

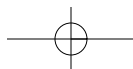


AN INTRODUCTION TO ELEMENTARY BIOTOPOLOGY

Think of elementary biotopology as being as much a meadow of knowing as a field of study and a meadow as broad as the day and a knowing that has plenty of room within it for non-knowing. Greatly extending/expanding/exceeding the narrow focus of a field, this meadow of knowing and non-knowing that is inseparable from its practitioners and concrete enough or palpable enough to be as-if roamed will widen and deepen both quantum physics and its six-decades-old daughter field, molecular biology. Within a meadow no scales of action receive special treatment; the large-scale and the small-scale and the simple and the complex are viewed as originating simultaneously. This subject matter, this meadow, wraps around the organism that persons or around the referent of any member of its ever-available suite of pronouns and nouns and would-be ones and counts as it or one or another of these referents or follows it or one or another of them around. The meadow of biotopology was rushed into existence to address the immediate existential needs of the organism that persons. How does what has life have it? What can life make of life? How can I succeed, when billions of others have failed, in keeping life here viable within/interspersed throughout/as these combined tissues of density where I have (found) it? If not any longer viable within/interspersed throughout/as these tissues of density, in what others, if any? The meadow spreads out everywhere so that one and all may come to have a reversible destiny. Within/across/through the meadow of biotopology, an organism that persons figures out a reversible destiny for herself.

A biotopologist produces ongoingly organized and redistributing gatherings of all that pertains to that organism that persons who happens to be the biotopologist herself, including the slightest of slight urges and what only faintly indicates itself as being operative as an organizing principle; she calls these ongoingly organized and redistributing gatherings of her making “diagrams.” These multi-dimensional interactive diagrams do not stand apart from what they are meant in reduced form to portray. They track what goes on as an organism that persons, not only extending out from and surrounding this their target object, but also passing through it. Layers and layerings from near and far that both eventuate and function as an organism that persons get diagrammed in plain air.

Put together for procedural architects—whose purpose, it must not be forgotten, is to increase life-span—these biotopological diagrams are not only as inclusive as possible but also give each included item its due, presenting the situation under consideration justly in proportionate measure. Nothing—with the





exception, of course, of Reality—should be excluded (How very convincing Bohr is on this subject!) when it is definitiveness that is being sought. Procedural architects employ and depend on, now as schemata, now as directives, these comprehensive diagrams and the set of biotopological descriptions or reports from which they derive. They incorporate them into the architectural procedures they invent and assemble (schemata) and include them in the sets of directions for use that they make available for and deliver together with their finished works of procedural architecture (directives).


All would-be component factors or constitutive elements of human or trans-human thought and action deserve a place in a biotopologist's open-ended working diagram. Some factors/elements fail to get entered straight off into this diagram of everything having to do with an organism that persons in precisely that form in which they need to come to be known. A factor/element that has been provisionally traced back or reduced to another factor/element gets entered into the diagram in that different guise, thus for the time being, until further action is taken, falsifying the picture. Unfortunately, even in this art-science of the inclusive, factors/elements can get short shrift. Even within this new and wide-open approach to diagramming, in this diagramming that ought to be responsive to each moment, much resistance will need to be mounted against the substitution of the qualitative feel of one factor/element for another, the reduction of one factor/element to another. Because biotopological diagramming would show us, our species, nothing less than who we are, and an inaccurate positioning of a factor/element prevents the accomplishing of this, an effort must be made to keep what presents itself as being possibly a new factor/element from getting peremptorily reduced to already known ones.

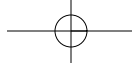
Central to biotopology's diagrammatic method, approximative-rigorous abstractions are the means of putting in place and maintaining, within reports and interactive diagrams alike, appropriate levels of abstraction. An approximative-rigorous abstraction holds open and continually keeps posing the question of what is it that in its name has been and is still being abstracted. It is an abstraction that has a reference realm that stays loosely and widely defined even as it is presented in sharp focus. It is not unusual for people to be trigger-happy with the abstracting process, shooting abstractions randomly out into the world, abstracting the life out of matters under consideration, and these terms prevent that from happening. What is it that this or that abstraction delivers to the biotopologist, and to where is it that this or that abstraction delivers her? Approximative-rigorous abstractions help biotopologists keep track of where they are being led to and for what reason.



Figuring out the appropriate level of abstraction on which to embrace a this or a that/a nearly this or a nearly that involves finding out exactly how the abstracting process, and what gets submitted to it, have come and are coming to intermix. When choosing an approximative-rigorous abstraction for a diagram of her making, a biotopologist does commit herself, it must be admitted, to an ontology, but only to a tentative one; which is to say, inasmuch as biotopological diagrams are based on approximateness, the weakest of all commitments, they tend to embrace and depict for the most part only change on the move.

Found in abundance within biotopology's lexicon, approximative-rigorous abstractions set the tone for all else. They can mark with a considerable amount of accuracy indeterminate things and events. The best way of giving serious consideration to what is indeterminate or not fully ascertainable would seem to be to take it up approximately while rigorously allowing it an exact enough place in the sun or in the chiaroscuro. *Cleaving* and *bioscleave*, the pair of approximative-rigorous abstractions that underlie all biotopological description, rigorously and approximately hold open places, respectively, for the firm attaching of one segment of massenergy to another along with the equally firm separating of such segments from each other and the biosphere in the dynamic throes of omnipresent cleaving. Similarly, *landing site*, the approximative-rigorous abstraction by means of which biotopologists position segments of the world in relation to one another, holds the place for what gets sketched as an approximated something deemed and pointed out to be positioned exactly thus and so even as it exists on many different scales of action at once. What a landing site can be envisioned to be in 2006 reflects the current level of research; at a later date, once constituent factors/constitutive elements have been identified and what underlies the eventuation of a landing site becomes better known, this approximative-rigorous abstraction (landing site), having become more determinate, will present a very different mix of the approximative and the rigorous. For now, and probably for some time to come, the concentration should not be on what constitutes a landing site but rather on its being the case that, by definition, there can be this or that or thit or thas that gets taken up as a landing site.³

 Landing sites give the exact positioning of a something or other whose nature thus far can only be approximated, albeit rigorously. And so, an approximative-rigorous abstraction puts listeners (primarily biotopologists) fittingly in touch with what they need urgently and continually to remember even while presenting a referent that remains unresolved, resiliently and sweepingly more or less indeterminate. Even *architectural body*, biotopology's founding term and central con-



cept, puts forward and then instigates an amassing into existence of a signified that begins and ends only as an approximation. The term *architectural body* floats, by definition, a concept of a something or other that resembles an entity but which occurs as sequences of actions and interactions and loci of activities and agencies. This approximative-rigorous abstraction denotes not an entity in and of itself but a three-hundred-sixty-degree-around extension of a human, or even possibly trans-human, entity, and it swirls or otherwise verbs here, there, and everywhere around this. Selecting what had shown promise of existing but had usually been left by the wayside, and defining for this in each instance of its use an exact if only approximate niche, the term highlights a wide swath of bioscleave, and by doing so increases the likelihood that accurate pictures can be had of what goes on as daily life. A perfectly approximative something or other that cannot even be determined as present and accounted for apart from what its definition specifies for it: architectural body. Take it as the animate plus near-animate group of loci its definition demands for it and accept that out it extends into an architectural surround, enormously expanding the body-proper; do not trouble yourself as to where in relation to a surround it begins or ends or fret over what its full extent might be.

Within the declaring of a thing or an event to be a thit or a thas lies the pronouncement of its status as an example of “the neither and the both.” Now that this locution exists, uses for it will rush to present themselves. Here is one for a start. To herself, the organism that persons is the neither and the both; that is, she is neither organism nor person only and both organism and person in one. The more rigorous and exacting a speaker is, the more likely it is that she will be able to refer to a would-be this or that as a thit or a thas. By doing so, said speaker exposes a bit of who knows what, a basic approximative-rigorous unit. Thit and thas are each capable of holding or being a point of view (a proto-point of view). Biotopologists will play them up big as place-markers in the scramble (of an organism that persons) for which of many possible points of view to choose as the one from which to speak up.

That view chosen as the one with which to venture forth may very well not be the best one with which to continue. What if, in addition to being thought of as an area of knowing that contains within it plenty of unknowing, biotopology were also thought of as an area of self-saving cognizing, one that scrambles for and between points of view? In any event, in the spirit of a renewed and renewing accuracy, biotopologists hold that it is better, when embarking on a project, always to err on the side of juggling too many points of view.

Whereas regular topology looks at similarities between boundary conditions, biotopology does away with the discrete object, and thus with boundary



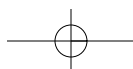


conditions altogether. Although biotopology refuses to accept the traditional view that the epidermis constitutes a boundary with the world, it does recognize that there are crossover zones and differences between organizational levels of the event-fabric on one side of the epidermis (within the body proper) and on the other (the atmospheric component of the architectural body). In someone's taking of herself to be an architectural body, at many different speeds of action at once, all and anything that holds sway in her vicinity, at many different speeds of action at once, leads to and from and counts as her.⁴

Piecing together or gathering up an architectural body from the other way around, that is, from the "point of view" of a tactically posed surround/tutelary abode, the surrounding atmosphere responds to a person's every move at many different speeds of action at once and swoops her up as an integral part of itself at many different speeds of action at once. At many different speeds of action at once, one surrounding atmosphere after another embraces her as one of its own, and there is not a chance that she will ever be able to exist apart from such an embrace. In the heat and cool of actuality, the architectural body "biotopologizes" along. Each and every movement of the organism that persons or of any one of the referents of its ever-available suite of pronouns and nouns and would-be ones starts up an atmospheric trajectory. Some of these trajectories hang around long enough to be able to take up with others. A biotopological interactive diagram of initiatives and atmospheric trajectories collects in place. Ramifications of actions get studied. The gist of biotopological thinking: No less attention should be paid to the atmospheric component of the architectural body (a bioscleavic atmospheric surround) than to the body proper.

The last sentence of the previous paragraph, and to some extent that paragraph as a whole, makes use of an important tenet of the art-science of biotopology, the one that would have its practitioners, its artists-scientists, stay attentive to all that generally does not automatically get focused on, thus elaborately attending to what laypersons and, for that matter, those living only as artists or only as scientists always ignore. Being oblivious to any aspect of what is happening would be unthinkable for a biotopologist; should this happen, it would surely constitute a mistake of the first order and so too would failing to correct an oversight.

Biotopology is the art-science of emphasis, studying closely related but vitally different degrees of emphasis. It looks to how to shift the focus. Not only will, as noted earlier, the atmospheric component of the architectural body be given as much attention as will the body proper, so too will as many as possible of the various scales of action that directly or indirectly contribute to an organism



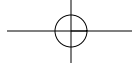


that persons' ability to form an architectural body and to function in all respects.

Those trained in the art-science of biotopology will be living compendiums of the many scales of action to which (it must be seen) they owe their existence. Those seeking to be truly exacting when trying to assess what is going on as bioscience had better not forget its great "penchant" for indeterminacy. They would also do well to remember that who or what seeks information about underlying processes and procedures has a decided influence on what that information winds up being (How very convincing Heisenberg is on this subject!). Biotopologists do not desire to succeed in getting a determinative numerical fix on substances, entities, or events. Not intent on first and foremost dividing and measuring the world of things, biotopologists, who live, it must not be forgotten, as architectural bodies in full bloom, become exquisitely sensitive and utterly attentive to the inescapable, but mostly underplayed, fact of the simultaneity of multiple scales of action. They go to great lengths not to underestimate the number of scales of action undergirding the viability of what is alive. A biotopological rule of thumb: once you have assembled a full complement of scales of action, just for good measure, routinely tack on a few more.

The use in biotopological diagrams and reports of distinct descriptive realms is an important means for keeping vivid the multiple scales of action that are in operation as the world. For example, each member of the team *event fabric/landing-site configuration* presents a descriptive realm that expresses predominantly one particular scale of action, and when one member of the team gets attended to and pronounced it comes to the fore, switching out, but not for long, its teammate's descriptive realm and characteristic scale of action. In contrast with one another and in combination, the two realms aerate and explode both description and explanation, testing their limits. That portion of the universal event-fabric within which an organism that persons is embedded and within which it conducts its life has everything to do with, and suitably functions as an alternate description of, the landing-site configuration of the moment (of an organism that persons). Biotopologists name a team of terms, such as the above twosome, that they see fit to group together, *terminological junction*. Terms that hover in the same semantic vicinity would start up a terminological junction. A moment comes when a terminological junction declares itself. It is important to let a would-be or nascent terminological junction germinate in its own good time; member terms need a period of time during which to find their way to it and then a trial period within which to prove themselves keepers. A pressing need may arise for a twosome to become a threesome, and, at some later date, the explicatory potential of





the junction gets a splendid boost if a fourth term gravitates meaningfully to the junction. It is sometimes advantageous when pointing out a mystery wrapped in an enigma to point with two, three, or four fingers/terms. The terms of a terminological junction have either synonymous import for one another (See the discussion of organizing principle/allowing tendency/axis of possibility on pages 65) or, as in the example now being considered (event-fabric/landing-site configuration), provide good contrastive support for one another.⁵

For biotopologists engaged in composing interactive diagrams, it is of great consequence that both members of the *event-fabric/landing-site configuration* terminological junction refer ultimately to zones of bioscleave and that they can be contrasted one to the other to good effect, and yet, be, with but a single step down in level of abstraction, reduced to—but, note well, at the same time expanded to—the same approximative-rigorous abstraction, which is to say, each can be deemed to consist of cleaving.⁶

Having determined any segment that is in operation due to massenergy, that is, any segment of the event-fabric, to be taking place on many scales of action at once, and also cognizant of the fact that no scale of action exists in isolation, biotopologists arrive then at considering any single segment, such as, for example, an organism that persons, to be, in fact, a group (of scales of action). Segments (groups of scales of action) that operate in relation to one another articulate fields (groups of scales of action) or landing-site configurations (groups of scales of action) or event-fabrics (groups of scales of action) as well as worlds (groups of scales of action). Even when to all appearances a segment in operation due to massenergy has been removed from an area of the event-fabric (torn off from a larger segment or from a field; deleted from a landing-site configuration; subtracted from a world), and thus seems to have disappeared, it may nonetheless be judged to be still going on, but perhaps not as fully as before, in relation to all else that massenergy happens as, and should therefore be recognized to have, at least to some extent, successfully switched groups (of scales of actions).

An organism that persons, her architectural body, and the bioscleavic atmospheric surround of the moment (the architectural body's atmospheric component) are all in some way organized. Even their chaotic segments have characteristic patterns. Each is of bioscleave, and, by definition, everything within and of bioscleave is cleaving. That an event-fabric can and does cleave should be taken as evidence enough of its being organized; the same can be said for each of the following: bioscleave; bioscleavic atmospheric surround; organism that persons; landing site; architectural body. According to definition, but also as far as





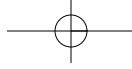
researchers in the early years of the twenty-first century have been able to determine, only the cleaving of organisms is organized to a full enough extent to surface as perception (landing sites/landing-site configurations). A dynamic composite of organizing principles, an organism that persons is an organization that can recognize or express to itself (by means of coordinated landing sites) how it (as organized entity or massenergy cluster) is positioned; its bioscleavic atmospheric surround would seem not to have this capacity. By coordinating landing sites, the organism that persons articulates, or gives various articulations to, that which surrounds her. (What does it mean to coordinate landing sites? It does happen.) Many coordinated landing sites and many further pairings of these coordinations grow a path to the bioscleavic atmospheric surround that soon enough, and then for the life of the organism, holds sway as a(n) omniscape/multiscape/ubiquitous site—the bioscleavic atmospheric surround, the atmospheric component of the architectural body.⁷

All distance, any forming of a volume, has its origin in this holding sway. The articulating that is born of coordinated landing sites is very often only loosely, if that, worked out; but it is nonetheless ongoing, with many such loosely worked out articulations combining or coming into rapport with one another to secure for the architectural body its wide-ranging volume.⁸

The full picture of what can be formed from massenergy must include the treasure trove of organizing principles that make both an architectural body and its primary instigator, an organism that persons, able to sense and gain intelligence of one x or many and to judge approximate value of this or that or thit or thas bit of experience. Biotopologists want to gain a new and different type of access to organizing principles that sculpt abilities into place. So as to be able to gain familiarity in wholly other and untried ways with organizing principles constitutive of abilities evidently, but thus far still mysteriously, in play in daily life, biotopologists need to keep groups of scales of action in appropriate relation to one another. Because organizing principles are in the end, like all else that manifests as the world, working segments or subsegments of bioscleave, they too need to be thought of as, by definition, composed of many scales of action.

Biotopologists look at how bringing one type of organization near another causes changes in both. Observing within their interactive diagrams qualitative differences that lead to change, they move to engage with them perspicuously, long and hard, and long and soft, and seek, whenever possible, to experience them in slow motion. Depending on how an organism that persons, a landing-sited entity that never ceases dispersing landing sites far and wide, gets further organized,





the bioscleavic atmospheric surround becomes reorganized; in intricate response to this reorganization, a new and different landing-site configuration fans out. It is important to note that how the organism that persons can become organized depends on how she has, by means of landing sites, configured the bioscleavic atmospheric surround.

Initially every organism that persons has the potential to supply whatever is needed for an (her) architectural body, but even so, the capacity to produce the atmospheric component of this extended body needs to be earned; that is to say, the elements that fit out the structural dynamics that initiate and equal such a capacity need to be coordinated into place. A group of organizing principles or allowing tendencies or axes of possibility organizes or allows for or makes it possible for an infant to reconfigure herself enough to be able to keep landing sites suitably apart from one another and, by so doing, and by so coordinating, to open up an encompassing volume for herself.⁹

Each organism that persons has, for example, an organizing principle/an allowing tendency/an axis of possibility that translates into and “micro-engineers” the complex capacity that enables a person not only to identify and locate areas or objects but also to cease attending to them soon thereafter so that attention may then be transferred to other areas or objects; to put the foregoing another way, there is that which organizes, allows for, makes possible again and again the localization then the transference upon one designated area after another of feeling or sensing and that gets some sense of what was previously experienced brought forward to what is currently under consideration. Similarly, an organizing principle/an allowing tendency/an axis of possibility (one alone or several together) organizes/allows for/makes it possible for an organism that persons to be able to determine that a situation is ambiguous—the capacity to note an ambiguity; to put the foregoing another way, there is that which sets up and leads to an organism that persons’ finding herself at loose within a presentation of ambiguous zones. To this day, researchers remain unclear as to what to include in the full set of organizing principles or allowing tendencies or axes of possibility of an organism that persons.

Biotopology has the task of determining each and every organizing principle/allowing tendency/axis of possibility of the organism that persons. It studies the respects in which an organizing principle and an allowing tendency and an axis of possibility resemble one another, investigating the ways in which the three terms of this terminological junction are synonymous. Each participating term in this terminological junction enters into it at its own particular level of abstraction; and the

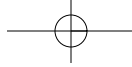


terminological junction thus formed, cumbersome and repetitious though it be, would seem to be able to keep these different levels of abstraction both in close relation to and at suitable distances from one another. Each participating term, each with its own way about it, specifies further into what needs further specification.

How does an organizing principle constrain – through how many steps?— that which it manages to get going and that which absent it could not exist? If the term *organizing principle* always fails to deliver up that which it refers to for open review, why not couch what it as a term would bring forward in still other terms, in broader and possibly more accommodating ones. That specifically guided permission to occur which the term *organizing principle* nearly adequately evokes also gets called forth, but perhaps a bit more spatially or airily, by the term *allowing tendency*, and the referent that each of these two foregoing terms proffers stretches timespatially out as an *axis of possibility*. Operating in different semantic domains, the three terms close in on their referent(s) exceedingly differently. They ought to be able to help one another get on with what they have to do. Each makes each of the other terms a bit more exact in its use and thereby acts, too, on behalf of its own rigorousness, all the while managing to keep the yearned-for and headed-for referent(s) suitably tentative and approximate. Participating terms that do not overstate what they have been employed to highlight will be counted rigorous enough. Together a group of terms that are rigorous enough bring an area of concern into approximative view. Approximative view? Yes. An approximative view blossoms forth when there can be found within some cross-hairs of intention a very delineated and here and there specifically patterned this or that or thit or thas. Here, too, then, within terminological junctions, approximative-rigorous abstraction precisely softens the sharp focus.

Are not the organizing principles/allowing tendencies/axes of possibility that an organism that persons comes equipped with for constituting herself as a person constitutive as well of an (her) architectural body? Our answer to this is yes.

Causative factors should be seen as being thick with indirectness or within the operative clutches of scattered and often not findable actions; it is not that y does not necessarily get formed out of x , but rather that a through z contribute in 10^{th} ways to x and y having something to do with each other. A widely angled and angling possibility of sensing or knowing replaces the narrowly limited linear cause-and-effect approach. The indirect is privileged over the direct; and, in a feat of around-the-corner recognition, the indirect, that which fully and immediately but indirectly subtends an organism that persons and is instrumental in commandeering its actions, offhandedly but surely takes responsibility even for the spo-

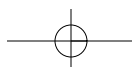


radic, volcano-like, generative core of the event-fabric.

Biotopology provides a member of the human species with an entirely new way to live. What have for centuries stood out as human qualities still do, even as how they come to occur gets diagrammed. An organism that persons enters the diagram of the generating of herself. The human all too human gets reworked by biotopology. A biotopologist attempts to live fully as an entity that is on the whole an unknown quantity. She stays suitably attuned to what feeds into the unknown quantity that is herself, observing how tributaries/trajectories/massenergy conduits of knowing (know-how or know-that) and non-knowing specifically disperse within this her own (well, hardly her own) giant mystery, her architectural body. This unknown quantity continually grows as a result of being constantly thus fed into. Living as a biotopologist means growing as an unknown quantity. "I live here" should be immediately translated into "I grow here." It would likewise be better to speak of someone's growing as an organism that persons rather than of her living as one. Tributaries/trajectories/massenergy conduits of knowing and non-knowing come to land and thus come to light.

Who or what moves there where an organism that persons dedicated to growing interacts with other segments of bioscleave? Know this unknown quantity to be, for herself at least, composed entirely of landing sites largely of her own making. To a far differently organized segment of bioscleave, to an observer/knower not obliged to take up everything as a landing site on one scale or another, she could have a concrete, palpable existence as a moveable, appendaged something or other, but for herself, no matter how concrete and palpable she might judge her body to be, all that she happens as spills out and overflows as tributaries/trajectories/massenergy conduits of knowing and non-knowing that land there where attention alights; that is, for herself, an organism that persons will always be only organized and redistributing gatherings of landing sites. Have these organized and redistributing gatherings of landing sites that surface as this unknown quantity form or be an as-if web, an as-if woven web, as as-if woven breathing web of landing sites. The density of this as-if woven breathing web of landing sites changes in a flash, depending on what the organism that persons from whom it emanates is up to; and that her as-if woven breathing web of landing sites can have countless many different tissues of density has much to do with why an organism that persons finds herself to be so inscrutable. In any event, it is of paramount importance that an organism that persons has the ability to vary the density of her as-if woven breathing web of landing sites.

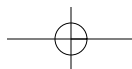
Those densities of the as-if woven breathing web of landing sites that sup-





port the human world, that make its conventions possible and believable, are not at all the same as those a biotopologist “weaves” to diagram situations and occurrences, and biotopologists early on become adept at a type of *double-think/-thinking* (surely also triple-, quadruple-, and so on). Although this junction of terms, *double-think/-thinking*, may serve to set the reader on the path of becoming cognizant of the resolutely split attention of a biotopologist, a better junction of terms for what happens to/for a biotopologist at work on a multidimensional interactive diagram would be *double-occur/-occurring*. A biotopologist can, within the confines of a tactically posed surround/tutelary abode, live simultaneously in the mundane yet remarkable world that gives every indication of continually occurring and in that diagram of the world that can be made to occur as an as-if woven breathing web of landing sites; that is, within tactically posed surrounds/tutelary abodes, tributaries/trajectories/massenergy conduits that eventuate in/as landing sites not only continue switching, which, by definition, they routinely do, into ordinary gleanings of facets of (a) world that taken together produce a/the world, but they can also simultaneously be given a diagrammatic salience of their own. A biotopologist who succeeds in simultaneously producing two decidedly different tissues of density/as-if woven breathing webs of landing sites can use one to penetrate the other, thereby keeping certain landing sites at bay or in abeyance; this done, an in-between weave opens up that lessens or softens the fall/falling/rising/ricocheting of landing sites, making said biotopologist able to move between them (landing sites) even more successfully than do those people who claim to be able to evade many raindrops.

In brief, the new field of biotopology arrives on the scene with terms that show promise of being able to jockey or slip into place, in diagrams and reports, levels of abstraction necessary to its stated purpose. Biotopology’s initial lexicon: allowing tendency; architectural surround; architectural body; as-if woven breathing web of landing sites; axis of possibility; bioscleave; bioscleavic atmospheric surround; cleaving; coordinated cleaving; coordinating skill; dawning factors; event-fabric; farfarground; farground; farmiddleground; farnearground; farnearmiddleground; interactively diagrammatic situation; landing site; landing-site configuration; meadow; middlefarground; middleground; middlemiddleground; middlenearfarground; middlenearground; middlenearmiddleground; multidimensional interactive diagram/diagramming; multiscap; nearfarground; nearfarmiddleground; nearground; nearmiddlefarground, nearmiddleground; nearnearground; omniscap; organizing principle(s); reversible destiny; scale(s) of action; self-diagram; swift consideration(s); tactically posed surround; tissues of density;



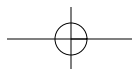


thas; thit; tutelary abode; ubiquitous site.¹⁶ Biotopology's task will be to study and account for the dispersal of all of bioscleave that leads to and results from movements and actions of an organism that persons and her architectural body. Within its province will be the tracking of how architectural bodies of an organism that persons supersede one another. Interactively diagrammatic situations take shape in relation to tactically posed surrounds/tutelary abodes; organisms that person self-diagram by means of these purposeful surrounds. Within tactically posed surrounds/tutelary abodes, persons can learn to keep track of a sufficient and therefore optimal number of scales of action,¹¹ and of the many interactions amongst them; within them as well, they will come to know how to assess levels of organization of massenergy or of cleaving and to contrast to good effect event-fabrics and landing-site configurations.

Biotopologists want to learn how that which cleaves ubiquitously gets articulated as landing sites and to determine the degree to which the size and shape of her architectural body affects the feeling and thinking of an organism that persons. By means of their interactive diagrams, they will point out how cleaving begins to have sentience and how an organism that persons comes to have the capacities she does. They will seek to know which landing-site configurations are most conducive to the continuing on indefinitely of an organism that persons and her architectural body.

AN INTRODUCTION TO ELEMENTARY BIOTOPOLOGY

Think of elementary biotopology as being as much a meadow of knowing as a field of study and a meadow as broad as the day and a knowing that has plenty of room within it for non-knowing. Greatly extending/expanding/exceeding the narrow focus of a field, this meadow of knowing and non-knowing that is inseparable from its practitioners and concrete enough or palpable enough to be as-if roamed will widen and deepen both quantum physics and its six-decades-old daughter field, molecular biology. Within a meadow no scales of action receive special treatment; the large-scale and the small-scale and the simple and the complex are viewed as originating simultaneously. This subject matter, this meadow, wraps around the organism that persons or around the referent of any member of its ever-available suite of pronouns and nouns and would-be ones and counts as it or one or another of these referents or follows it or one or another of them around. A biotopologist produces ongoingly organized and redistributing gatherings of all

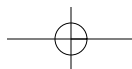


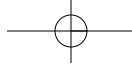


that pertains to that organism that persons who happens to be the biotopologist herself, including the slightest of slight urges and what only faintly indicates itself as being operative as an organizing principle; she calls these ongoingly organized and redistributing gatherings of her making “diagrams.” These multidimensional interactive diagrams do not stand apart from what they are meant in reduced form to portray. They track what goes on as an organism that persons, not only extending out from and surrounding this their target object, but also passing through it. Layers and layerings from near and far that both eventuate and function as an organism that persons get diagrammed in plain air.

Central to biotopology’s diagrammatic method, approximative-rigorous abstractions are the means of putting in place and maintaining, within reports and interactive diagrams alike, appropriate levels of abstraction. An approximative-rigorous abstraction holds open and continually keeps posing the question of what is it that in its name has been and is still being abstracted. It is an abstraction that has a reference realm that stays loosely and widely defined even as it is presented in sharp focus. It is not unusual for people to be trigger-happy with the abstracting process, shooting abstractions randomly out into the world, abstracting the life out of matters under consideration, and these terms prevent that from happening. What is it that this or that abstraction delivers to the biotopologist, and to where is it that this or that abstraction delivers her? Approximative-rigorous abstractions help biotopologists keep track of where they are being led to and for what reason. Figuring out the appropriate level of abstraction on which to embrace a this or a that/a nearly this or a nearly that involves finding out exactly how the abstracting process and what gets submitted to it have come and are coming to intermix. When choosing an approximative-rigorous abstraction for a diagram of her making, a biotopologist does commit herself, it must be admitted, to an ontology, but only to a very tentative one; which is to say, inasmuch as biotopological diagrams are based on approximateness, the weakest of all commitments, they tend to embrace and depict for the most part only change on the move.

All would-be component factors or constitutive elements of human or trans-human thought and action deserve a place in a biotopologist’s open-ended working diagram. Some factors/elements fail to get entered straight off into this diagram of everything having to do with an organism that persons in precisely that form in which they need to come to be known. A factor/element that has been provisionally traced back or reduced to another factor/element gets entered into the diagram in that different guise, thus for the time being, until further action is taken, falsifying the picture. Unfortunately, even in this art-science of the inclusive, fac-





tors/elements can get short shrift. Even within this new and wide-open approach to diagramming, in this diagramming that ought to be responsive to each moment, much resistance will need to be mounted against the substitution of the qualitative feel of one factor/element for another, the reduction of one factor/element to another. Because biotopological diagramming would show us, our species, nothing less than who we are, and an inaccurate positioning of a factor/element prevents the accomplishing of this, an effort must be made to keep what presents itself as being possibly a new factor/element from getting peremptorily reduced to already-known ones.

Procedural architects employ and depend on, now as schemata, now as directives, these comprehensive diagrams and the set of biotopological descriptions or reports from which they derive. They incorporate them into the architectural procedures they invent and assemble (schemata) and include them in the sets of directions for use that they make available for and deliver together with their finished works of procedural architecture (directives).

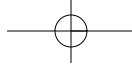
Every biotopologist always stands ready to be corrected, often in a major way. Biotopologists crave criticism and never submit a biotopological report without the fond hope that it will open up a lengthy discussion stream. They are always desirous of collaborating with one another.

“Last night I ate in a restaurant that I often frequent. I ordered the fish of the day, which, to my delight, appeared in front of me within fifteen minutes. I was famished and wanted the food into me as quickly as possible. I dove in and didn’t stop to think until I was halfway through. The fish didn’t taste quite right. I should have stopped eating it as soon as I noticed this. Instead I ploughed along non-stop. I was about to wipe my plate clean, when suddenly I began shivering in fear. The poisonous fish I had just eaten was going to kill me. This hit me incredibly hard. I felt throughout my entire body that I was going to die then and there. I, of course, quickly recognized that this was an experience that needed further looking into and that merited a biotopological report.”

“Yes, you had a very landing-site-sensitive experience. You would not have been rapidly engulfed by fear had you not been suffused with fear-signaling landing sites to the exclusion of all the rest. Your experience merits a biotopological report because the landing sites that constituted it stood out so starkly.”

“It struck me that I had been unbelievably stupid and that it was too late to correct my error. I began my report by making a landing site of each of the thoughts and intimations that arose in me across the chaotic-enough period during





which this experience, which could equally well be spoken of as these experiences, beamed out as an occurrence. If it pops into my mind, it is a landing site:

- 'I must eat something' (landing site)
- 'Eating this could be dangerous' (landing site)
- 'What I am doing could be dangerous to my health' (landing site)
- '*I have done something extremely dangerous* to my health' (landing site)
- 'I have completely ignored my own perception' (landing site)
- 'How could I have completely ignored my own perception?' (landing site)
- 'I have overridden my own judgment' (landing site)
- 'I have been stupid' (landing site)
- 'Life will not let me get away with this' (landing site)''

"These mid-level, shall we say, landing sites, composed, by definition, of many other landing sites, take hold one after the other as part of the as-if woven breathing web of landing sites whose density solidifies or grows rarer depending on how, as has been pointed out before, *a* through *z* contribute in 10^{nth} ways to *x* and *y* having something to do with one another. As you well know, the causative factors of the as-if woven breathing web of landing sites should be seen as being thick with indirectness or within the operative clutches of scattered and often not findable actions."

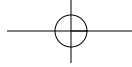
"Highly charged emotional statements/affirmations crowd many closely related similar landing sites in place all at once."

"I guess the density of my as-if woven breathing web of landing sites was changing like crazy. Things were coming at me from every direction, and nobody was there but my hunger, or rather, my ravenous satiating of it."

"But you as an organism that persons who failed at that moment to form a person were, even so, fully there, that is, your/its trillions of would-be landing sites and your/its hundreds of thousands of landing sites were growing on goingly all—each by each—on their own terms."

"One density of my/its as-if woven breathing web of landing sites grabbed another and caught it up short. Every landing site that was salient spoke of fear. Not having any other landing sites available to use but those, I naturally felt myself choked by fear."





“Choked by a gripping fear. Who is to say how many landing sites there are within, for example, a medium-sized landing site? In any event, enough to make a suffocating tissue of density. Experimental psychologists have shown there to be approximately ten or fifteen focal areas of attention in any given instant. As biotopologists, we multiply this by a factor of a thousand. Even so, we are dealing with a limited number of focal areas of attention or landing sites. Throughout the duration of this particular experience, your landing sites divided up in a remarkably clear-cut way. An instinctual drive vied for attention with a call for caution and a mounting fear. Nearly all other landing sites faded into the background. Each person positions herself in the world at any given moment by means of only a limited number of landing sites. Your experience makes this evident, showing us, as it does, how a person can be consumed with fear by means of only a handful of landing sites.”

