

## Bringing up the bodies

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Data as distance – cutting out bodies

‘Distant reading (...) is a condition of knowledge which allows you to focus on units that are much smaller or larger than the text. (...) Less is more (...) If we want to understand the system in its entirety we must accept losing something.’ (Moretti, 2013: 48)

‘For him (Goffman) there is no more authentic reality to get to: his method is not one of revelation but one of redescription. The world as he renders it is not ‘fat and living’ but ‘thin and dead’ (Love, 2010: 381)

A turn from interpretation to description might be one way to give up the ghost. But who among us is willing to exchange the fat and the living for the thin and the dead?’ (Love, 2010)

The point then of a vision is to put the bodies back in, counting biomass so that it counts:

- What is the biomass of all experimental research animals in laboratories across the world at any one time?
- What is the biomass of the tissue economy and how would you count it?
- How many people are homeless, displaced and in refugee camps at anyone time?
- How many bodies are in the waiting rooms of necropolitics?