"What if everything is always *unruly complexity*?

> From mathematical ecology to Raymond Williams and into open spaces beyond"

Peter Taylor U Mass Boston peter.taylor@umb.edu http://bit.ly/BABEL12 "What if everything is always *unruly complexity*?

From mathematical ecology to Raymond Williams and into open spaces beyond"

Lecture -> Lab





1985

"...'As I said at the beginning,' [he] shouted, 'you'll cut and run.' Jon stood holding the door. The edge of the wood was between his fingers. 'I told you. I have these questions to ask. Open questions.'"

(Other novels on related themes: 1960, 1964, 1979)





What if everything is already *unruly complexity*?

= situations

- 1. consisting of heterogeneous components
- 2. built up over time &

subject to ongoing restructuring

3. embedded in wider dynamics

Raúl García Barrios - Luis García Barrios Elena Álvarez-Buylla

Lagunas deterioro ambiental y tecnológico en el campo semiproletarizado

L COLEGIO DE MÉXICO

population & labor	demographic collapse labor scarcity	population increase I I I I I	outmigration & population decline labor scarcity l
agro-ecology	l labour-saving practices: goats, plowing, wheat	: Sustainable maize production terracing cajete sowing diversity management	subsistence maize & goats; serious erosion
local social & economic institutions "external"	repartimiento <u>moral</u> economy economy i ' ' i ' i ' i ' i ' i ' i ' i ' i ' i	rise of caciques: "private" moral land concentration economy labor discipline / l t t t t t t t t t t t t t	grazing, terrace maintenance, etc. collapse of tradit- ional socioecpnomic institutions / economy- / outmigration -> cash back
situation & interventions	I church Spanish invasion	I I Independence	Revolution cheap urban & land / food policies liberal- reforms / ization industrial development
	1500 1600 17	1800 1	900 2000

What if everything is already *unruly complexity*?

= situations

- 1. lack definite boundaries
- 2. what goes on "outside" continually

restructures what is "inside"

3. diverse processes come together to produce change

Lab (using worksheet)

- Guided Freewriting
- Check-In
- "Dialogue"
- Gather Thoughts
- Closing

Five-Phase "Dialogue Hour" compressed to time available for the Lab

1. **Guided Freewriting** (to bring thoughts to the surface of your attention) Continue from the following incomplete sentence, writing without pausing for 2-3 minutes:

"This scientist's idea of 'disciplining unruly complexity without suppressing it' connects or diverges from my own work in that I...."

2. "Check-in"

Write down one question or proposition about disciplining unruly complexity and share it with a neighbor.

3. **"Dialogue":** One person shares their question or proposition. Next person on the right responds to that question or proposition, which may take the form of another question or proposition, or passes.

.....TEAR THIS OFF & SUBMIT (to be posted on http://bit.ly/BABEL12).....

- 4. Gather thoughts: What you are taking away to chew on.
- 5. **Closing Circle**: One thing from #4 a few samples

What if everything is already *unruly complexity*? ->

"the challenge for researchers

of using their knowledge, themes, and other awareness of complex situations and situatedness

to contribute to a culture of participatory restructuring of the distributed conditions of knowledge-making and social change."

cannot be addressed alone, nor primarily through our accounts of the world