

ENGAGEMENT – Eco-Spectrality

In contrast with the logics of stable categories and bounded ontologies that drive social institutions, Timothy Morton writes about life’s uncanny “spectral” dimension. Because we are all always in a state of change, our lives are haunted by what we have been and what we are becoming. This is true at the individual level, and at a species/evolutionary level. Because we experience consciousness with an overlapping and interactive attendance to memory, sense perception, and anticipation, the presentation of time as a continuum is an oversimplification of experience. To experiment with this concept, I developed a series of overlay techniques to see if this “eco-spectrality” could be evoked in film (see also 5.3c).

I settled on a spectral overlay of past (70% opacity), present (100% opacity), and future (30% opacity) as a good level for making each layer both visible and blurred one into the others. These ratios might also be played with using frame-rate, and consideration be given to difference in how organisms experience time, as well as experimenting with interactions between different spectral expressions in the timeline or on a single frame.