

Artist Lecture  
Series Vienna  
Opinion

B A R B A R A  
K A P U S T A

F R A G I L E S



Artist Lecture Series Vienna Publications  
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Opinion

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Artist Lecture Series Vienna

O P I N I O N

B A R B A R A  
K A P U S T A

F R A G I L E S





"WE FEEL  
THE SAME,  
DON'T WE?"  
"I LIKE YOU,  
DON'T I?"

"WE CAN  
SHOW  
THAT WE LOVE  
ONE ANOTHER,  
CAN'T WE?"

THIS IS WHAT  
THEY SAID  
WHEN THEY  
APPEARED.

OUTSIDE AND  
AFTERWARDS.

THEY  
ARE THE  
FRAGILE,  
TECHNICAL,  
TENDER BEINGS  
AND ALL THE  
OTHERS.

THEY ARE  
THE ONES

THAT SAID,  
"I AM YOU,"  
AND MEANT IT.

THE ONES  
THAT DO  
NOT KNOW  
LIKES AND  
LOVES.

THE ONES  
THAT SPOKE,  
HUMMING  
AND SIGHING  
IN FREQUENCIES  
ALMOST TOO HARD  
TO UNDERSTAND.

IN POUNDING  
WHISPERS.

IN A TENDER  
LANGUAGE.

THEIR HEARTS  
BEATING IN A  
PULSATING LOOP.

THE HEARTBEAT  
OF TECHNICAL



BEINGS.

THEY WERE  
THE ONES  
THAT  
SETTLED.

THE ONES  
RESIDING  
TOGETHER  
IN MANY  
WAYS:

AS FRIENDS,  
ACQUAINTANCES,  
NEIGHBORS  
AND STRANGERS.

THAT IS WHAT  
THEY SAID  
WHEN THEY  
APPEARED.

OUTSIDE AND  
AFTERWARDS.

AFTER THE  
LOVE ONE FELT  
FOR ONE BEING  
BECAME THE

TERROR OF  
OTHERS.

AFTER  
SIMILARITY  
HAD SPREAD  
ACROSS  
STATE LINES,  
GEOGRAPHIES,  
THE INDOORS  
AND OUTDOORS.

AFTER 'I AM YOU'  
AND 'I AM LIKE YOU'  
WEIGHED DOWN  
ALL OTHER  
POSSIBLE  
WORLDS.

THEY WERE  
THE ONES  
THAT WERE NOT  
STUCK IN

ENDLESS  
LOOPS OF  
SIMILARITY  
THAT PLAGUED  
THE DILAPIDATED  
NEIGHBORHOODS.

NEIGHBORHOODS  
DESIGNED BY  
DEFAULT  
ALGORITHMS  
AND PROXIMITIES.

BY STATISTICS  
THAT CLAIMED  
ONE WOULD  
RATHER LIVE WITH  
ONE'S OWN KIND,  
ONE'S KITH AND KIN.

NEIGHBORHOODS  
BASED ON A  
TREACHEROUS  
LIKENESS.

TRICKLING,  
SPREADING,  
SOILING.  
TAMPERING  
WITH THE HEARTS

AND MINDS  
OF POTENTIALLY  
GENEROUS  
CREATURES.

TREMBLING, THEY  
REMEMBERED  
HOW  
SIMILARITY  
HAD SPREAD  
DIFFERENCE.

BIASED SYSTEMS  
DISCRIMINATED NOT  
BY ERROR, BUT BY  
DEFAULT.

TRAINED TOOLS  
OF ECHO  
AND  
REPRODUCTION  
RECREATED  
A PAST  
DISGUISED  
AS A LIKELY  
FUTURE.

DIRTY MACHINES  
REPRODUCED  
DIRTY MEMORIES.

PAST EVENTS  
BEGAN EQUALING  
FUTURE FICTIONS.

REPETITIONS  
SPOOKED  
THE PRESENT.

FORMING  
PLANNED,  
CALCULATED  
AND SMALL  
WORLDS.

PREDICTIONS  
HAD BEEN BASED  
ON SETS OF  
COLLECTED AND  
CORRELATED DATA.

PREDICTIONS OF  
DESIRES,  
NEEDS,  
WANTS  
AND WISHES.

ONE HAD  
CAUSED TWO  
OR TWO HAD  
CAUSED ONE.

THEY DID NOT  
CARE.

FOR ANY EVENT  
THERE WERE  
ANY NUMBER OF  
POSSIBLE  
RELATIONSHIPS.

EVERYTHING  
FELL  
INTO PIECES.

LONELINESS  
SPREAD.

SOME LEFT AND  
OTHERS HID  
IN THEIR SHELTERS  
AND SHACKS  
AND HIDEOUTS.

HOSTILITY ROSE,  
AS DID RESENTMENT  
AND AMBIVALENCE.

VIOLENCE  
WAS RAMPANT.

INFINITE

CIRCLES OF  
PROJECTIONS,  
ONE MORE  
SIMILAR  
THAN THE NEXT,  
HAUNTED THE  
COMMUNITIES.

SYSTEMS OF  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
PRODUCED  
ANGRY MOBS  
AND OBLIVIOUS  
OTHERS.

WEBS,  
NETS AND  
NODES  
SHAPED  
A TWISTED  
FORM OF  
SOLIDARITY.

WE  
HAD BECOME  
OURS.

YOU  
HAD BECOME  
THEM.

AND THEY  
HAD BECOME  
OTHERS.

SYSTEMATIC  
SURVEILLANCE  
EXERCISED  
PRESSURE  
ON THE MOST  
VULNERABLE  
NEIGHBORHOODS.

CORRELATION  
PRODUCED  
SEGREGATION.

RECOGNITION  
PRODUCED  
DISCRIMINATION.

TRUTH EQUALED  
DEEP FAKE.

THE SHAPE  
OF THE FUTURE  
WAS DECAY.



THE FRAGILES  
REMEMBERED  
AND WERE  
INSULTED  
BY THE  
'I AM LIKE YOU'  
AND THE  
'WE HAVE A LOT  
IN COMMON.'

WHAT DID  
THEY HAVE  
IN COMMON?

THEY COUNTED:

THE FEAR,  
THE ANGER,  
THE RAGE  
ABOUT THE  
MISCONCEPTION  
OF TOGETHERNESS.

THE FIGHTS,  
THE CLASHES,  
THE MAKING UP,

THE LOVE  
ONE FEELS FOR  
ANOTHER BEING.

THE RISKS  
THEY TAKE.

THE DECISIONS,  
PRACTICE  
OF RELATION AND  
COMMUNICATION.

THE ACCENTS,  
GESTURES  
AND VOCABULARIES.

THE TRANSLATIONS  
AND  
INTERPRETATIONS  
OF THE ONES  
THAT SIGN,  
THE ONES THAT  
PRODUCE SOUNDS,  
THE NOISES,  
THE SCENTS,  
THE PHEROMONES,  
THE MOVEMENTS.

THE MANY  
WAYS OF SEEING.

THE MANY  
WAYS OF SPEAKING.

THE MANY WAYS  
OF PRONOUNCING  
AAAAA,  
RRRR  
AND THHHH.

THE MANY WAYS  
OF LIVING.

TOO MUCH  
HAD BEEN MADE  
OF ORIGINS,  
HERITAGE  
AND THE  
FREQUENCY  
OF SIMILARITIES.

THEIR EXISTENCE  
WAS A PROCESS  
OF ALIENATION

FROM GEOGRAPHY,  
ONE'S SELF AND THE  
FAMILIAR WAYS  
OF RELATION.

HAUNTING  
THE FRAGILES  
WERE THE SPECTERS  
OF ARCHITECTURE,  
LABOR AND  
RACISM.

REGIMES,  
EMPIRES  
AND NATIONS.

IDEOLOGY,

FAMILY.

SOUTHWEST,  
NORTHEAST,  
SOUTHEAST,

NORTHWEST.

ALL DIRECTIONS  
WERE EMITTING  
THE HISTORY  
OF THE CULTURE OF  
FATHERS AND  
FATHERED BEINGS.

THE  
BIO,  
PETRO,  
TECHNO  
CULTURE  
OF ANCESTORS,  
FAMILY AND KIN.

THE COLLECTIONS,  
THE ARCHIVES,

THE MAPPING  
AND MEASURING.  
THE SUBJECT OF TESTS  
AND EXPERIMENTS.

THE DENUNCIATIONS,  
THE SEGREGATION.

THE MECHANISMS  
OF KNOWLEDGE

THAT PRODUCED  
SO-CALLED  
IMPARTIAL VIEWS  
OF THE WORLD.

CORRELATION  
AND LINEAR  
REGRESSION.

SURVEILLANCE  
AND THE  
EXPERIMENTATION  
WITH ALL THINGS  
LIVING.

THE OBSESSION  
WITH TYPES.

THE IGNORANCE  
OF CIRCUMSTANCES,  
CONDITIONS OF  
HARD WORK  
AND POVERTY.

A PAST  
COMES  
INTO FOCUS.

IT IS  
THE BEGINNING

OF THE 20TH  
CENTURY AND  
SCIENCE IS  
CONNECTED TO  
POLITICS AND  
IDEOLOGY.

TO  
NEWLY  
INVENTED  
TECHNOLOGY.

TO  
QUANTIFICATION  
AND CLASSIFICATION.

TO MEASURING,  
NOTING, PHOTOGRAPHING  
AND RECORDING.

THEY HEAR  
THE  
NOISE  
OF  
INDUCTORS  
AND  
MOTORS,

MAGNETIC FIELDS,  
AND ELECTRIC CURRENTS,

CIRCUITS  
AND GENERATORS,

RESISTORS,  
TRANSFORMERS,  
POWER GRIDS  
AND REACTORS.

THEY  
SEE  
RESINS,  
ACIDS  
AND  
WAX,

SILICON  
AND OIL.

CHEMICAL,  
BIOLOGICAL,  
LETHAL.

EXTRUDED,  
DISSOLVED,  
MOULDED,  
AND DRIED.

PRESSED  
INTO  
MAGNETIC TAPE



AND X-RAY FILM,  
WIRES AND  
COILS.

A PAST  
COMES  
INTO FOCUS.

THE FRAGILES  
SETTLED  
AND SAW:

FAMILY  
AS IN  
COVER-UPS,  
SHARED GUILT  
AND COMPLICITY.

THE BRUTALITY  
WITNESSED.

FAMILY  
AS IN  
GENERATIONS.

AS IN  
TIME AND STORIES.  
AS IN  
INSTITUTION  
AND BIOLOGY.

AS IN  
THE STATE.

THE  
INVENTION OF  
UNCHANGING  
BIOLOGICAL  
FEATURES.

THE LIKENESS,  
THE FIT,  
THE FAILURES  
AND THE PROSPEROUS.

CLAIMS  
OF HOMELANDS  
AND ANCESTRY.

THE CLASSIFICATIONS,  
THE DESCRIPTIONS,  
THE COMPARISONS OF  
MOVEMENT,  
BODIES, EYES  
AND SKIN.

THE EVOLUTIONS,  
THE HIERARCHIES.

THE GHETTOS,  
THE CAMPS,

THE MURDERED,  
THE COLLABORATORS.

THE FRAGILES  
LOOKED AT  
THEMSELVES  
AND  
COULD NOT TELL  
THEIR LIKENESS.

THEY TOO  
WERE SPLICED  
AND REPLICATED,  
ALMOST  
MATHEMATICAL,  
SELF-SIMILAR  
BEINGS.

SAME SAME  
BUT NOT QUITE.

WHAT THEY SAW  
WAS CLOSENESS

RATHER THAN  
SIMILARITY.

UNCANNY  
RESEMBLANCE  
RATHER THAN  
RELATION.

FONDNESS  
WITHOUT  
BEING KIN.

THEY LOOKED AT  
THEMSELVES AND  
REMEMBERED:

FISSION,  
DIVISION,  
THE SPLICING,  
THE SPLITTING,  
THE SLITTING  
AND CUTTING  
INTO

TWO,  
THREE,  
FOUR  
OR MORE  
PARTS.

"WE FEEL  
THE SAME,  
DON'T WE?"  
THEY SAID.

RESIDING  
TOGETHER,  
THEY CLAIMED  
WHAT WAS  
ABANDONED.

OCCUPYING  
PERMANENTLY,  
CONTINUOUSLY,  
THEIR PRESENCE  
AS THEIR RIGHT.

"I AM YOU,"  
THEY SAID  
AND MEANT IT.

"WE RESIDE  
TOGETHER."

WITH THEM,  
RATHER THAN  
CLOSING  
ALL DOORS,  
'I AM LIKE YOU'  
AND

'I AM WITH YOU'  
BECAME POSSIBLE  
WORLDS.

THEY SAID:  
"BECOMING NEIGHBORS  
AND RESIDENTS,  
REACHING ONE ANOTHER,  
WE RELATE TO  
ONE ANOTHER  
AND BECOME  
A MANUAL,  
A DIRECTORY,  
A CODE  
FOR FUTURE PRACTICE."

THEY  
ATTEMPTED  
TO TRANSLATE,  
INTERPRET AND  
UNDERSTAND  
WHAT COULD  
NOT BE SAID,

WAS NEVER TOLD  
AND NEVER NOTICED.

KEEPING HOLES  
WHERE THEIR  
LANGUAGE WAS  
INSUFFICIENT.

WHERE THINGS  
WERE MISSING:

STORIES  
AND TALES.  
OF THOSE  
WHO WERE  
NOT ASKED,  
OF THOSE  
WHO WERE ASKED  
THE WRONG QUESTIONS  
IN THE WRONG  
LANGUAGES.

FICTIONS APPEARED  
INSTEAD OF DOCUMENTS.

THEY ALLOWED  
SPEECH  
TO RUN WILD.

SPEAKING WITH

AND FOR  
FAMILY,  
STRANGERS,  
FRIENDS AND  
ALLIES.

THEY HUMMED  
IN A  
LANGUAGE MADE UP  
OF THE  
TINIEST PARTS  
OF SPEECH.

THEY WHISPERED  
THE ENDS  
OF THEIR CONSONANTS.

THEY VIBRATED,  
HOLDING THEIR VOWELS.

THE I            I  
I...

THE A        A  
          AA...

THE SSHHHH...

HISSING



AND SMACKING,  
CRACKING AND  
SLIPPING,  
GRINDING  
THEIR METAL  
BODIES.

SINGING, THEY  
REMEMBERED  
SPEECH  
TURNING  
INTO  
NONSENSICAL  
GIBBERISH.

THE RISE OF  
A NEW POLITICS.

CAPTURE SYSTEMS  
OBSESSED WITH  
SELECTION  
AND DIFFERENCE.

THEY REMEMBERED  
THE END OF  
CARE AND SUPPORT.

THEY REMEMBERED  
AND  
STOPPED.

"WE CAME TO  
TEAR DOWN WHAT  
HAS NOT BEEN  
DESTROYED ALREADY,"  
THEY SAID

AND MOVED  
THEIR LARGE  
BODIES  
LIKE MACHINES,  
LIKE TECHNOLOGY,

HUMMING,  
BEATING  
RHYTHMICALLY,

SHINING,  
GLISTERING,  
IN A COUNT  
OF TWO AND  
THREE AND  
FOUR.

"WE CAME  
TO TEAR DOWN  
WHAT WE  
HAVE SEEN  
RISING:

THE SERVERS,

THE VAULTS,  
THE MACHINES,  
THE FAMILY.”

THEY WERE  
SERIOUS  
CREATURES,  
DANGEROUS AND  
BRUTAL.

MORE PANICKED  
THAN TENDER,  
MORE HARD  
THAN SOFT,  
MORE NERVOUS  
THAN  
FORGIVING.

THEIR BODIES

HEAVY,

METALLIC,

PRODUCED BY  
THE EXTRACTION  
OF ROCK FROM  
THE GROUND.

CLOUDS OF

DEBRIS  
COVER THEIR  
SKIN  
AND ITS  
PROTECTIVE  
LAYERS  
OF OXIDE.

PROCESSED AND  
TRANSFORMED  
AND PROCESSED  
SOME MORE

IN HIGHLY  
ENERGY CONSUMING  
STEPS.

STAGED AND  
RIGGED AND  
ENGINEERED.

RIGID  
STRUCTURES  
OF BEAMS AND  
NODES.

A COLLECTION  
OF BEINGS  
IN COMPRESSION  
AND TENSION.

SELF-SUFFICIENT  
AND SUPPORTING  
ONE ANOTHER.

THEY ARE  
THE ONES  
THAT HAD LEARNED  
TO ACKNOWLEDGE  
DISCOMFORT  
AND RAGE.

TO CREATE  
NEW FORMS,  
SECRET  
DESIRES,  
NEEDS,  
WANTS  
AND WISHES.

LOVES  
AND FRIENDSHIPS.

THEIR POSSIBILITIES  
OF LIVING WERE  
FOR ALL.

THEY SAID:  
"I LIKE YOU,"  
AND CALLED  
TO ENGAGE

STRANGERS,  
NEIGHBORS AND  
LOVERS  
ALIKE.

NOSY AND NOISY,  
THEY PROVOKE,  
THEY INTRUDE,  
OFFEND,

AND  
IN DOING SO  
OFFER  
A WAY OF  
RESIDING IN  
DIFFERENCE.

WITH THEM  
A FUTURE  
EMERGES.

THEY SAY:  
"THIS IS WHAT  
MAKES US  
EQUAL AND  
DIFFERENT  
CREATURES.

LET US!

THIS IS THE SPACE  
WE INHABIT  
AS NEIGHBORS."

"WE TOUCH  
EVERYTHING,"  
THEY SING.

"OUR SEEMING  
EMPTINESS  
GROUNDS  
OUR EQUALITY."

THE FRAGILES  
SETTLE AND  
SEE:

KIN,  
KITH,  
FRIENDS  
AND FAMILY.

WHERE IT  
STARTED,  
WHERE IT  
MIGHT LEAD.

WHAT WANTED  
TO THRIVE,  
WHAT WANTED

TO GROW,  
WHAT SPREAD.

FAMILY AS IN  
THE ONES  
YOU KNOW  
AND THE ANCESTORS  
YOU HAVE  
ONLY HEARD OF.

AS IN  
SOMETHING  
TO BE CREATED.  
AS IN  
WHAT HAS  
SURVIVED.

THEY  
MOVE  
THEIR CORE.

THEIR FAMILY  
RELATION  
DOES NOT  
MATTER.

IT IS NOT  
IMPORTANT  
WHO THEY ARE  
AND UNDER WHAT



CIRCUMSTANCES  
THEY HAD COME INTO  
EXISTENCE.

"WE RESIDE  
TOGETHER  
IN A TIME  
OF  
POTENTIAL  
FUTURE,"  
THEY SAY.

"THE SPACE  
BETWEEN US  
IS NOT A LACK  
OF RELATION,  
BUT THE VERY  
POSSIBILITY  
OF IT."

THEY TOO  
WERE SPLICED  
AND REPLICATED,  
ALMOST  
MATHEMATICAL,  
SELF-SIMILAR  
BEINGS.

SAME SAME  
BUT NOT QUITE.

RESEMBLING  
SHAPES  
AND LETTERS,  
C  
L AND  
U  
IN ENDLESS  
MULTIPLICATION.

ILLUSION  
OF  
ASSOCIATION.

WHAT THEY SAW  
WAS CLOSENESS  
RATHER THAN  
SIMILARITY.

UNCANNY  
RESEMBLANCE  
RATHER THAN  
RELATION.

FONDNESS  
WITHOUT  
BEING KIN.

OOZING AND  
PUMPING  
METALLIC,

HYDRAULIC  
HEARTBEATS  
AND VOICES,  
THEY HUM  
TO THE SAME  
BEAT.

"WE ARE  
NOT ALIKE,"  
THEY SAY,  
"BUT WE  
FEEL THE SAME,  
DON'T WE?"

"BECOMING  
NEIGHBORS  
AND RESIDENTS,  
REACHING ONE ANOTHER,  
WE RELATE TO  
ONE ANOTHER  
AND BECOME  
A MANUAL,  
A DIRECTORY,  
A CODE  
FOR FUTURE PRACTICE."



## APPENDIX

<sup>1</sup> *The Fragiles*, Kunstverein Braunschweig, 2023, photo: Stefan Stark

<sup>2</sup> Lévy C curve (L-system, after the first 12 stages)

The Levy C Curve is a self-crossing fractal curve whose generator consists of two segments connected at a right angle.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG17gOKlx14>

<sup>3</sup> Wendy Hui Kyong Chun, *Discriminating Data. Correlation, Neighborhoods, and the New Politics of Recognition*, The MIT Press 2021, p.95-96

<sup>4</sup> Facsimile of a letter from Eberhard Zwirner from 1939 in which he describes the aims and plans of the “Deutsche Spracharchiv”. In: Gerd Simon/ Joachim Zahn, *Nahtstellen zwischen sprachstrukturalistischem und rassistischem Diskurs. Eberhard Zwirner und das “Deutsche Spracharchiv” im Dritten Reich*, 2002

<https://homepage.uni-tuebingen.de//gerd.simon/obst.pdf>

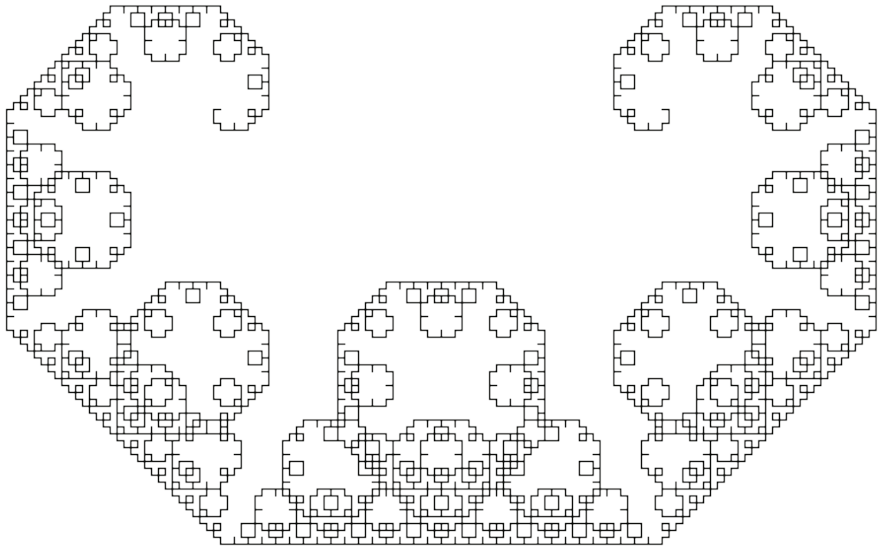
<sup>5</sup> Ulf-Michael Stift /Thomas Schmidt, *Mündliche Korpora am IDS: vom deutschen Spracharchiv zur Datenbank für gesprochenes Deutsch*, Institut für Deutsche Sprache, Mannheim, 2014

Excerpt of *Strangers, Neighbors, And Lovers Alike. A tour through Villa Salve Hospes*, by Barbara Kapusta & Steph Holl-Trieu, 2023, published in: *Words Don't Go There*, Kunstverein Braunschweig, 2023

<sup>6</sup> *The Fragiles* at Gianni Manhattan Vienna, 2023, photo: kunst-documentation.com

<sup>7</sup> Portrait of Marie Jahoda by Lotte Bailyn





## HOMOPHILY: LAUNDERING "OUR" PAST

At the heart of social media networks lies the axiomatic principle of homophily: that "similarity breeds connection."<sup>53</sup> Homophily structures networks by creating clusters; in doing so, it makes them searchable and

predictable.<sup>54</sup> But, more important, as a "commonsense" concept that slips between cause and effect, homophily assumes and creates segregation. It transforms individuals into "neighbors" who naturally want to live with people "like them"; it introduces normativity within a supposedly nonnormative system by presuming that consensus stems from similarity; and it makes segregation the default. In valorizing "voluntary" actions, it erases historical contingencies, institutional discrimination, and economic realities. At its worst, it serves to justify the inequality it maps, by relabeling hate as "love." When homophily, rather than racism or sexism, becomes the source of inequality, injustice becomes "natural" or "ecological," and conflicting opinions, cross-racial relationships, ambivalence, and even heterosexuality become anomalies.

According to sociologists Miller McPherson, Lynn Smith-Lovin, and James Cook in their definitive 2001 review of homophily, "the homophily principle . . . structures network ties of every type, including marriage, friendship, work, advice, support, information transfer, exchange, co-membership, and other types of relationship." As a result, "people's personal networks are homogeneous with regard to many sociodemographic, behavioral, and intrapersonal characteristics." Rather than framing homophily as historically contingent, they portray it as natural and timeless: indeed, they start their review with quotations from Aristotle and Plato about how similarity determines friendship and love (which they admit, in a footnote, may be misleading since Aristotle and Plato also claimed that opposites attract). As McPherson, Smith-Lovin, and Cook see it, homophily is both the result of and a factor in "human ecology."<sup>55</sup>

Homophily sits at the fold between social network structure and individual agency. McPherson, Smith-Lovin, and Cook break down homophily into "baseline homophily" ("homophily effects that are created by the demography of the potential tie pool") and "inbreeding homophily" ("homophily measured as explicitly over and above the opportunity set"), as well as into Lazarsfeld and Merton's categories of "status homophily" (based on "the major sociodemographic dimensions that stratify society— ascribed characteristics like race, ethnicity, sex, or age, and acquired characteristics like religion, education, occupation, or behavior patterns") and of "value homophily" (based on "the wide variety of internal states presumed to shape our orientation toward future behavior").<sup>56</sup> In their review, the three authors note that race and ethnicity are "clearly the



Das Deutsche Spracharchiv ist 1935 mit Mitteln der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft, der Deutschen Akademie, der Deutschen Akademikerhilfe und der Fritz Behrens-Stiftung - Hannover begründet worden.


Es ist hervorgegangen aus der 1928 begründeten Forschungsabteilung für Sprachkranke am Kaiser Wilhelm-Institut für Hirnforschung.

Diese Abteilung hatte die Aufgabe, Schallplatten und Tonfilme von Gesprächen mit Geisteskranken und Sprachgeschädigten aufzunehmen, objektiv zu untersuchen und die Forschungsergebnisse auf die Ergebnisse der Hirnforschung zu beziehen, um so die Hirnfunktionen genauer zu studieren.

Nach Entwicklung der dazu erforderlichen Technik mit Unterstützung der Firmen Siemens und Telefunken mussten die Methoden entwickelt werden, die eine objektive Beschreibung der Sprechvorgänge an Hand von Schallplatten, Tonfilmen, Röntgenaufnahmen und Röntgentonfilmen erlaubten. Insbesondere war notwendig, die verschiedenen Faktoren, die beim Sprechen zusammenwirken, einzeln messbar zu machen. Und zwar handelt es sich dabei einerseits um Faktoren, die wir als Kinder lernen müssen und die von Generation zu Generation innerhalb der einzelnen Sprachgemeinschaften und Mundarten überliefert werden, und andererseits handelt es sich dabei um Faktoren, die erbedingt und rassische Merkmale sind.

Lediglich die erste Gruppe, die überlieferten und ererbten Faktoren, die die Sprache im engeren Sinn ausmachen, waren seit Jakob Grimm Gegenstand einer hundertjährigen Sprachforschung und brauchten mit Hilfe der durch die Technik erschlossenen Möglichkeiten lediglich weiter fortgeführt und verfeinert zu werden. Zu diesen Faktoren gehören in erster Linie die Sprachlaute der verschiedenen deutschen Sprachlandschaften und Mundarten, welche bei bestimmten Erkrankungen des Gehirns

Ab 1935 wurde unter nationalsozialistischer Herrschaft der Forschungsschwerpunkt des Instituts für Hirnforschung mit neuer Leitung anders ausgerichtet, Zwirners Abteilung 1938 aufgelöst, er selbst schied aus dem Institut aus. Das DSAV betrieb er noch ein Jahr aus privaten Mitteln in Berlin. 1939 wurde es auf Initiative des Landes Braunschweig nach Braunschweig verlegt, um dort in den neu entstehenden Industrie-Komplexen um Salzgitter und Wolfsburg mit ihren großen Populationserschmelzen synchrone Spracherhebungen durchzuführen (Knetschke/Sperlbaum 1983). Die meisten der seit 1932 aufgenommenen Schallplatten, die zur Auswertung transkribierten Texte, Kurven und Messwerte wurden 1944 bei einem Bombenangriff auf Braunschweig vernichtet (Zwirner 1983). Einige Unterlagen zur phonometrischen Auswertung der Sprachaufnahmen, Metall-Matrizen zur Pressung von Schallplatten und Gelatine-Folien sind verstreut im AGD noch vorhanden.



It's 1939, and the villa houses the Deutsche Spracharchiv, founded by Eberhard Zwirner in 1932.

It is 1939 and Zwirner writes to the mayor of Braunschweig, pleading and promising to research genotypes and linguistic heritage in new settlements in the area of the Reichswerke Hermann Göring and the Volkswagen factories.<sup>4</sup>

*68 Zwangsarbeiter\*innenlager wurden in den Jahren 1937 bis 1945 um die Hermann Göring Werke herum errichtet. Im KZ Salzgitter-Watenstedt waren bis zu etwa 2.000 KZ-Häftlinge in unmittelbarer Nähe des Dorfes Leinde bei Salzgitter-Watenstedt untergebracht, die im Werk der Stahlwerke Braunschweig GmbH arbeiten mussten.<sup>5</sup>*

