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The Inhuman Work of Difference in Elizabeth Grosz's Philosophy

As is the case with many deeply philosophical problems, like being, freedom, time, etc., the question of sexual difference can be approached from a simplistic, commonsensical point of view that will completely disguise its complexity and dense meaningfulness.

For historical reasons, it has not been conceptualised and theorised with the depth and systematicity that would expose its full philosophical (and social) potential. To this day, there are not many methodical and thoroughly developed theories of sexual difference in philosophy.

What makes Elizabeth Grosz's line of thought stand out among the few attempts that have been made is that she seems reluctant to indulge in bold visions about a different future without at the same time paying close attention to how we actually got to the present. Following a Bergsonian understanding of freedom and virtuality, she is crafting a theory of sexual difference that would neither see the past as a reservoir of sadly unactualized possibilities nor imagine a future that would hinge on an enhanced freedom of choice.

In my presentation, I hope to bring out how the problem of sexual difference as tackled by Elizabeth Grosz is related to many of the concerns dealt with in the emerging posthumanist paradigm.