

Animating Archives: Making New Media Matter December 3-5, 2009 Brown University

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"Zeroing In: Infrastructure Ruins, Data Lands and Viral Videos"

Building upon the work of Rey Chow, Paul Virilio and others, this paper explores how satellite and aerial images of Afghanistan and Iraq have been used to reinforce the idea of the world as a target. In it I analyze declassified US satellite images of destroyed communication infrastructure in Afghanistan and Iraq, the rapid transformation of Afghani and Iraqi territories into Google Earth layers that can be exchanged in the global digital economy, and US military aerial assault videos that are used to repeatedly playback attacks on "enemy insurgents" on YouTube and Live Leak.