

LOCATING A MORAL ARGUMENT IN TIME AND SPACE

Applied to: Michel de Montaigne, 'Cowardize, the mother of Crueltie', in:
The essays of Montaigne, Book 2, Chapter 27

Maria Panina

Care for the social. Point of view.
Locating an argument in time and space.

Care is an assistance, provided by those who feel themselves rightful to do so: while being non-invasive it goes along with vital processes, discovering ways of communicating them, translating them into a medium that justifies their entity in the volatility of a context.

As for the social sphere, any relation to the social is unimaginable without any care provided, since it is always a confrontation between individual and common. A dialogue between the two is impossible until the fairness of place occupied by a particular individual in the domain of common is advocated and therefore defined. Consequently, the care for the social is built upon definitions and lies in the realm of language.

Here I would like to introduce an argument, made by Andreas Spiegl, who during his lecture 'Institutional Critique and the Political Inscriptions in the Imagined Communities Represented by Institutions' mentioned that if we look closely, using the main markers to distinguish an institution, the language itself will fall under its definition. So if a language is an institution, then communication produces a community.

Following this line of thought I decided to look for a successful example of a caring act for the social, which would illustrate the complexity of problems rooted in the attempts to build up an understanding of the social through language.

Such an example I found in *The Essays* by Michel Eyquem de Montaigne. A work which was posthumously completed in 1595. The original language of writing was French. This fact provided a degree of freedom to determine which English translation to choose. Since I was conducting my research in English, it was highly preferable that the words standing behind the concepts in the original text would coincide with the terms I'm going to operate. Therefore I have chosen the first translation into English made by John Florio from the year of 1603, which was executed in Early Modern English. This choice was based on my strong intention not to eliminate the historical and style indicators of the certain time span and also not to superficially push this literary composition closer to us on the time scale by the means of contemporary writing and editing manner, because that kind of proceeding with my research would undermine the extraordinary noticeable modern relevance of *The Essays*.

Montaigne (28 February 1533 – 13 September 1592) was a philosopher inseparably connected to French Renaissance. He is known for establishing essayistic writing as a literary genre. His literary work *The Essays*, translated ad verbum as ‘Attempts’ or ‘Trials’ is regarded as the basis of the modern essay tradition. Such a title is strongly justified by the format of writings. The edition consists of three volumes, each divided into a number of chapters. All of them might be read separately for the reason of non-linear composition of the literary work: each chapter is a complete essay by itself with the clear and strong subjective position of the author that is due to his thoughtfulness. His wish to be understood literally is presented and mapped with great care. The author is putting himself into context for the sake of frankness, honesty, avoidance of miscommunication. The context is recreated and attentively staged through examples from common knowledge of his times, historical anecdotes from impressively massive time frames, his personal life experience, and careful observations. Inspired by the idea of examining human nature in all its complexity and controversy he takes the position of an observer, without erasing himself and his personality from the picture. He describes his viewpoint in relation to a big variety of topics. Some of them are touching very specific matters and concrete subjects such as essays on smells, names, and the Battle of Dreux. Other essays, however, and they make a majority of his work, have to do with more abstract and relatively ambiguous subjects such as moral and ethical categories like conscience, idleness, lies, glory, vanity, will and many others.

The examples of such a grand act of care for the social by Montaigne gave me a starting point for the endeavor to develop my own version. Being aware of the assisting role of care, I started to look for the ways to introduce new knowledge through the careful and accurate text analysis of *The Essays*. After completing close reading I saw the opportunity for a contribution in identifying the sources and the information concerning historical references used by Montaigne. Apart from other questions, such as the logic of narration, or the means of expression, that philology beholds, in this particular case I was mostly interested in extracting the factual data concerning the age of historical and literature sources as well as the geographical coordinates of the places that they were produced at. For testing a developing method the chapter 27 was chosen, the essay entitled: ‘Cowardize, the mother of Cruelty’.

Time related data which were obtained in the process of research, along with citations from the original sources, were put onto a scroll. The format of a scroll was chosen in order to demonstrate how a time scale, although suggesting continuity by emerging in the medium of a scroll, still remains discrete due to the peculiarity of our perception.

After collecting geographical data, I decided to visualise them for comparative analysis. In order to assist Montaigne’s caring act for the social, I wanted to introduce a new knowledge through the attempt of establishing his point of perspective. In this case this turned out to not be singular, but scattered and distributed throughout time and space. This is why I combined temporal and geographical data to make a visual model of references shaping Montaigne’s point of view and building up the perceptible relations between them. The model exists in three dimensions. One dimension is used for the time scale and two others – for the geographical coordinates.

For me, it is important to indicate, that this particular care-for-the-social-project had to do with language and text analysis, therefore the results produced were deliberately introduced in numerical or graphical form.



LITERATURE:

The essays of Montaigne. Michel de Montaigne. Translated by John Florio (1603). Published by David Nutt, London, 1892.

Lives, Volume V: Agesilaus and Pompey. Pelopidas and Marcellus. Plutarch. Translated by Bernadotte Perrin. Loeb Classical Library 87. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1917.

Plutarch's Morals. Plutarch. Translated from the Greek by several hands. Corrected and revised by William W. Goodwin, PH. D. Boston. Little, Brown, and Company. Cambridge. Press Of John Wilson and son, 1874.

The Natural History. Pliny the Elder. John Bostock, M.D., F.R.S. H.T. Riley, Esq., B.A. London. Taylor and Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, 1855.

Lives of Eminent Philosophers. Diogenes Laertius. Translated by R.D. Hicks. Cambridge. Harvard University Press, 1972 (First published 1925).

The chronicles of Enguerrand de Monstrelet. Enguerrand de Monstrelet. Translation by Johnes Thomas. H. G. Bohn, London, 1853.

Plato. Plato in Twelve Volumes, Vols. 10 & 11 translated by R.G. Bury. Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press; London, William Heinemann Ltd., 1967 & 1968.

Memorable Doings and Sayings. Valerius Maximus. Volume I: Books 1-5. Edited and translated by D. R. Shackleton Bailey. Loeb Classical Library 492. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000.

Laches or courage. Plato. Translated by Benjamin Jowett. New York, C. Scribner's Sons, 1871.

"The Life of Julius Caesar", in: *Lives, Volume VII: Demosthenes and Cicero. Alexander and Caesar.* Plutarch. Translated by Bernadotte Perrin. Loeb Classical Library 99. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1919.

Volume I-IV. Herodotus. Translated by A. D. Godley. Loeb Classical Library 117. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1920-25.

George Castriot, Surnamed Scanderbeg, King of Albania. Clement C. Moore. New York: D. Appleton & Co, Philadelphia: G. S. Appleton, 1850.

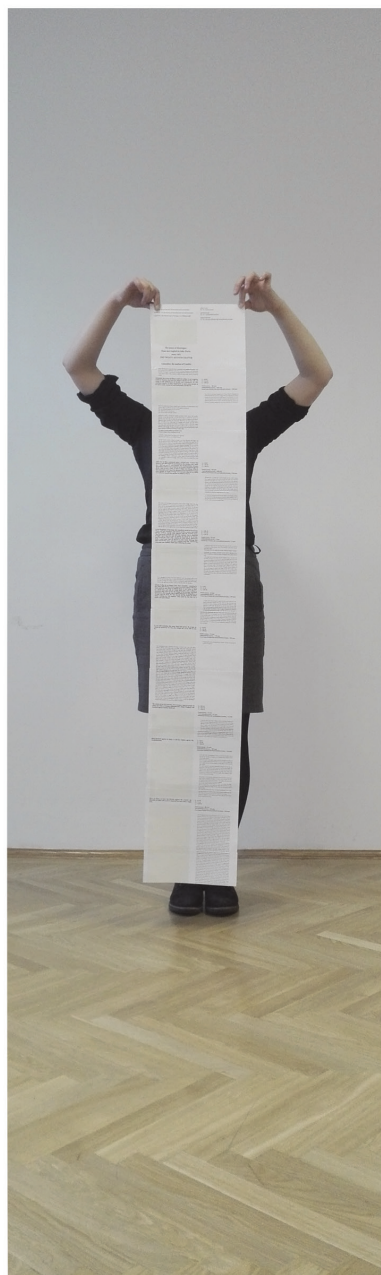
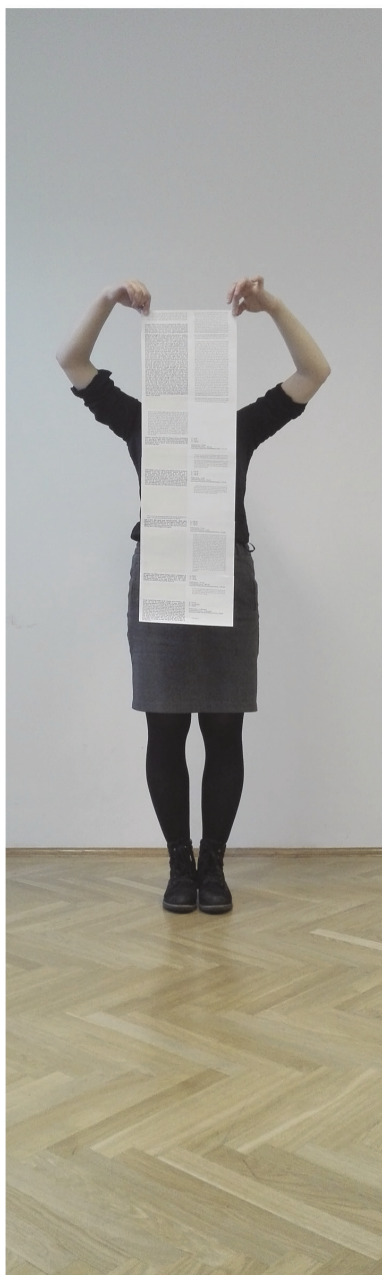
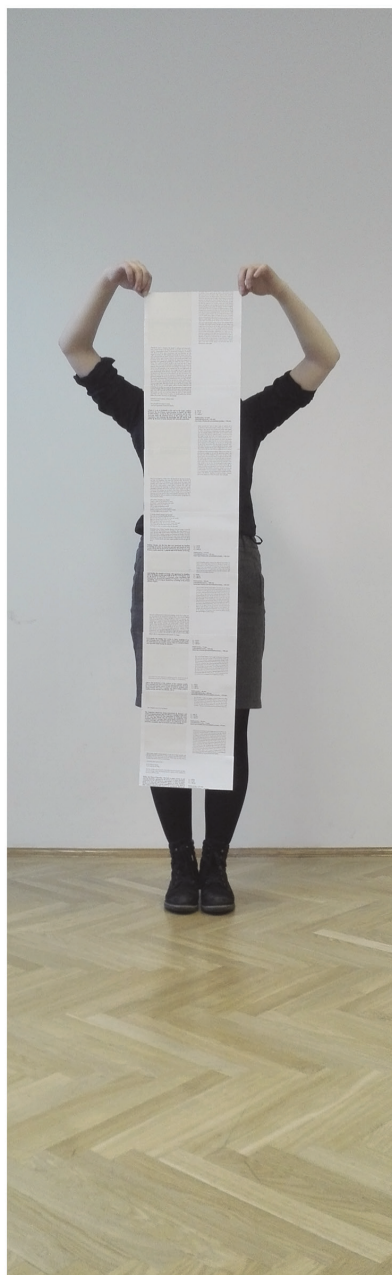
The Histories. Laonicus Chalcocondyles. Translated by Anthony Kaldellis. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2014.

The whole genuine works of Flavius Josephus, the learned and authentic jewish historian, and celebrated warrior. Josephus Flavius. Vol. II. Translated by William Whiston. Printed at Springfield, Mass.: for Thomas and Andrews, Boston, and Isaiah Thomas, Jun., Worcester, 1809.

History of Rome. Livy. Translation by Rev. Canon Roberts. New York: E. P. Dutton and Co., 1912.

The historie of all the Roman emperors beginning with Caius Iulius Cæsar, and successively ending with Rodulph the second now reigning. Wherein (in summe) are contained their liues and acts, together with the rising, greatnes, and declining of the Romane Empire: the original and successe of al the most famous nations of the world: the erecting and alterations of sundrie estates and kingdoms: and generally the most part of all the memorable warres and battailes that haue bin in the world since that time. Pedro Mexia. Translated by W. Traheron. London: for Matthev Lovvnes, 1604.

The History of the Portuguese, during the reign of Emmanuel. Jerónimo Osório. Translation by James Gibbs. London: for A. Millar, 1752.



Photographs by Eleni Boutsika-Palles.

VARIABLES DEFINING THE REFERENCE POINTS
(EACH OF THE VARIABLES HAS TEMPORAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS):

TEMPORAL FACTORS:

variable E_n = the year when the referenced historical Event took place

variable D_n = the year when the referenced historical event was Documented

constant P_n = date when the essays of Montaigne were Published (1580)

GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS:

Each of the temporal factors (E_n , D_n , P_n) have geographical coordinates defining their location through latitude and longitude.

STAGES OF A CULTURAL APPROPRIATION:

FIRST STAGE

$D_n - E_n$ = fixation process

SECOND STAGE

$P_n - D_n$ = contextualisation process

WHOLE PROCESS

$P_n - E_n$ = time span of fixation and contextualisation processes

reference point 1

$E_1 = 369 \text{ BC}$
 $39^\circ 19' 57.55'' \text{N}$
 $22^\circ 44' 20.57'' \text{E}$

$D_1 = 120 \text{ AD}$
 $41^\circ 54' 10.02'' \text{N}$
 $12^\circ 29' 46.92'' \text{E}$

$P_1 = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₁ = 489 years
 Contextualisation process₁ = 1460 years
 General span of fixation and contextualisation processes₁ = 1949 years

reference point 2

$E_2 = 540 \text{ BC}$
 $37^\circ 39' 35.00'' \text{N}$
 $27^\circ 17' 52.00'' \text{E}$

$D_2 = 120 \text{ AD}$
 $41^\circ 54' 10.02'' \text{N}$
 $12^\circ 29' 46.92'' \text{E}$

$P_2 = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₂ = 660 years
 Contextualisation process₂ = 1460 years
 General span of fixation and contextualisation processes₂ = 2120 years

reference point 3

$E_3 = 1505 \text{ AD}$
 $15^\circ 19' 24.54'' \text{N}$
 $76^\circ 27' 57.30'' \text{E}$

$D_3 = 1571 \text{ AD}$
 $37^\circ 11' 3.42'' \text{N}$
 $8^\circ 26' 18.66'' \text{W}$

$P_3 = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₃ = 66 years
Contextualisation process₃ = 9 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation
processes₃ = 75 years

reference point 4

$E_4 = 15 \text{ BC}$
 $41^\circ 54' 10.02'' \text{N}$
 $12^\circ 29' 46.92'' \text{E}$

$D_4 = 79 \text{ AD}$
 $41^\circ 54' 10.02'' \text{N}$
 $12^\circ 29' 46.92'' \text{E}$

$P_4 = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₄ = 94 years
Contextualisation process₄ = 1501 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation
processes₄ = 1595 years

reference point 5

$E_5 = 322 \text{ BC}$
 $37^\circ 59' 1.71'' \text{N}$
 $23^\circ 43' 39.14'' \text{E}$

$D_5 = 250 \text{ AD}$
 $40^\circ 25' 44.40'' \text{N}$
 $29^\circ 43' 10.20'' \text{E}$

$P_5 = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₅ = 572 years
Contextualisation process₅ = 1330 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation
processes₅ = 1902 years

reference point 6

$E_6 = 1402 \text{ AD}$
 $47^\circ 54' 10.67'' \text{N}$
 $1^\circ 54' 33.30'' \text{E}$

$D_6 = 1453 \text{ AD}$
 $50^\circ 9' 18.19'' \text{N}$
 $3^\circ 14' 59.62'' \text{E}$

$P_6 = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₆ = 51 years
Contextualisation process₆ = 127 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation
processes₆ = 178 years

reference point 7

$E_7 = 546 \text{ BC}$
 $37^\circ 23' 60.00'' \text{N}$
 $22^\circ 42' 60.00'' \text{E}$

$D_7 = 425 \text{ BC}$
 $37^\circ 2' 14.13'' \text{N}$
 $27^\circ 25' 20.71'' \text{E}$

$P_7 = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₇ = 121 years
Contextualisation process₇ = 2005 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation
processes₇ = 2126 years

reference point 8

$E_8 = 672 \text{ BC}$
 $41^\circ 49' 49.99'' \text{N}$
 $12^\circ 32' 40.25'' \text{E}$

$D_8 = 17 \text{ AD}$
 $41^\circ 54' 6.40'' \text{N}$
 $12^\circ 29' 47.75'' \text{E}$

$P_8 = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₈ = 689 years
Contextualization process₈ = 1563 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation
processes₈ = 2252 years

reference point 9

$E_9 = 206 \text{ BC}$
 $37^\circ 37' 32.46'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 59' 47.70'' \text{W}$

$D_9 = 17 \text{ AD}$
 $41^\circ 54' 6.40'' \text{N}$
 $12^\circ 29' 47.75'' \text{E}$

$P_9 = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₉ = 223 years
Contextualisation process₉ = 1563 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation
processes₉ = 1786 years

reference point 10

$E_{10} = 105 \text{ BC}$
 $41^\circ 54' 10.02'' \text{N}$
 $12^\circ 29' 46.92'' \text{E}$

$D_{10} = 37 \text{ AD}$
 $41^\circ 54' 10.02'' \text{N}$
 $12^\circ 29' 46.92'' \text{E}$

$P_{10} = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₁₀ = 142 years
Contextualisation process₁₀ = 1543 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation
processes₁₀ = 1685 years

reference point 11

$E_{11} = 48 \text{ BC}$
 $39^\circ 17' 60.00'' \text{N}$
 $22^\circ 22' 60.00'' \text{E}$

$D_{11} = 120 \text{ AD}$
 $41^\circ 54' 10.02'' \text{N}$
 $12^\circ 29' 46.92'' \text{E}$

$P_{11} = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₁₁ = 168 years
Contextualisation process₁₁ = 1460 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation
processes₁₁ = 1628 years

reference point 12

$E_{12} = 418 \text{ BC}$
 $37^\circ 59' 1.73'' \text{N}$
 $23^\circ 43' 39.15'' \text{E}$

$D_{12} = 348 \text{ BC}$
 $37^\circ 59' 1.71'' \text{N}$
 $23^\circ 43' 39.14'' \text{E}$

$P_{12} = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₁₂ = 70 years
Contextualisation process₁₂ = 1928 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation
processes₁₂ = 1998 years

reference point 13

$E_{13} = 850 \text{ BC}$
 $38^\circ 25' 7.00'' \text{N}$
 $27^\circ 8' 21.00'' \text{E}$

$D_{13} = 348 \text{ BC}$
 $37^\circ 59' 1.71'' \text{N}$
 $23^\circ 43' 39.14'' \text{E}$

$P_{13} = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₁₃ = 502 years
Contextualisation process₁₃ = 1928 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation
processes₁₃ = 2430 years

reference point 14

$E_{14} = 602 \text{ AD}$
 $41^\circ 0' 49.00'' \text{N}$
 $28^\circ 57' 18.00'' \text{E}$

$D_{14} = 1547 \text{ AD}$
 $37^\circ 23' 20.73'' \text{N}$
 $5^\circ 59' 4.05'' \text{W}$

$P_{14} = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^\circ 52' 41.42'' \text{N}$
 $0^\circ 1' 47.30'' \text{E}$

Fixation process₁₄ = 945 years
Contextualisation process₁₄ = 33 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation
processes₁₄ = 978 years

reference point 15

$E_{15} = 200 \text{ BC}$
 $40^{\circ}44'52.23''\text{N}$
 $22^{\circ}31'27.18''\text{E}$

$D_{15} = 17 \text{ AD}$
 $41^{\circ}54'10.02''\text{N}$
 $12^{\circ}29'46.92''\text{E}$

$P_{15} = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^{\circ}52'41.42''\text{N}$
 $0^{\circ}1'47.30''\text{E}$

Fixation process₁₅ = 217 years
Contextualisation process₁₅ = 1563 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation processes₁₅ = 1780 years

reference point 16

$E_{16} = 69 \text{ AD}$
 $31^{\circ}34'19.62''\text{N}$
 $35^{\circ}12'3.26''\text{E}$

$D_{16} = 99 \text{ AD}$
 $41^{\circ}54'8.66''\text{N}$
 $12^{\circ}29'50.19''\text{E}$

$P_{16} = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^{\circ}52'41.42''\text{N}$
 $0^{\circ}1'47.30''\text{E}$

Fixation process₁₆ = 30 years
Contextualisation process₁₆ = 1481 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation processes₁₆ = 1511 years

reference point 17

$E_{17} = 1462 \text{ AD}$
 $41^{\circ}0'49.00''\text{N}$
 $28^{\circ}57'18.00''\text{E}$

$D_{17} = 1464 \text{ AD}$
 $37^{\circ}4'7.80''\text{N}$
 $22^{\circ}22'32.91''\text{E}$

$P_{17} = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^{\circ}52'41.42''\text{N}$
 $0^{\circ}1'47.30''\text{E}$

Fixation process₁₇ = 2 years
Contextualisation process₁₇ = 116 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation processes₁₇ = 118 years

reference point 18

$E_{18} = 1465 \text{ AD}$
 $41^{\circ}0'49.00''\text{N}$
 $28^{\circ}57'18.00''\text{E}$

$D_{18} = 1508 \text{ AD}$
 $42^{\circ}3'60.00''\text{N}$
 $19^{\circ}30'0.00''\text{E}$

$P_{18} = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^{\circ}52'41.42''\text{N}$
 $0^{\circ}1'47.30''\text{E}$

Fixation process₁₈ = 43 years
Contextualisation process₁₈ = 72 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation processes₁₈ = 115 years

reference point 19

$E_{19} = 560 \text{ BC}$
 $38^{\circ}29'0.34''\text{N}$
 $28^{\circ}2'24.90''\text{E}$

$D_{19} = 425 \text{ BC}$
 $37^{\circ}2'14.13''\text{N}$
 $27^{\circ}25'20.71''\text{E}$

$P_{19} = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^{\circ}52'41.42''\text{N}$
 $0^{\circ}1'47.30''\text{E}$

Fixation process₁₉ = 135 years
Contextualisation process₁₉ = 2005 years
General span of fixation and contextualisation processes₁₉ = 2140 years

reference point 20

$E_{20} = 1514 \text{ AD}$
 $45^{\circ}45'28.94''\text{N}$
 $21^{\circ}14'3.23''\text{E}$

$D_{20} = \text{no information}$

$P_{20} = 1580 \text{ AD}$
 $44^{\circ}52'41.42''\text{N}$
 $0^{\circ}1'47.30''\text{E}$

Fixation process₂₀ = no information
Contextualisation process₂₀ = no information
General span of fixation and contextualisation processes₂₀ = 66 years

GEO/TEMPORAL MODEL

(USING THE TEMPORAL FACTOR OF THE PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED REFERENCE POINTS)

Z axis TIME (starting point is based upon the earliest temporal variable, being $E_{13} = 850$ BC, belonging to the reference point 13)

(end point - constant P_n = date when the essays of Montaigne were Published (1580))

(USING THE GEOGRAPHICAL FACTOR OF THE PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED REFERENCE POINTS)

X axis - LATITUDE

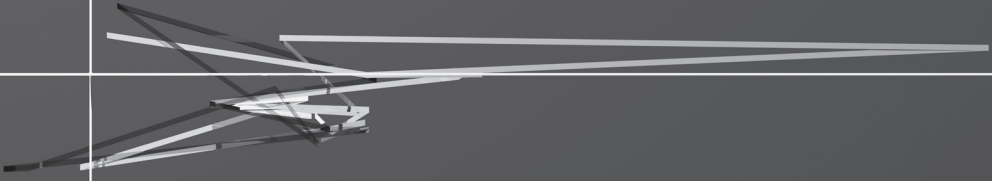
Y axis - LONGITUDE

Central point for XY plane - Chateau de Montaigne
(the location, at which the essays were written)

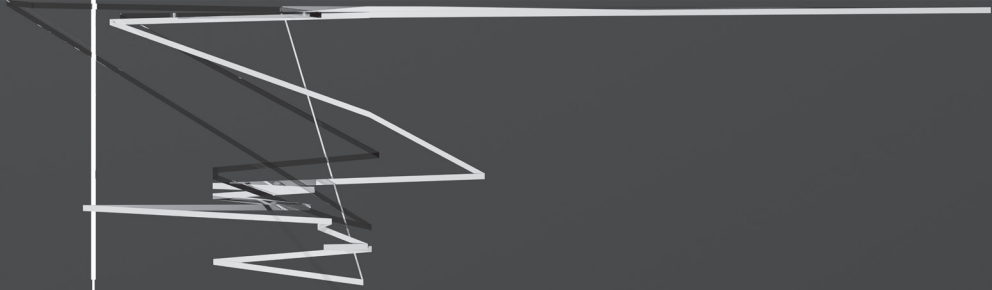
Latitude $44^{\circ}52'41.42''N$

Longitude $0^{\circ}1'47.30''E$

Top view



Side view



Perspective view

