

4 *Post-Apocalyptic Formation 1*

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## Post-apocalyptic Formation 1

The post-apocalyptic is old hat by now. It takes on a different form every year and can't stop doing so. And it has done so for a very long time. *Post-apocalyptic Formation* is only one of its many parts. But *PAF(F)* remembers and is intrinsically linked to *Post-apocalyptic Realism* and *Postapocalyptic Self-Reflection*, and other parts *PAF(F)* does not even know of. At any moment *PAF(F)* is a non-identity, a gathering, and an assembly. *PAF(F)* is nothing in and by itself, but genuinely in relation. *PAF(F)* knows that catastrophe has (always) already happened, while it is also happening and about to happen. Without any finality or revelation. *PAF(F)* stands where the Western anthropocentric view of the world has lost its ground. Has since developed ever more cracks. *PAF(F)*'s self is of a globalized world, defined by both individual and societal, ecological and economic break downs, and haunted by the horrors of its own past and present. The envisioned future full of doom, *PAF(F)* assumes, is intrinsically connected to this unbearable past-present and still present past. Yet *PAF(F)* does not surrender itself to end of time scenarios. *PAF(F)* thinks there is too much work to do. In *PAF(F)* the present, while certainly broken and damaged as are its economies and ecologies, communities and individuals, is neither totally fixed nor immutable. Rather this troublesome form is plastic, malleable and thus susceptible to different and constant forms of reshaping. Yet to get to this state the given situation has to be dived into, and its contradictions have to be allowed to take space. In order to find out how to live amid the relics of our future, the traumatized remnants of our past, and the surplus leftover of the present. This is where *PAF(F)*

*PAF(F)*s are, you see, equally part of material, social reality, and fiction. As such in *PAF(F)* memory is reshaped as fiction and fiction as embodied reality. *PAF(F)* dreams of and is matter that transforms, displaces, becomes other. Yet *PAF(F)* is both becoming and ossification. *PAF(F)* traverses and molds human and non human existents alike, the reader of this text say, a mountain, or art things. *PAF(F)* Yet *PAF(F)* resembles the symptoms and workings of a (bad) dream that haunts you. A dream that can be strong and yet fleeting, formless, forming and deforming at the same time. *PAF(F)* proposes a figuration (a subject?) that indifferently explores its own brokenness, its deformation. *PAF(F)* understands this as part of their resistance. Does *PAF(F)* have humor. Definitely so. *PAF(F)* enjoys stale and cheap jokes. Laughs out loud at its own undoing. And *PAF(F)* is a friend of Russian formalism while it indulges in black African, Afro-American Science Fiction and gives a shout out to fundamentally hybrid, bio-technological human and a-human life forms. *PAF(F)* cringes at its own history of modernity and the horrors it brought along, colonialism and fascism, you name them. Yet *PAF(F)* is also part of this history. So better confront it. *PAF(F)* echoes *informe*, that by its name, by its evocation and its operational aspect is doing something. Namely to fulfill the task of bringing things down, not least the academic frock coat of form. *PAF(F)* is not an opposition to form, but an operation that attacks this opposition itself. *PAF(F)* unforms *informe*. *PAF(F)* is—at times painfully—transformed by its own interconnectedness, by the information, data, sensation it gathers, yet it also takes part in a system of classification or violent deformation. *PAF(F)*s formalism is thus based on a degeneration of form, a form that takes shape, has a contour, while being formless and deformed. At the same time.

*Post-apocalyptic Formation* then proposes an understanding of formation as an act, that carries the threat of violence and the potential of emancipation. *Post-apocalyptic Formation* problematizes both form and matter while it unhinges the dichotomy. *Post-apocalyptic Formation* proposes formalizations and formations that visibly drag along their own conflictual constitution, of deformation and *informe* demarcations.