
Contents

Acknowledgements	ix
Introduction: Establishment of the Roadmap	xi
Chapter 1. Beyond the Triviality of the Trace	1
1.1. Preamble	1
1.2. Contact traces	3
1.2.1. “Corps-trace” and <i>Locard’s principle</i>	3
1.2.2. Technology-assisted papillary trace reading	4
1.2.3. Animals, readers of the primary traces of humans	5
1.3. Humans, readers of traces bearing witness to the passage of animals.	6
1.4. Technology at the service of deferred interpretation	7
1.4.1. <i>Conséquences-traces</i> of the action by the “operator” and the “spectator”	8
1.4.2. <i>Punctum</i>	8
1.4.3. Emotional interference in interpretation	9
1.4.4. Part of the invisible	10
1.4.5. Authentication of photographic representation.	10
1.4.6. Automatic recording and its evidentiary value	10
1.5. <i>Techne</i> as a trace of the evolution of “ <i>Homme-Trace</i> ”	11
1.6. Trace visibility and invisibility	11
1.6.1. Questioning our current perception of reality	11
1.6.2. Example in the criminal domain.	12
1.7. Digital application	13

1.8. The interaction between <i>milieu</i> , traces from the body and “ <i>corps-trace</i> ”	15
1.8.1. <i>Conséquences-traces</i> without an apparent physicality.	15
1.8.2. Uncontrollable emersive <i>signes-traces</i>	16
1.8.3. Return of the repressed	16
1.8.4. <i>Trauma</i> traces	17
1.9. Conclusion: beyond the natural character of the trace	17
1.10. Bibliography	18
Chapter 2. Gateway to the Digital World	21
2.1. Preamble	21
2.2. Role of attention	22
2.3. Identifying the trace	23
2.4. Specificity of the digital trace.	24
2.5. Digital universe, a space designed by humans	26
2.6. Rules of a digital society	27
2.7. <i>Capta</i> before data	28
2.8. Transforming <i>capta</i> into data	30
2.9. Reading data	30
2.10. Risks associated with uncoupling and interpretation	31
2.11. Conclusion: mute data and interpretative risks	32
2.12. Bibliography	34
Chapter 3. The <i>Lettrure</i> from Yesterday to Today	35
3.1. Preamble	35
3.2. From reading the heavens to the power of the cartographer	35
3.2.1. Ancestral rock writing	36
3.2.2. Power of the cartographer	37
3.3. Key role of the <i>dominants interprétatifs</i>	37
3.4. Algorithms behind the screen.	38
3.5. Humans behind the algorithm	39
3.6. Individuation of meaning	39
3.7. Considering writing as a trace of an absence	40
3.8. Writing at the expense of the <i>lettrure</i>	40
3.9. <i>Traduttore, traditore</i>	42
3.10. Example of a chaining of <i>conséquences-traces</i>	43
3.11. Mechanisms of the ecosystem of electronic traces and digital humanities	44
3.12. Conclusion: role of humans in the cogs of the digital ecosystem	47
3.13. Bibliography	48

Chapter 4. Understanding Traces with Forensic Science	53
4.1. Preamble	53
4.2. Self-learning machines and open-source software	56
4.2.1. Performance of self-learning machines	56
4.2.2. Double face of <i>techne</i>	57
4.3. Trace and forensic science	58
4.4. Role of circumstances in the indexing of meaning	59
4.5. Trace collection and indexing of meaning.	60
4.6. Collected traces and classification inventory	62
4.6.1. Cases of DNA transfer	66
4.6.2. Technical progress to identify traces in the bodies of criminals	67
4.6.3. Being accountable to interpretations	67
4.7. Discretization and bias	68
4.8. <i>Conséquences-traces</i> of the choice of indices.	70
4.9. The embodied semiotics of the investigator	72
4.10. Intrinsic embodied semiotics of each Investigator.	73
4.11. Conclusion: of human beings, technology, and interpretation	75
4.12. Bibliography	78
Chapter 5. A Complex Dynamic Process	81
5.1. Preamble	81
5.2. New milestone	82
5.3. Veiled Real.	84
5.4. Consequences of semiotic choices	89
5.5. Assumptions related to the term <i>signe-trace</i>	93
5.5.1. Muteness of the trace	93
5.5.2. Discretization of the Real by humans	94
5.5.3. A human being considered as a <i>Homme-trace</i>	94
5.6. Difference between each <i>homme-trace</i>	96
5.7. Relationship with digital space	97
5.8. Interactions and relationships at the heart of processes.	98
5.9. Conclusion: <i>signes-traces</i> and abductive reasoning	99
5.10. Bibliography	103
Conclusion: The Ichnos-Anthropos	107
Glossary	131
References	135
Index	147