

Interactive comment on “Vollzug und Sprache Physischer Geographie und die Frage geographischen Takts” by B. Zahnen

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Many thanks again to Matthew Hannah. I agree completely that the new kind of writing geography that I introduce in my paper is a very demanding task for the “guild” of geographers. It is even more demanding than comes to light in Hannah’s response to my response (Hannah 2011, especially C16f.). For the performing [Vollzug] of geography in the form of “*anspruchsvoll*”, multi-layered and transitional textual geographical formations that I envisage won’t be possible by reading and writing *about* the embodied processes of physical geographical research, or better: *about* the ununderstood that might have led and carried other researchers in the field, or, generally speaking, human beings in geographical situations – as if it were possible to reflect on and somehow grasp and represent the ununderstood of a different time and/or place, or

the ununderstood of somebody else (one could say that it is possible to grasp what a person has *not* understood, but not the ununderstood). Rather, the new kind of reading and writing – and performing or fulfilling – geography needs to be led and carried by the ununderstood of one’s own, and *present*, geographical situation (to which, however, its historical materials belong), so that geographicity can present itself in a new way. As I write at the end of chapter 10 (Zahnen 2011, 33), this is possible on the base of re-reading textual materials that bear witness to the Anspruch of the natural formations of the earth by being an expression of *geographical* tact themselves, thus involving a language that is not completely defined and definable. “Dadurch wird uns der Vollzug von Geographie neu ermöglicht.” (Zahnen 2011, 33)

The reason why I point this out once again is that this means that the value of such work is not restricted to today’s so-called *physical* geography. Apart from that fact that this work can bring out, or reveal, a geographical identity (and legitimize the subject), the presentation of new forms of geographicity, or ways of being geographical, can also affect today’s human geography. In this sense, I agree with Ginev’s statement that my paper is “of prime importance for the conceptual convergence between Physical Geography and Social Geography” (Ginev 2011, C1). To further elaborate on this was beyond the scope of my paper.

References:

Ginev, D. (2011): Interactive comment on “Vollzug und Sprache Physischer Geographie und die Frage geographischen Takts” by B. Zahnen, Social Geography Discussions 7, C1-C3.

Hannah, D. (2011): Interactive comment on “Vollzug und Sprache Physischer Geographie und die Frage geographischen Takts” by B. Zahnen, Social Geography Discussions 7, C15-17.

Zahnen, B. (2011): Vollzug und Sprache Physischer Geographie und die Frage geographischen Takts, Social Geography Discussions 7, 1-37.

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