

# Flow

Michael  
MacDonald

**F**low is “an everyday, unqualified notion...It can be a flow of words, a flow of ideas, a flow of shit, a flow of money” (Deleuze, 2004, 219). There are a tremendous variety of flows; flows are material and conceptual (how stories flow from generation to generation), and sometimes both. Flows are fluid (water), economic (capital), material (oil and electricity), commodified (marketing), urban (traffic), social (immigration), waste (sewage), and somatic (blood). In a lecture on Leibniz, Deleuze (1998) wrote about flow, art and philosophy:

What does a painter create? He creates lines and colors. That suggests that lines and colors are not givens, but are the product of a creation. What is given, quite possibly, one could always call a flow. It's flows that are given, and creation consists in dividing, organizing, connecting flows in such a way that a creation is drawn or made around certain singularities extracted from flows. (p. 78)

Machines in processes of deterritorialization and reterritorialization work upon flows; that is, Deleuze's premise of a world defined by and experienced in motion. Whether it is the physical flow of materiality or the flow of ideas, everything takes a shape, or is, more correctly, becoming-formed. Whether it is the State forming as it works upon flows of history (1983), or the subject-becoming as it works upon flows of desire, all "things" are becoming-things.

### References

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