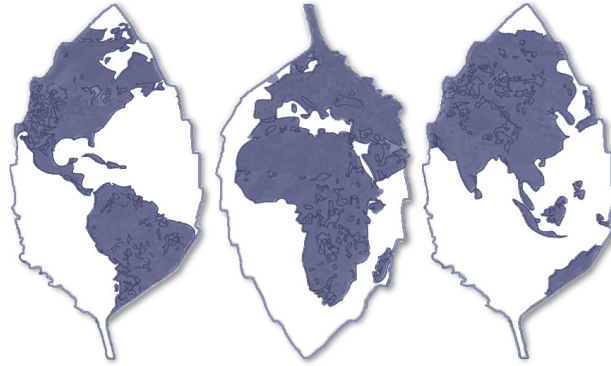


RETHINKING RESPONSIBILITY: ATTUNEMENT AND A POLITICS OF WORLD-BUILDING



JARRETT ZIGON
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

What is the relation between ontologies, ethics, and political activity? In this essay I take up this question through a rethinking of responsibility in terms of attunement. I begin with a brief and critical engagement with Karen Barad's influential alternative ontology, and consider its shortcomings in taking up a Levinasian conception of responsibility. In response to this critique I turn to the unique case of Vancouver, Canada and the enactment of what I call a politics of world-building. I show that anti-drug war agonists in Vancouver are in the process of creating a new world that is primarily characterized as being attuned with itself. In contrast to the limitations of a metaphysical humanist notion of responsibility and the politics it entails, I argue that a politics of world-building and attunement entail a process of becoming and enact a kind of freedom that could be described as openness.

MONDAY
FEBRUARY 27, 2017
3:30 - 5:00 PM
BUILDING 50, 51A