

TECHNOLOGICAL SUBJECTS

**OR, AGAINST THE GRAND SWEEPING GESTURAL MODE: SOME THOUGHTS ON FEMINIST
COLLECTIVIST POSTCOLONIAL TECHNOLOGY STUDIES**

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“The commons is the incarnation, the production, and the liberation of the multitude. Rousseau said that the first person who wanted a piece of nature as his or her own exclusive possession and transformed it into the transcendent form of private property was the one who invented evil. Good, on the contrary, is what is common.”

-- Hardt and Negri, Empire

“Immaterial labor ... is a collective and social process, not an individual one. It would be a violation of the capitalist property logic itself therefore to grant ownership to an individual or a group of individuals. The only logical owner of the immaterial property is the community or society as a whole out of which it was produced. This is perhaps what hackers mean when they say that information wants to be free: when information expresses its own social production, it argues against its private ownership but instead calls for open, common social access.”

-- Michael Hardt, “Common Property”

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• DEFINITION OF IMMATERIAL LABOR

• STRUCTURALISM, IDEALISM

• PERSONIFICATION OF INFORMATION

- **17TH-CENTURY PIRACY : SHARING BY APPROPRIATION?**
- **AFTER THE DIGITAL COPY: PIRACY AGAIN; UTOPIA AGAIN?**
- **WHERE IS THE TECHNO-DOMESTIC IN PIRACY?**
- **CABLE CUT CONSPIRACIES**

REASONS

For Reducing the

Pyrates at Madagascar:

AND

PROPOSALS *humbly offered to the Honourable House of Commons, for effecting the same.*

THAT certain Pyrates having some Years since found the Island of *Madagascar* to be the most Proper, if not the only Place in the World for their Abode, and carrying on their Destructive Trade with Security, betook themselves thither; and being since increased to a formidable Body are become a manifest Obstruction to Trade, and Scandal to our Nation and Religion, being most of them *English*, at least four Fifths.

That *Madagascar* is one of the Largest Islands in the World, and very Fruitful, lies near the Entrance into the *East-Indies*, and is divided into a great many petty Kingdoms independant of each other, so that there is no making Application to any Supreme Monarch (or indeed any else) to Expel or Destroy the Pyrates there.

That upon a general Peace, when Multitudes of Soldiers and Seamen will want Employment; or by length of Time, and the Pyrates generating with the Women of the Country, their Numbers should be increased, they may form themselves into a Settlement of Robbers, as Prejudicial to Trade as any on the Coast of *Africa*.

For it's natural to consider, That all Persons owe by Instinct a Love to the Place of their Birth: Therefore the present Pyrates must desire to return to their Native Country; and if this present Generation should be once Extinct, their Children will have the same Inclination to *Madagascar* as these have to *England*, and will not have any such Affection for *England*, altho' they will retain the Name of *English*; and consequently all those succeeding Depredations committed by them will be charged to the Account of *England*. Notwithstanding they were not born with us, so that this seems the only Time for Reducing them to their Obedience, and preventing all those evil Consequences.

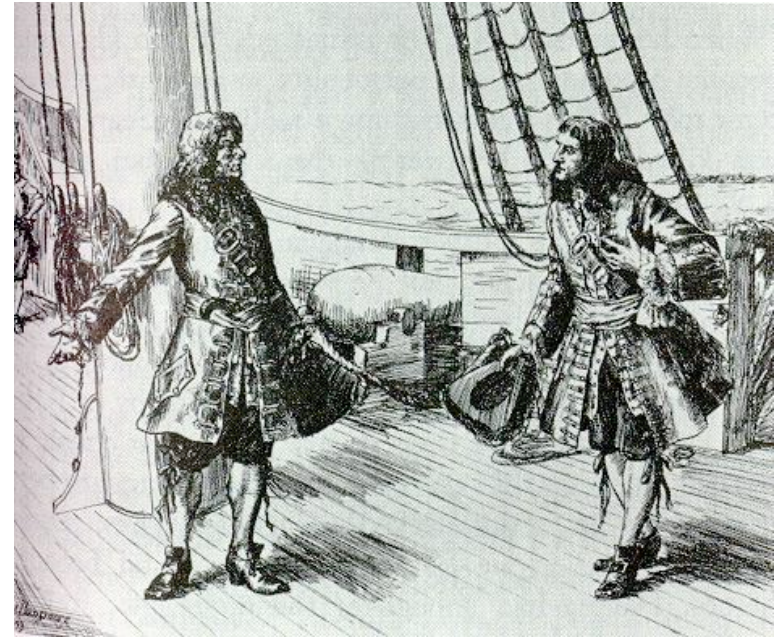
It must therefore be allow'd to be a very desirable and necessary Thing, that they should be suppressed in Time; and that if it ever be effected, it must be either by Force or Persuasion.

PIRATE TECHNO-UTOPIAS ?

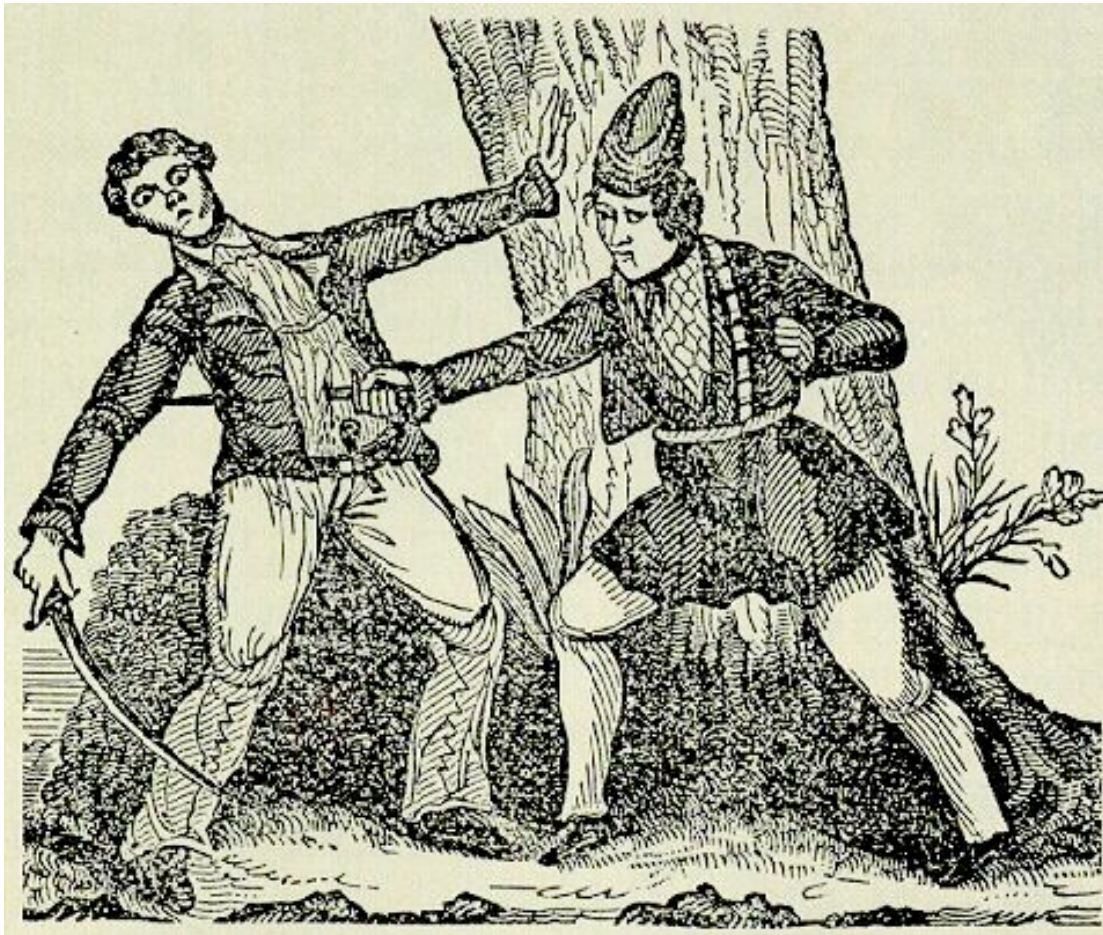




“Monk riding”



“John Smith lures the governor of Madeira aboard”



“Mary Read runs an opponent through”



“Anne Bonny”

REASONS FOR REDUCING THE PYRATES AT MADAGASCAR :

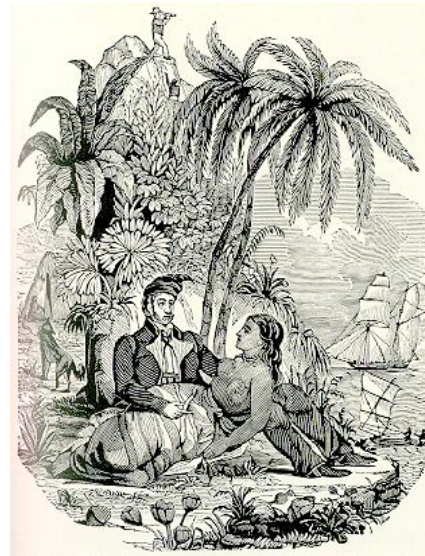
And

Proposals humbly offered to the House of Commons, for effecting the same.

That certain Pyrates having some years since found the island of Madagascar to be the most proper, if not the only place in the world for their abode, and carrying on their destructive trade with security, betook themselves thither; and being since increased to a formidable body are become a manifest obstruction to trade, and scandal to our nation and religion, being most of them English, at least four fifths.

That Madagascar is one of the largest islands in the world, and very fruitful, lies near the entrance into the East-Indies, and is divided into a great many petty Kingdoms independant [sic] of each other, so that there is no making application to any Supream [sic] Monarch (or indeed any else) to expel or destroy the Pyrates there.

That upon a general peace, when multitudes of soldiers and seamen will want employment; or by length of time, and the pyrates generating with the women of the country, their numbers should be increased, they may form themselves into a settlement of robbers, as prejudicial to trade as any on the coast of Africa.



“A pirate relaxing with a Madagascan woman”

For it's natural to consider, that all persons owe by instinct a love to the place of their birth: therefore the present pyrates must desire to return to their native country; and if this present generation should be more extinct, their Children will have the same inclination to Madagascar as these have to England, and will not have any such affection for England, altho' they will retain the Name of English; and consequently all those succeeding depredations committed by them will be charged to the account of England. Notwithstanding they were not born with us, so that this seems the only time for reducing them to their obedience, and preventing all those evil consequences.

It must therefore be allow'd to be a very desirable and necessary thing, that they should be suppressed in time, and that if it ever be effected, it must be either by force or perswasion [sic].

Reasons For Reducing the Pyrates at Madagascar AND Proposals humbly offered to the Honourable House of Commons, for effecting the same.

That upon a general peace, when multitudes of soldiers and seamen will want employment; or by length of time, and the **Pirates generating with the Women of the country**, their numbers should be increased, they may form themselves into a settlement of robbers, as prejudicial to trade as any on the coast of Africa.

For it's **natural** to consider, That all Persons owe by Instinct a Love to the Place of their **Birth**: Therefore the present Pyrates must desire to return to their **Native** Country; and if this present **Generation** should be once Extinct, their Children will have the same Inclination to Madagascar as these have to England, and will not have any such Affection for England, altho' they will retain the Name of the English, and consequently all those succeeding Depredations committed by them will be **charged to the Account** of England. Notwithstanding they were not **born** with us, so that this seems the only Time for Reducing them to their Obedience, and preventing all those evil Consequences.

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- B. Larkin:

" It is through this generative quality that pirate infrastructure is expressive of a paradigmatic shift in Nigerian economy and capital and represents the extension of a logic of privatization into everyday life."

- L. Liang:

While the older illegal city has been in existence for a while, in the past ten years there has been another layer that has been integrated into the experience and narration of this illegal city. The proliferation of non legal media practices ranging from pirated VCD's, DVD, MP3's to grey market mobile phones informs the practices and imagination of the illegal city.

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- Brian Larkin:

Techno Pirate culture is non-ideological, ie has no inherent anti-authoritarian/ anti-corporate agenda

- Ravi Sundaram:
"recycled modernity" has no discrete spaces of its own in opposition to the main cyber-elites, nor does it posit a self-defined oppositional stance

- Lawrence Liang:

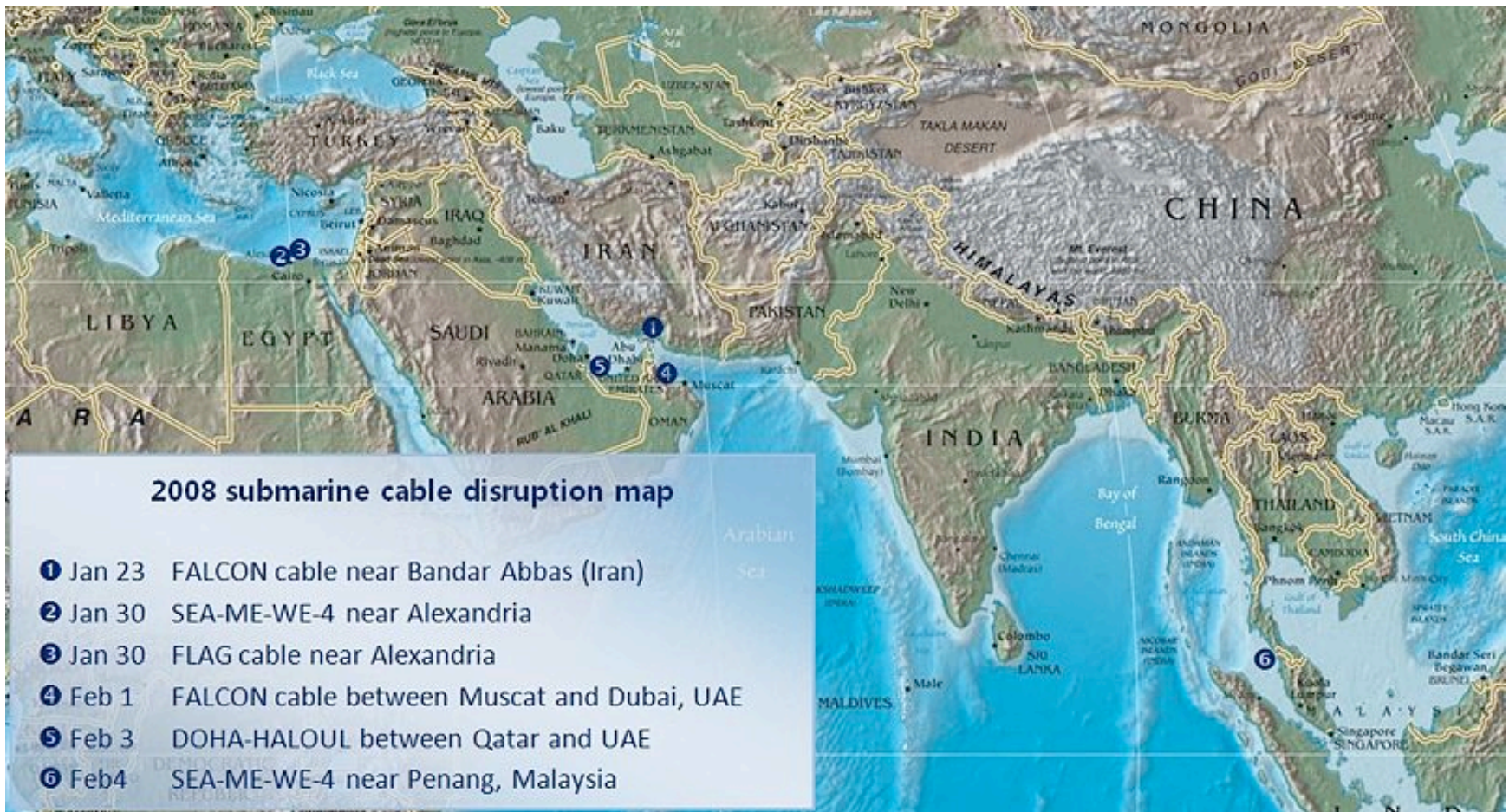
"Non-legality has been a major feature of all East Asian computer cultures where Western electronic commodities are re-sold in the world market, particularly the Third World. In the Indian case, the mimetic act is less punctual; the copy is not crucial to pirate culture. Rather, it is the insertion into the non-legal local, cultural commodity chains, and the unintended mocking of the state that define 'pirate' cultures in India."

Where is the Techno-domestic in Piracy?

- **(I)** “The problem facing the music publishers was not one of legal principle. The difficulty lay in enforcing the law. ... They had the right to search for [pirated sheet music] copies, but not to enter **private premises** to do so—unless the pirates themselves admitted them, which was, obviously, unlikely.”
Adrian Johns 2002, p. 69 (emphases added)
- **(II)** "I say to you that the VCR is to the American film producer and the American public as the Boston strangler is to the **woman home alone.**"
 - -Jack Valenti, 1983 (emphases added)

Infra/Structure:

Network Cable Mysteries





**INFRA/STRUCTURE:
NETWORK CABLE MYSTERIES**



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Foucault [discussing the genealogical method, in Society Must Be Defended]:

“In summary, as against the philosophico-juridical discourse organized in terms of the problem of sovereignty and law, this discourse which deciphers the continued existence of war in society is essentially a historico-political discourse, a discourse in which truth functions as a weapon for a partisan victory, a discourse at once darkly critical and intensely mythical.”

How to read technology and science not just instrumentally, transparently, transhistorically, philosophico-juridically?

> Read its emergent, temporary formations via its geopolitical contingencies and its temporal disjunctures; its histories, politics, and perpetual hauntings