

neuro-emergent citing bar feeled note

by Renyu

In the cavity of the solid art gallery, there were Zoe, in citing bar, videos, as performers, books, nuts and beers. We were nervous. On 16 September, a dozen of people gathered while we were holding two hours “腦影避難所 Compost yo! Neuro-emergent” event in the evening. Despite technical glitches that held a 15 minute delay, we began to hear from Fei: intersectional discriminations, social and environmental injustices are what we try to address with politics of citation. With our embodied stories.

The ways in which we bend spacetime differently to reach each other

In the opening of “Vulnerable Mind: The Neuropolitics of Divided Society” , Liya Yu recalled the experience of teaching at the University of Virginia. Where mass graves of unnamed bodies were discovered adjacent to revered forefathers of the nation, students were anxious about what rising racism meant to their prospective futures. It was back in 2016-2017, before Trump was elected president. Now and then, Liya Yu tried to explain how to offset the project of modernity/colonialism, from the brain setup. She applies neuroscience in scholarly texts and songs, rewriting social contracts otherwise, acknowledging our bias-prone-brains, survival mentality that facilitates infrahumanization, to counter that unwavering anger that penetrates the bones, paralysis the muscles due to discrimination and dehumanization.

Yuying Liao remembers watching the news of Trump winning the U.S. presidential election and the wall of 熊本城 Kumamoto Castles falling down due to earthquakes. She was feeding an elder at a care center during that time when she participated in these historical moments. Around the same time, 19 people were killed at an institution for disabled. She watched the news, while next to her was a loving father feeding a disabled child with full attention. The value of life can't be weighted with

one's abilities-- she wrote while doing a year internship in Japan. Now she is a supervisor to me, as well as, dozens of caregivers to hundreds of elders, at 有本生活坊 Origin Living Workshop in Taichung. Yuying once said to me – that cells remember everything, don't let yourself be unhappy – could be one of the examples of what keeps me going when I almost want to give up. I am pretty happy to be surrounded by her practical wit.

Finite empathy molecules

During the following talks, the two speakers brought up some dumbfounding phenomenon: “the rate of schizophrenia is the highest in SouthEast Asia among the world” . That same morning, we heard on the TV news that a guy in New Taipei City killed his upstairs neighbors just because of noise. Liya experienced similar horror just this week. Someone is targeting young women in her building for harassment. As she received unwanted gifts outside of the door where the family resides. Frustrated, she wrote a metal song and performed a demo.

Neuropathik band members Nate and Han are present to support, as well as, Artist Candice, who applies composting techniques in her work and inspires the title of this workshop.

We discussed empathy burnout. Prioritize how you spend finite empathy molecules that your body produces each day.

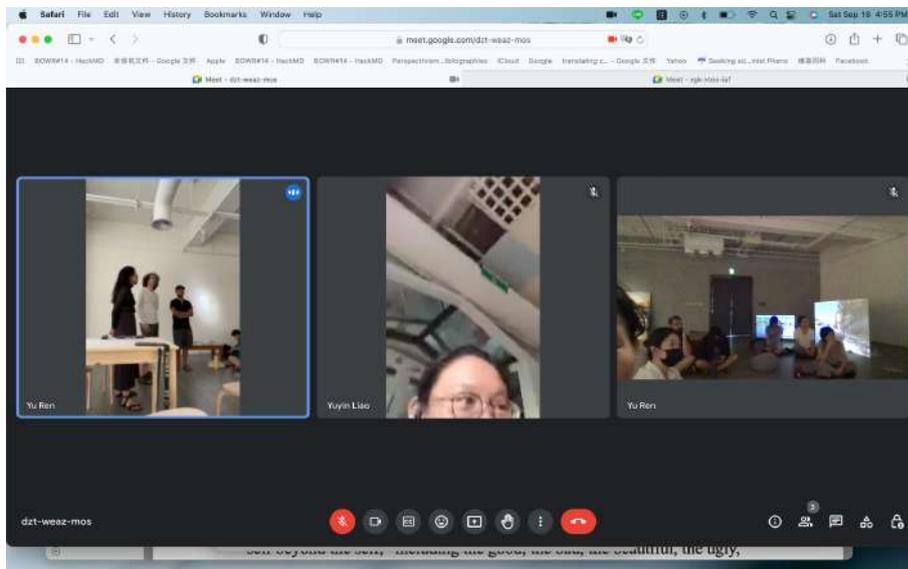
I place my hope in participatory art and community building. But that said, I am sorry that I might have been quite rude to our workshop participants. This time introducing them with the wrong impression and over sharing private stories that probably they don't want me to spill.

In the end, we read aloud together the closing paragraph from the intro of Vulnerable Minds. There is an analogy of how we use trees, its barks and saps, and our minds, can vary drastically from indigenous remedies, baskets, to colonial weapons.

These spacetime mattering in neurons traverse in my mind. When I see the elders that I care for shred their shoulders and cringe their toes, I know these are somatic signs that we may gently remind each other to take a moment to pause, breathe and to spread out more. yeah, I am really perplexed with all these health supplements, medicines and ointments that some of the elders are taking. there are some components that share the same name 氧化鋅 for skin irritation、鎂 for cramp, as in soil component report. Measuring high blood pressure and blood sugar, and trying to control them with pills but not exercise and better holistic understanding of our environmental restrictions and destructions. It seems we are identifying, extracting, and breaking things apart, then trying to separately put them back with no avail. Would it help if we learn from a compost where you can't be certain what will happen. Facing what we desperately want to avoid, fermenting and acting together.



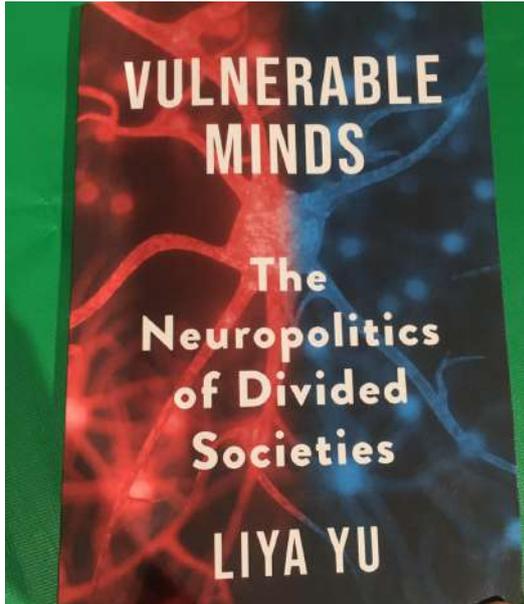
Thank you all for attending! We appreciate Ting Ting Cheng's beer and video works. The generous sharing of our two speakers, along with the presence of members from the Neuropathik band, made this event special. In this photo, you can see our abundant nut, mini-pizza, and yuzu snack area, as well as a small exhibition featuring books on neuroscience, pharmaceuticals, and mind-body related topics.



On that day, Liao Yu-Yin went to Kaohsiung to attend a concert by Liu Ruoying. She chose to dine at the "喜憨兒綠野香蹤園藝餐廳," which was not far from the venue. Surprisingly, there were only her and her friend as guests that day. She recommended that everyone should give it a try. (The concert later concluded with the famous song: "後來·我總算學會了·如何去愛·可惜你早已遠去·消失在人海·後來·終於在眼淚中明白·有些人·一旦錯過就不再~" which translates to "Later on, I finally learned how to love. Unfortunately, you had already gone far away, disappearing into the crowd. Later, I finally understood amidst tears. Some people, once missed, are gone forever.")



RY borrowed a stack of books related to neuroscience from a library near her home. Despite all the preparation, she still felt unsure about leading a discussion on the topic of disabilities at the book club. She expressed gratitude for the support of the two speakers. The World Health Organization estimates that there are currently 50 million dementia cases worldwide, and this number is expected to triple to 150 million by 2025. "《法庭交鋒錄：失智症事件簿》" discusses how to address the rising population of people with dementia, featuring real-life cases from Taiwan. "《精神病大流行》" and "《醫藥幽靈》" are translated books that shed light on the problems arising from the management of psychological issues. "《榮格取向藝術治療》" explores the integration of the mind and nature, and it's a book recommended by Lucia Pietroiusti during the Curating Ecological Worlds workshop, along with "《生態心理學》." "《神奇藥繪 2》" contains fascinating fractal kaleidoscope patterns, believed to emit frequencies that can heal various ailments, including depression, muscle soreness, and improve one's luck. "《告別慢性發炎》" mentions that depression is a signal of bodily inflammation, and it discusses the connections between inflammation and other conditions like diabetes, skin allergies, and cancer. "《悲傷的大腦》" and "《疼痛的隱喻》" delve into the knowledge and messages that pain and sorrow may convey.



Li-Ya introduced her book "Vulnerable Minds: Neuropolitics of Divided Society" (脆弱心靈：分歧社會的神經政治). In the last chapter, she mentions the three steps to establishing consensus in divided classrooms: What kind of political society do we want to live in? What principles and values do we cherish most? How can we use our social brains to achieve that ideal state?



Liao Yu-Yin's recommendations, "《穿別人的鞋》" and "《善良的歧視主義者》," discuss how to avoid falling into the pitfalls of empathy and sympathy. They serve as a reminder not to force others to walk in your shoes or to exploit the experiences of others for personal gain.



From left to right: RY's Green Bananas/Anxiety and Life Comics, Li-Ya Yu's book "《脆弱心靈：分歧社會的神經政治》" (Vulnerable Minds: Neuropolitics of Divided Society), Neuropathik band emblem, a photo taken by Liao Yu-Yin in 2016, and an article on the rights of disabled individuals.