

Living with light

Is being ignorant and incompetent all that bad?







Spaces within spaces







How does ignorance influence uses of light?

1. The new regime of knowledge has installed a gap between ways of knowing
2. 'Competence bias' glosses over how incompetence and ignorance may have both emotional effects and act as social strategies

Prioritising energy - Maintaining Lightscapes



- KIRKENS ANVENDELSE AF ENERGI**
- ☒ 23. At få foretaget en energioekonomisk gennemgang af kirkens bygninger (kirke, sognegård, præstebolig osv.)
 - ☐ 24. At prioritere lavt energiforbrug og god brændstoføkonomi ved indkøb af f.eks. fryser, vaskemaskine, pc og maskiner til kirkegården
 - ☒ 25. At købe miljøvenlig energiforsyning
 - ☐ 26. At anvende sparepærer, hvor det er hensigtsmæssigt
 - ☐ 27. At slukke lyset i rum, som ikke er i brug
 - ☒ 28. At sænke temperaturen, når der ikke er folk i kirken, menigheds-huset og kontoret
 - ☒ 29. At overgå til opvarmning, der

New light – new knowledge

‘you know, even in your body, what the light from a 60 watt bulb is’.



- Materialising morality – We need to *think* differently
- White boxing Black boxed light: Ra, kelvin, lumen, ignition time, beam angle, dimmer, disposal
- From *consumption* of energy to *production* of light



1...2...3...

Failed purchase

Case 1: Failed Purchase: Bring in the specialist



‘any new technology in relation to human praxis, before it can become transparent and thus fully accommodated, must be ‘embodied’ if it is to be “known” at all’ (Ihde, 2010: 125).

The knowledge and competence bias

Blackboxing: “the way scientific and technical work is made invisible by its own success. When a machine runs efficiently, when a matter of fact is settled, one need focus only on its inputs and outputs and not on its internal complexity. Thus, paradoxically, the more science and technology succeed, the more opaque and obscure they become” (Latour 1999:304)

An epistemological project of understanding scientific knowledge production and choices made

James Ferrier - 1854



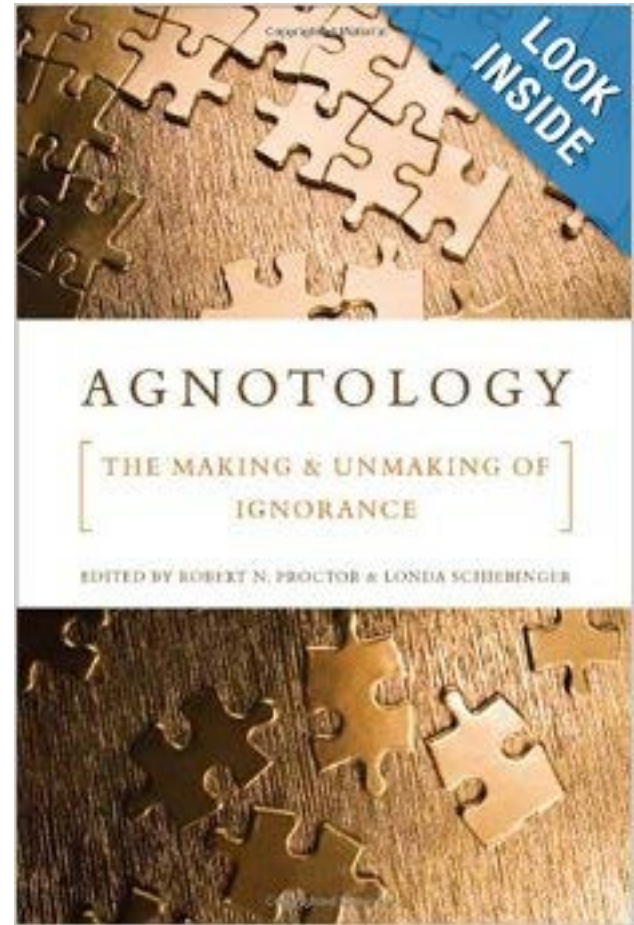
- Epistemology: Theory of knowledge
- Ontology: theory of being
- Agnoiology: theory of ignorance

Roy Dilley (2010) on ignorance

- Ignorance as the absence of knowledge
 - Etymology:
 - ignorance: *ig* + *noscere* meaning to ‘perceive or apprehend’ by the senses, No know-how
 - nescience, *no* + *scio* meaning to understand, knowing by the mind, No know-what

Ignorance beyond the blank slate

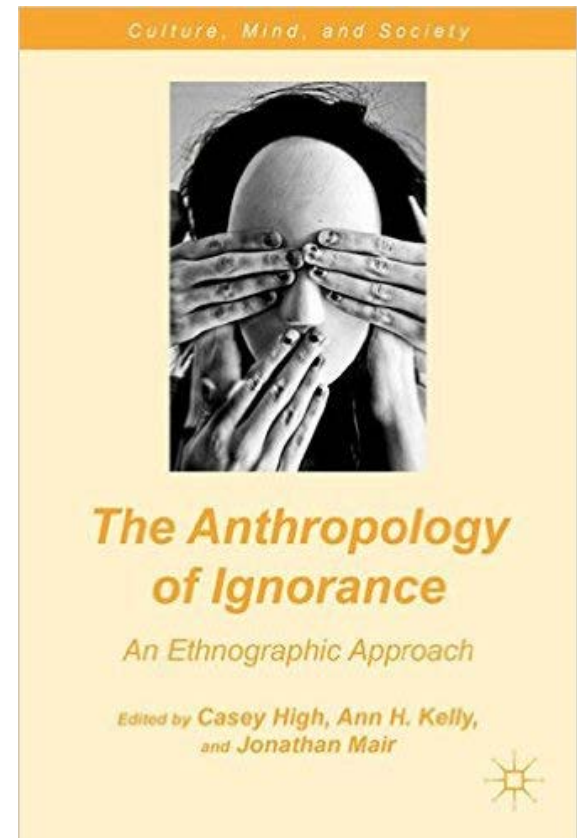
- Looking at processes of casting doubt on, nullify or suppress knowledge
- Ignorance is a product of cultural and political struggles



Proctor R. and Schiebinger L. L. 2008. *Agnotology : the making and unmaking of ignorance*, Stanford, Calif., Stanford University Press.

Ignorance beyond the blank slate

- We should not presume that informants have the same 'desire for knowledge, and the same aversion to ignorance [...] with the result that situations in which ignorance is viewed neutrally—or even positively— have been misunderstood and overlooked' (High et al. 2012: 1).
- Knowledge and ignorance are less cognitive than evaluative terms (Vitebsky 1993:101)





Case 2:

Illuminating Christmas
LED and energy waste



























The technorant: Technologically ignorant



STUPIDITY

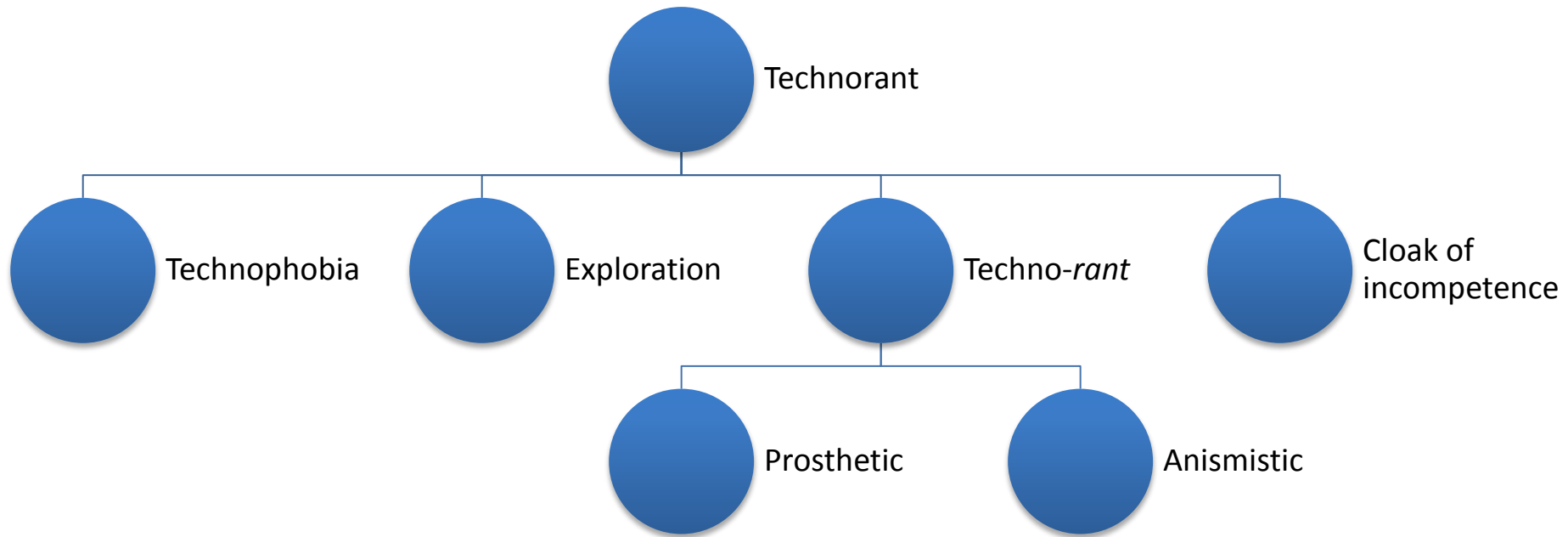
LEVEL 78



TECHNOLOGY

The learning curve is just too steep for some

o/ MotivatedPhotos.com



Technophobia

Exploration



The Techno-*rant*: Prosthetics



The technorant:

- Going on an emotional rant due to lack of knowledge of why the technology is not doing what it should be doing

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The Techno-rant: 'Vehicular animism'



Cloak of Incompetence



Perspectives

- A knowledge gap has been introduced with the new understanding of light, between embodied and disembodied knowledge
 - Lack of standardisation sustains this gap
- Ignorance and incompetence are as much evaluative as a cognitive phenomena.
- Focus on ignorance allows us to grasp how social life and uses of energy is also structured around ways of not knowing.
- Being ignorant is both socially ostracising and a deliberate strategy