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Collectivity from Within

The Construction of Personal Selves

Women and Exile

- ▶ Julia Kristeva traces the literary history of migrants and points out incisively: “It is noteworthy that the first foreigners to emerge at the dawn of our civilization are foreign women – the Danaïdes”.
- ▶ *the mythical exile as well as the notion of otherness is found(ed) in/on the female disobedience*

Global Trends

- ▶ Women's migrations are happening within the context of global market economy, whose means for the movement of the people and capital may be highly advanced but its labor division and profit sharing run along well-entrenched lines of racial/ethnic/class/gender hierarchies.
- ▶ *Granted that one of the key features of our times are global migratory movements, this paper examines how these contemporary trends and developments affect, inform, and reconfigure modern subjectivity; which, in turn, constitutes one's individuality and identity as socio-culturally and econo-politically recognizable.*

Being in Superposition

- ▶ The shift in and evolution of modern subjectivity through the emergence of migrant women on the global scene, whose existence among different geo-social locales and value systems I name here as *being in superposition, whereby they can be experiencing synchronously multiple placedness in the world.*

Superposition

- ▶ *Superposition is applied here for a conceptualization of the self as a set of positions in relations - dynamic, relational, multipositional and diversified individuality*
- ▶ According to the notion of superposition in quantum mechanics - a physical system (such as an electron) exists partly in all its particular, theoretically possible states or configuration of its properties simultaneously; but, when measured, it gives a result corresponding to only one of the possible configurations, thus the notion of the observer as participant but also as a reductive force.

The Ectopic Subject

- ▶ Women migrants as *the ectopic subject - the always out of place identity*
- ▶ The ectopic subject is a challenge to the understanding of identity because it is there where you are looking and it is somewhere else— *as being-in-superposition it is always (not) here and (not) there.*

Collectivity from Within

- ▶ *exquisite individuality is a delicate, difficult subject in continual seeking marked by fine discrimination.*
- ▶ As an opening unto oneself, superposition is not only a realization of the multiplicity within the self but also *a gathering of one's positions into a collectivity from within.*

Modern Community

- ▶ *Superposition as collectivizing from within becomes a necessity for the possibility of modern community.*
- ▶ Engaging internal differences so as to relate to others along multiple lines of identification, alignment, and association, such subjective configuration re-creates and co-creates multiple ways of calling upon each other in mutual recognition.