

## Topic

## What is a line?

## Abstract

A line, no matter what line it might be, it's always a fracture, a chap, a cut un a previous plan. As we learnt with Merleau-Ponty, in the place of the classical notion of *line*, that defines it as a being that arises in emptiness, a background emptiness, a sort of absolute pureness, a line is, instead, an unbalance that imposes itself to a prior order.

Meanwhile, if Foucault, when thinking about the theme of power – a kind of prolegomenon, at the same time that it is a kind of foundation, to his conception of biopolitics – defines it as a relationship of forces, the forces, not being lines themselves, properly speaking, they draw them (that is, the forces draw lines) in their movement, in their displacement, in their exercise: in a word, whenever a force exercise itself, a line is drawn.

What I intend to present in this text is a string (therefore, a line) that comes from the geometrical notion of *line* – either in a generically sense of geometry, or in the geometry applied in painting, and in this matter, a particular relevance to the theoretical thought about it (Merleau-Ponty, Kandinsky) – to the configuration of the organics of biopolitical rationality sketched, in short, in terms of lines.

Hence, from the lines of visibility – maximum visibility – of the panoptic, through the lines of discipline and control, to the lines that delimit life and bodies – the general organics of biopolitical rationality settles its foundations in lines, in complex arrangements of lines, that come from well defined points to create, when crossing other lines, new points, knots where a new form forms itself.

Nevertheless, it's on other lines (another kind of lines) that I would like to focus our attention, here: the ones that are born in those knots, the lines that come from those points. Because, in any given point that is formed, in any given limit in which two lines tend to create a closure, to settle a form, there is a new line that comes from there, from that precise limit, from that given point, into a all new direction, not to create a rupture, but being, itself, a rupture.