

« Are you in a room? In an air conditioned amphitheatre? And if so what sort of air pumps and energy sources keep it up? Are you outside? There is no outside: outside is another inside with another climate control, another thermostat, another air conditioning system. Are you in public? Public spaces are spaces too, for goodness sake. They are not different in that respect from private spaces. They are simply organised differently, with different architectures, different entry points, different surveillance systems, different soundscapes. To try to philosophise about what it is to be “thrown into the world” without defining more precisely, more literally (Sloterdijk is first of all a literalist in his use of metaphors) the sort of envelopes into which humans are thrown, would be like trying to kick a cosmonaut into outer space without a spacesuit. Naked humans are as rare as naked cosmonauts. To define humans is to define the envelopes, the life support systems, the *Umwelt* that make it possible for them to breathe. »

Bruno Latour, « A Cautious Prometheus? A Few Steps Toward a Philosophy of Design (with Special Attention to Peter Sloterdijk) ». In Fiona HACKNEY, Jonathan GLYNNE et Viv MINTO (dir.). *Actes de la Conférence internationale annuelle de la Design History Society*, Falmouth, 3 au 6 septembre 2008 ; e-books, Universal Publishers, p. 2-10.

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