

runner

A Conversation on Cultural Theory and Complexity During a Pandemic Between Palm Treat and an Anonymous Media Theorist

May 10, 2021

AMT:

“the ultimate, hidden truth of the world is that it is something that we make, and could just as easily make differently.”

I kinda think like people are a wrapper around the animalistic void. At certain times the wrapper gets thin or goes away

And hence the human instrumentality initiative seeks to unify the void inside all of us lmao

PT:

Fuck



“Europa Expo '85” by Palm Treat

AMT:

There's an observation effect

So like if participants know they're in a system their behavior changes

The internal evolution of rules is through socialization

Which is an process of society teaching a participant what is and is not acceptable

The sensors examine that shit so the system knows where to walk

Essentially this is human instrumentality, and we're discussing a human super-organism like an ant colony

PT:

Is there a ceiling to complexity? Is everything just like a fractal

Like ya know how simple rules can give rise to huge complex systems, like ants they follow like simple A/B rules but at scale they seem to be making complex decisions

AMT:

The simple rules in this system is a single human, it assumes no one human is so incredibly unique that they matter

PT:

Fuck I'm an ant lol

AMT:

Yeah complexity theory actually is the basis of modern crisis response

PT:

But the crises never end

But I guess that keeps anyone from actually doing anything about it

AMT:

Not only that, but if you just assume that the system evolves, then leadership is irrelevant

Leadership becomes solely performative



"Marked As Read" by Palm Treat

AMT:

Museums and galleries/institutions are like central bankers of culture

How they will like take loans from other institutions just to increase clout even if they don't have space to show shit

And how they operate in like almost a system above capitalism

Dominated by richies

It's all pretend, it's all money laundering. But to make it legit they build temples to it.

Very like worshipping

PT:

Make it appear to be a reverential object and put it in a big church and everyone suddenly is like “Oh ya, this has always been great”

Equal parts tax avoidance schemes and money laundering schemes using art as the fence



“Live, Laugh, Love” by Palm Treat

AMT:

...it describes the Heisenberg principle where observation collapses possibility into one signal. Like the detectors of a system collect many signals (thesis), and collapse them into one synthesis. The Heisenberg principle is from physics where like observing something impacts the thing.

So it's kind of like how disorder is sucked up by the system. But in the sucking process, the disorder changes

Also I think vaporwave and other niche stuff is an acting out against the dominant socialization system. Like an attempt to form a community through an aesthetic that allows people to identify fellow individuals outside the primary system



"Trash Bandicoot" by Palm Treat

PT:

I saw something a while ago that explained how the punk attitude of like "fuck the man drop out and get wasted" actually fits into the system because it's like self-selecting the most disillusioned people who would otherwise shake things up into mostly superficial roles that aren't accepted by mainstream because their main identifying feature is shifted to how they look and act instead their ideas. Seems to me to be more like smaller systems in the system.

Although with the internet those alt communities can now pull from a wider audience because it's much different to check something out online than like congregate in real life. Same with the Q Anon people, way easier to read that shit online and get hyped vs actually going to a Klan rally. I guess it's really just a matter of how you look at it.

AMT:

That's hot lol

Yeah if the subsystems can reach into capital, then they can get power

Otherwise, just a road to disillusionment



"Tread on Me" by Palm Treat

AMT:

Is pre-covid vaporwave different than whatever now

PT:

If anything maybe it's gotten more of a grimier cyberpunk look, but also more spillover with kawaii which is slowly mixing more and more with goth kind of look maybe like a lil peep kind of vibe seems to be more popular. There's more stuff with sort of eastern european / Slavic / "Frog with a Flail" look becoming popular, I'm not sure how to describe it. Like you took a vaporwave tattoo and Xeroxed it a bunch of times until it smeared.

AMT:

There isn't really any new genres or major paradigm shifts at least that I've noticed

I'm wondering if new genres require new media channels, like tiktok has kind of taken elements of vaporwave on.

If there isn't new media for a while post tiktok, then idk if there's gonna be anything bigger vaporwave for a bit

Lol, not saying end of history, but I think there are parts that are cementing into a crystallized form

PT:

Yeah, vaporwave is sort of like the current flavor of the postmodernism mixtape



Continue? by Palm Treat

AMT:

It's funny though because capitalism as a system is kinda dumb, because it let's people who don't know what systems are design systems

Like they don't see business as system, they think this is a 'company'

So, the simple area is a cliff that can descend into chaos

Managers should give simple autonomy to their people.

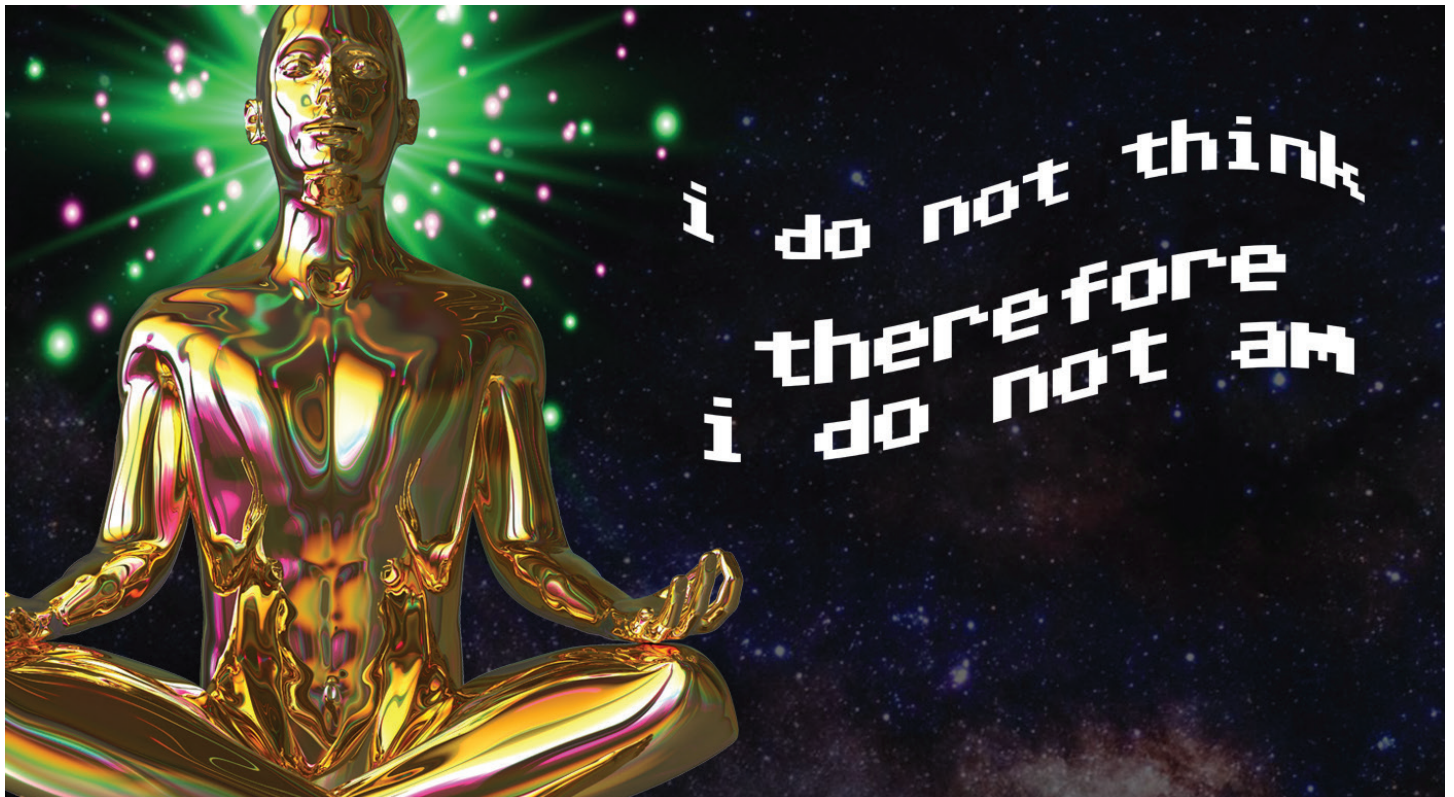
If a system falls into chaos from simple it turns into fascism top down order

But most systems are complicated

So what they should do is rely on experts and form consensus around ideas and the way work is done

If they treat it like simple, but it's not simple, that's heading for a bad time

Lol complexity theory is the devil



"i do not think" by Palm Treat

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