Invisible Hands/ Carbon Footprints: Corporate Bodies, Undead Metaphors, and the Anthropocene

Ours is an undead economy, drawing its life from the physical stuff of death. The power enabled by fossil fuels arises from long-sequestered life, and a material residue of its combustion haunts the atmosphere. We imagine this phenomenon through the language of spectral embodiment to account for its distributed effects: modernity’s ghost walks with carbon footprints. Taylor takes up these turns to the language of haunting in order to account for the distribution of agency through human and nonhuman bodies over the vast timescales that industrial modernity entails. These abstractions are grounded through a reading of Bram Stoker’s enduringly popular Dracula as a means of conceptualizing the undead bodies of industrial modernity.

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