

Week 1 Reflection  
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While I am still trying to understand the term "psychogeography" to its full extent, I found the idea of "*dérive*" quite helpful. Echoing with Debord's view of "playful-constructive behavior and awareness of psychogeographical effects," I often too found the best experiences of cities when exploring aimlessly. I remember when I went to Lisbon with a friend, we were tired of following tourist guides and started to wander around a neighborhood--to enjoy the architecture of Portuguese houses and its mountainous typography. When we made it to the top of the neighborhood, which turned out to be a plaza with views of the mountain, we saw rainbows on one side and heard music coming from this outdoor bar serving Sangria. Without saying anything to each other, we sat down on a table and started to soak in the ambiance. Nothing could be more surprising and pleasant than this aimless wandering and discovery. I could not agree more with Debord on the idea that "*dérive*" would be better when it consists of a small group of people. The experience in Lisbon would not be the same if I was wandering alone. The part where both my friend and I were both pleasantly surprised and both appreciated the value of the adventure was precious. Nothing could be better than having someone to share that sense of joyful amazement.

Furthermore, I am wondering what Debord would make of guided tours of "*dérive*." I know this idea sounds like an oxymoron, however, I am wondering about the possibility of sharing one's emotions and sentiment when *dériving*. I remember that when I was on a school field trip to Chongqing, we had a local guide who showed us the path under a bridge, where we saw sunset from under the city and lights from trains going above us. While I did not experience that sense of sublime synchronously with the local guide, I could understand why he decided to show us this particular space. Moreover, without the guide, I would not be able to discover such a place, let alone *dérive* in it. If there is a tour of the unusual spaces in cities--discovered by other "*dérivers*", would it be possible to share those experiences and affects, through the form of a guided tour?

On a separate note, I am wondering what motives are behind the Letterists' proposal of Paris, especially on devaluing arts and destroying corpses. I am also wondering how would those suggestions help the experience of *dérive*.

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