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Pascal Michon Elements of Rhythmology



V. A Rhythmic Constellation The 1980s

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In 1980, Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari published what would become their most famous book : A *Thousand Plateaus : Capitalism and Schizophrenia.* Respectable in size and featuring a colorful array of new concepts, it was at times obscure and confusing, but things start to lighten up when one follows the rhythmic, or better yet, the *rhuthmic* thread and compare it with other contemporary works.

As a matter of fact, in the previous volume of this series, we observed that a remarkable constellation of thinkers interested in rhythm had formed in the 1970s. Through a series of notable essays, Lefebvre, Foucault, Benveniste, Barthes, Serres and Morin had strongly called into question the metric perspective, which had spread widely in Western culture from the nineteenth century, and, at least for the last four of them, had suggested replacing it with entirely new *rhuthmic* worldviews.

The objective of this volume is to analyze the particular contribution of Deleuze and Guattari to this new trend, but also the elements which ultimately hindered its further development.

Pascal Michon is a historian as well as a philosopher. He has taught at various universities and at the Collège International de Philosophie in Paris. He has already published several essays on rhythm : Rythme, pouvoir, mondialisation (2005) ; Les rythmes du politique. Démocratie et capitalisme mondialisé (2007) ; Marcel Mauss retrouvé. Origines de l'anthropologie du rythme (2010) ; Rythmologie baroque. Spinoza, Leibniz, Diderot (2015) ; and the series of Elements of Rhythmology (2018-2021).