

# CIRCULATION

Kant's vision of a planetary enlightenment promised a global order of perpetual peace under the jurisdiction of universal reason. For a select few on the planet, nature's secret plan for a cosmopolitanism has come to pass in the form of global travel and tourism, expedited check points, risk-free consumption, borderless currency, perfect strawberries year round, the promise of on-demand policing and protection, and ubiquitous connectivity. For most others, however, this 'utopia' looks more like a toxic hellscape where people and places are transformed into equipment and user-spaces, or outright exterminated in pursuit of circulation and planetary freedom. The enactment of Kant's dream shows that the contradiction of liberal political theory—imperialism, colonization, slavery, and settlement—are not an unfortunate history, but the sinews of suffering and uneven distribution that underwrite the present and future. Further, the limitations of this thinking is not merely about philosophical inconsistencies illuminated by critical philosophy and continental thought. Beginning with Kant's classic essay, *Towards a Perpetual Peace* this course will explore the architectonics of global order created by the European and now Euro-American project to realize a planetary perpetual peace. Rather than universal reason, what holds together the transcontinental infrastructures of commerce, security, surveillance, resource extraction, land dispossession, and outright war are the logics of predation, strip mining, genomics, and the quantification of social and political life. Despite the often suffocating darkness of our contemporary catastrophe, in the final weeks of the course we will explore the resurgent activisms that fight to articulate other visions of planetary life more just and less cruel, and with a creativity and intensity undeterred by the statistical odds of globalizations inevitability.

Anna Tsing

***Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection***

Deitmar Offenhuber

***Waste Is Information: Infrastructure, Legibility and Governance***

Franke, Hankey, Et. al (eds)

***Nervous Systems: Quantified Life and the Social Question***

Hito Steyerl

***Duty Free Art: Art in the Age of Planetary Civil War***

Jeffrey S. Kahn

***Islands of Sovereignty: Haitian Migration and the Borders of Empire***

Macarena Gómez-Barris

***The Extractive Zone: Social Ecologies and Decolonial Perspectives***

**\*With additional essays by Michel Foucault, Reza Negarestani, Fred Moten, Laleh Khalili, Paul Preciado, Sayak Valencia, Deborah Cowen, and Joanna Radin.**