“Getting Real: Technoscientific Practices and the Materialization of Reality”
Karen Barad

Concepts:

Agential Realism "...is an epistemological and ontological framework that extends Bohr's insights and takes as its central concerns the nature of materiality, the relationship between the material and the discursive, the nature of "nature" and of "culture" and the relationship between them, the nature of agency, and the effects of boundary, including the nature of exclusions that accompany boundary projects.

Agential realism entails a reformulation of both of its terms - "agency" and "realism" - and provides an understanding of the role of human and nonhuman factors in the production of knowledge, thereby moving considerations of epistemic practices beyond the traditional realism versus social constructivism debates." (89)

*Not limited to human realm, includes nonhumans and cyborgs. (108)

Matter/Materialization “stabilizes over time to produce the effect of boundary, fixity, and surface.” (90) from Butler.

Apparatuses are “not passive observing instruments” but are “productive of (and part of) phenomena.” (98) "Apparatuses are themselves material-discursive phenomena, materializing in intra-action with other material-discursive apparatuses." (102) also 106.

Transducer as producer of images: “"the transducer does not allow us to peer innocently at the fetus, nor does it simply offer constraints on what we can see; rather, it helps produce and is "part of" the body it images.” (101)

Reality “is not composed of things-in-themselves or things-behind-phenomena, but things-in-phenomena.” (104)

Agency “is a matter of intra-acting; it is an enactment, not something that someone or something has.” (112)

People:

Niels Bohr: Quantum physics. “Bohr’s epistemology calls into question several foundationalist assumptions that Western epistemology generally takes as essential to its project; among these are an inherent subject/object distinction and the representational status of language.” (89)

“Objects of observation” and “agencies of observation” (94) “[T]his interaction between object and apparatus thus forms an inseparable part of the phenomenon.” (95)

Resolved wave-particle duality paradox (97).

Judith Butler: Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of “Sex”. Matter “should be understood as ‘a process of materialization that stabilizes over time to produce the effect of boundary, fixity and surface’.” Also, “Girling of the girl” and “theory of performativity.” (106)

* Fleck talks about how repetition and reinforcement of thought styles makes ideas over time become "factual" and therefore invisible and unchallengeable. Compare this to Butler's ideas about "stabilization" that leads to an effect
Alice Adams: “Representations of the mother-fetus relationship in medical illustrations must be read as channels of economic as well as informational and ideological exchange.” (92)

Foucault: “apparatuses of observation,” “apparatuses of production,” “disciplinary apparatuses.”

Monica Casper: “Reframing and Grounding Nonhuman Agency: What Makes a Fetus an Agent?” (113)

Elizabeth Sourbut: “Gynogenesis: A Lesbian Appropriation of Reproductive Technologies” (117)

Questions:
- Is discourse limited to words? (90)
- How do regulatory practices enable discourse to have material effects on bodies? (107)
- What are some issues that could be changed by this new conceptualization of “agency” (116)