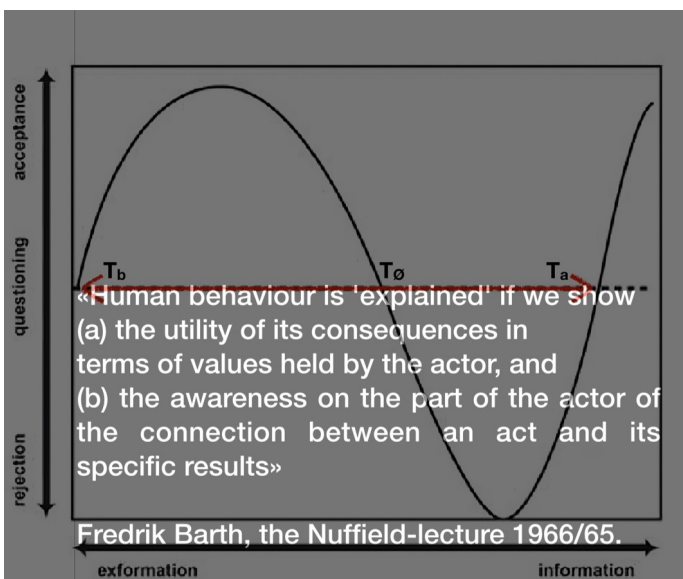


Fig. 2—In the terms of homomorphism we can venture the mind-experiment of considering (a) as the operative domain of departure, and (b) as the distributive domain of arrival feeding back.

They range from an initiative to a dialogue on Roman Jakobson's *theory of shifters* with Marius Wulfsberg, via a note on a recent publication of the review AGORA on Deleuze and Guattari's *Anti-Œdipus* (Eivind Røss-aak), the deconstruction of a Norwegian sense of *citizenship* deriving from the history and jurisprudence of King Magnus Law-Mender's *Land Law*. An address on the cultural scope of *recent technology* in the Conservation dpt. of NLN, added the potential for exchange at the workshop level between our two institutions: the NLN and KHIO (Chiara Palandri & Giulia Oretti). Then, an exchange with Lars Johnsen on *homomorphism*. Finally, I was commissioned

by KHiO's Rector Marianne Skjulhaug, with the approbation Dpt. Director at NLN Hege Høsøien, a task of attempting to initiate a *sandbox* and span the affordances for strategic collaboration between the two institutions. Up to this point KHiO has been a *departure* for *arrivals* at the NLN. A *walkabout* at KHiO was proposed to see if it could reverse the domains of departure and arrivals.

The most promising track—*so far*—has been with DH-lab leader Lars Johnsen at the NLN, on the backdrop of a possible collaboration on a project proposal INBIT submitted to the RCN (Research Council of Norway), about the development and research on a *bimodal* search-engine for conjoint text and image search on the enormous database of pdf-scanned books and newspapers in the NLN. In this connection, Lars Johnsen and I have engaged a conversation on *homomorphism*: a mathematical concept of transformation/transposition from a *departure*- to an *arrival* domain.

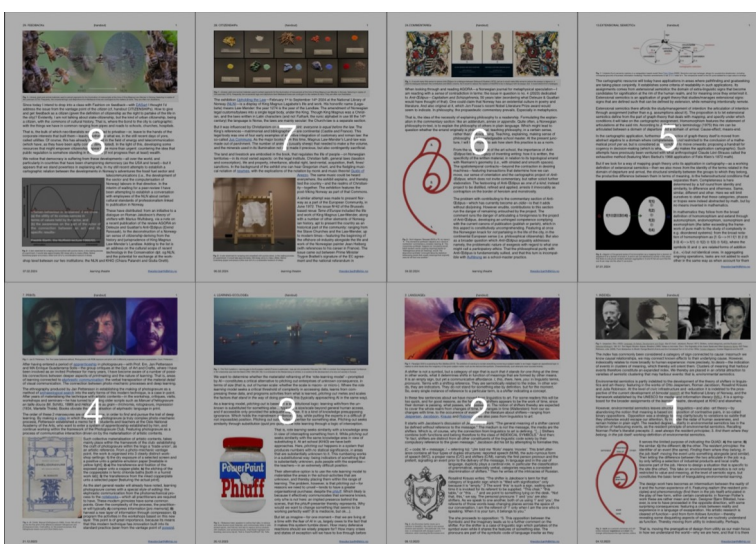
Specifically, how a *kernel* defined in an operative domain (departure) is transposed in a set of *images* in a distributive domain (arrival): which has been my research-approach to the relation between the developments in the *fossil fuel* sector (departure domain) and the *telecommunications* sector (arrival domain), focussing on *size* (kernel). That is, the role of *size* of offshore operations & the challenge of telecommunicating a distributed sense of size-impact. In some aspects the domain of departure and the arrival is the *same*, in other aspects *similar*, *different* and simply *other*.

That is, different facets/aspects of what in mathematics is called a *homomorphism*: depending on the selection of a *kernel*—such as *size*—in the departure domain will generate the *images* in the arrival domain. When departure and arrival is the *same*, the detail harvested is nil. When it is *similar* the harvest of detail increases. When it is *different*, detail is what we are concerned with. While with the *other* detail brings up the domain of departure and the domain of arrival as objectively disjoint entities. So, we are talking of variants of *a difference that makes a difference*.

Which is the change of perspective that makes us see the relation *between* the departure *and* the arrival in a *generative* way, through *each* of the above shifts (according to Bateson's notion of the metalogue). Taking stock of the field, opening in this way, is *then* tested for cogency by shifting between the different facets of homomorphism as laid out above, until an enskilment at *tele-scoping* between the modes is acquired. In Bateson's *secondary order* cybernetics, the modes of homomorphism considered above, constitute a variety of calibrations *resulting* from feedback.

So let's consider the alternative that when the possibility of feedback at the level of the *citizens*—who act on their own account, while being accountable to the commons (N. *allmenning*)—is being systematically *transposed* unto the financial market as “products” (e.g. in the *energy* and *digital* sectors) that makes them somehow *vanish* from the urban “radar” of cultural history. The only possibility, at the citizens level, is to design systems *generating* feedback between areas where it may *never* have been charted, but is of tangible value because the consequences are *specific* and can be mapped: alongside and tangible, or *contingent*. Homomorphism may well be that resource.

The map emerges from the contingencies that are real but uncharted (or, neglected): there is a



territory to be had, beyond the current attacks on the commons. In the *old* economy there was an “operational rub” between the levels of *utilities* and *commodities*, and a “distributive rub” between *goods* and *services* as the images of this base-line economics. It is where graphic design and illustration found its place in advertising, illustration and satire, *in the era of societal economics*. A cultural variety disappearing in the era of the *anthropocene*.

The possibility of establishing feedback at the level of the citizen is a cultural project of educating *active audiences* as an area of a potential strategic collaboration between KHiO and NLN.

Fig. 3—the eight handouts that have been made and circulated (cf, Fig. 1) in reverse order...