Spectral Infrastucture glossary

(infrastructure) We think of infrastructure as providing the material base for our activities. Its efficacy is measured by its neutral ability to support and sustain activities as varied as digital management, waste circulation, electronic capital movements and the flow of oil, gas water, air traffic and ground transportation. In previous projects (Bergen Assembly 2016) put forward the extent to which we perceived of education and research as bound and defined by the institutional infrastructures of their delivery and use. The current shift to 'Spectral Infrastructures' is a strategic one to how the barely can be made manifest, without concretising it.

(Ghostly Infrastructure) The excitements, the potentialities, the gestures of comfort, the constant banter, a buzz made by an enthralled audience, a hush when someone has said something important without staging its importance – are some of building blocks of a ghostly infrastructure.

(Spectral Infrastructure) alludes to the hidden and invisible textures that sustain an undefinable and disruptive quality in an otherwise efficient seeming organism. The university is one such example – the spirit, the glue that holds it together cannot be captured by any assessment or monitoring system that ensures that activities happen, and protocols are adhered to.

(practices) Artists such as Bouchra Khalili, Naeem Mohaimen, Kader Atia, Otolith Group, Tony Cokes and others have attempted to solidify the whiffs of excitement about alternative political models in the Non Aligned Movement for example. Or within Radical Black Study (as in Christina Sharpe's "In The Wake", or in Saaidya Hartmann's and Hortense Spiller's work) that followed a scent, a texture, an atmosphere, a gesture into the heart of darkness of racial violence, doing so through invocation rather than factual substantiation.

(ephemeral glue) Spectral Infrastructures are the ephemeral glue that holds things together in an affective mode – of which it is always said '*it had an undefinable quality'.* To work with Spectral Infrastructures we may need to start with textures rather than events. We may need to revalue remains and traces. There is a dimension of excavation to the work we would do, that cannot posit an a priori significance. There is also a speculative dimension that proposes a different paradigm for what we are able to offer.