



Dr. Bayo Akomolafe: 'Cancel Culture' is Another Name for How Stuck We Are:
Humanism, Ethics and the Material Turn in Contemporary Politics



Dr. Bayo Akomolafe is a university lecturer, speaker, philosopher, and poet, originally from Nigeria and now living in Chennai, India. He has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and curates an earth-wide project in response to the Covid-19 crisis. Explore embodiment within the philosophical realms of liberal humanism, ethics, the material turn, and the disorganized body, interwoven with the concept of Cancel Culture.

TOP EMBODIMENT TIP: A Yoruba healer said: *In order to find your way, you must get generously lost in the forest.*

Humanism as Human Centrality: **Bodies as Multiple Entities**

- We don't have one body, we are not singular units. The shape of the human isn't static, but rhizomatic.
- Our bodies are always yet to come, they are diasporic - both far away and near at the same time

Cancel Culture and Ethics: **Social Media and the Internet**

- Cancel Culture is tied to the notion that we are lords of the realm, that we are above the world, that we are unique.
- Ethics is a transcendent thing we judge others by, making us move with the world in a static, *stuck* way.

Material Turn: **Items Use Affects Us**

- Tools use us, just as we use them. *My body is acted upon by the thing I act upon.*
- When we interact on social media we become conglomerations. We are co-modified, re-modified, and remembered into static atomistic entities - pixels - and not able to meet the world in its becoming.
- Objects have subtle effects on us that we don't usually take into consideration.

Post-Activism: **Assemblage**

- We are not human agents trying to affect change, we are working within an assemblage.

Crossroads and Highways: **Slowing Down in Times of Urgency**

- Slowing down is the invitation to become crossroads, and not have the highway, linear mentality.
- We are crossroads to be open to other possibilities, directions, and opportunities.

Resources

- ❖ **References:** *Epistemic Situationism*, (book) Mark Alfano and Abrol Fairweather



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