

Configurin(g) KaiBorg: Interactivity, ideology, and agency in electro-acoustic improvised music

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Abstract

Drawing on our experiences as electro-acoustic improvisers in the duo KaiBorg (<http://kaiborg.com>) and on emerging theory in the social studies of technology and neocybernetics, this paper interrogates the ideologies that underpin notions of interaction and interactivity and it theorizes a notion of agency of a far more complex variety than that of traditional humanism. We suggest configurin(g) as a useful theoretical orientation in which users, technologies, and environments mutually constitute one another via strange loops of perturbation/compensation.

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David Borgo (davidborgo.com) is a saxophonist, ethnomusicologist, and Associate Professor of Music at UCSD in the Integrative Studies Program. He has a B.M. in Jazz Studies from Indiana University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Ethnomusicology from UCLA. David won first prize at the International John Coltrane Festival (1994) and he has released five CDs and one DVD as a leader. His book, *Sync or Swarm: Improvising Music in a Complex Age* (Continuum, 2005), won the Alan Merriam Prize in 2006 from the Society for Ethnomusicology as the most distinguished book published during the previous year. David's scholarly work also appears in *Jazz Perspectives*, *Black Music Research Journal*, *American Music*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Consciousness Studies*, *Parallax*, and *Open Space*.