Abstract

The capacity to manipulate and remake the material substance of being is at the core of an ever-expanding ontological imaginary that sets itself in the heart of contemporary culture in Global North-Atlantic societies. This new master narrative of changing matter and life itself pertains, on the one hand, to technoscientific attempts to monitor, control and fundamentally transform processes of matter and life; on the other hand, it is germane to accounts in social theory as well as in social studies of science which theorise these constructivist efforts to change ontology. The paper discusses ambivalences and limitations of this ontological imaginary in order to explore how radical knowledge activism and constituent politics can be enacted in these conditions.

Biography

Dimitris Papadopoulos is Senior Lecturer in social sciences and social theory at the School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University. He was previously an assistant professor at the Free University of Berlin. His work on social and political theory, experience and subjectivity, labour and social transformation, materiality and race has appeared in various journals including Boundary 2; Culture, Theory & Critique; Darkmatter; British Journal of Social Psychology; Ephemera and, most recently, he has published two co-authored books: Escape Routes. Control and Subversion in the 21st Century (Pluto Press, 2008) and Analysing Everyday Experience: Social Research and Political Change (Palgrave, 2006). He is currently working on the Politics of Matter: Ontology and Justice after Constructivism, a study of matter, materialism, and radical interventions in technoscience. He is co-editor of the journal Subjectivity.