

Tom Cohen

**‘Climate Change’ and the Archive--
Terrestriality, Reinscription, and Memory Regimes
(A Benjaminian Preamble)**

Hypothesis: with the mutation of terrestrial systems, there is a corresponding re-orientation of models of time, reference, agency and memory. If 20th century critical models came to focus on social histories, culture, and representation—that is, the otherness of the (human) other—21st century thought would orient toward what exceeds the “anthropomorphic” or “anthropological machine” (Agamben). The talk will move through , which I indicate loosely as follows:

- I. Pre-amble—“Climate Change” and the Archive**
- II. 21st century X-Factors (global warming, extinction events, “disposable” underclasses, resource wars)—or, the Voiding of the House**
- III. The Hamlet-Effect--the Open Secret and the (In)visible Event**
- IV. Interlude: What Became of 20th Century “Theory” — or, the link between hermeneutics and consumption?**
- V. Ex-Scriptio—or, Hitchcock’s “bird war” and the Atomization of the Letter**
- VI. Beyond mourning—or, 4000 years of *humanualism* is probably enough**

This talk will make use of some citations as well as a series of images and film clips.