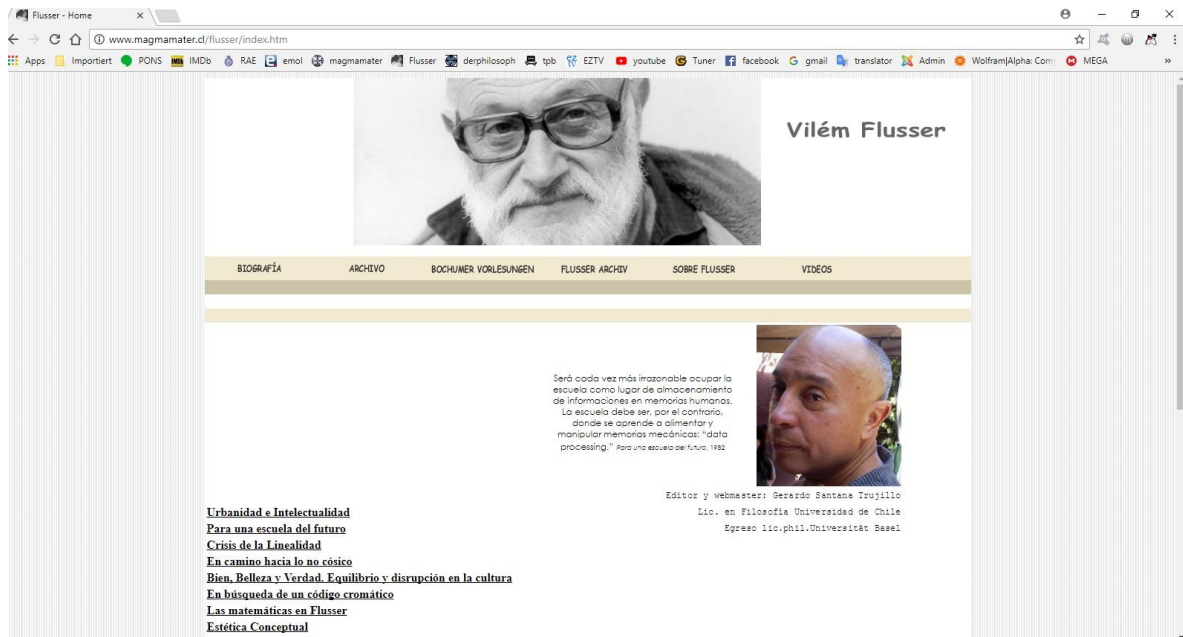


## Gerardo Santana Trujillo

### MagmaMater



In the year 2010, I had the idea of a website as a complement for the lectures on Vilém Flusser in the Universidad Austral de Chile, where Breno Onetto was working. He was busy with the translation of texts related to the culture of media. When he came back from Germany, he gave me 5GB of scanned material from the Flusser Archive in Berlin. We selected 2.7 GB for a website and starting creating pdf documents, easy to read or to print. Until this day, I find details that need amending.

The students did actually use the Website. However, after a copyright problem with the lawyers of the Flusser Archive, I took the site off the net and transformed it into a data bank with its own domain ([www.flusserestudios.cl](http://www.flusserestudios.cl)), with less material and a disclaimer, to settle legal problems.

The collaboration with Brno Onetto ended with the publication of the first Spanish anthology of Vilém Flusser's work in *Flusser Studies* 13, in May 2012 (<http://www.flusserstudies.net/archive/flusser-studies-13-may-2012>). I had published a

text of my own about mathematics in the thought of our philosopher (<http://www.flusserstudies.net/sites/www.flusserstudies.net/files/media/attachments/santana-las-matematicas.pdf>).

The total absence of economic support in Chile – in spite of the fact that there were about two hundred registered users, most of them from German universities – forced me to shut down the site. In order not lose the work done, I reloaded the original website, a less sophisticated version, but at the same time a more generous one and with the corresponding disclaimer and hosted it on my personal site.

From my point of view, the reception of the Flusser's work has not yet taken place in Chile. Not even after Breno Onetto published a book with selected texts, *Vilém Flusser y la cultura de la imagen*, whose impact remains very small. It is sad to read texts from Chilean journalists and some intellectuals that make use of Flusser's terminology of media without quoting the sources or the original concepts.

The Chilean website that I represent has had no reception, not even in the academic world. Nevertheless, some of my editions and translations have had an effect on foreigner readers, for example, *Crisis of the Linearity* and *Urbanity and Intellectuality*, hosted in other websites. All approval and gratitude has come from outside of Chile



In spite of this indifference, I still find inspiration in the work of our philosopher, especially in the texts that warn us about the advent of a new form of thinking and

highlight the mathematical tradition. For me, this is best expressed the metaphor of rain. Traditionally, there is a dialectical opposition between Heraclitus und Parmenides. On the one hand, the conception of a world in constant flow, a river, and on the other the world as an immutable being and unique object of thinking. The opposition that is emerging nowadays is that of the river of Heraclitus and the rain of Democritus. With respect to Flusser, for me everything begins here. I heard the *Bochumer Vorlesungen* (and read them at the same time), and I came across the following quote: “Alles ist ein Regen winziger Tropfen” (Everything is a rain of tiny drops). Flusser attributes it to Democritus, but notwithstanding my investigations, I could not find it anywhere. However, I found all the necessary elements of the quote. The world is generated by chance, by attraction and repulsion of elementary particles. Here, for example, is a key to the understanding of a text like *Crisis of the Linearity*.

With regard to the relation between mathematics and computer science as prominent alternative codes, I have tried in vain to bring to attention Stephen Wolfram’s magnificent book *A new Kind of Science*, which clearly connected to Flusser’ predictions, to the point of advancing a type of computational thinking, which could replace even mathematics as a new language. I am sure that Wolfram does not know anything about Flusser, but this makes it all the more remarkable.

There is still a lot of work to be done, both on the website and in the editing of texts. Surfing in the Internet has taught me that what has no meaning for someone awakens the curiosity of others. Because of this, I have included everything in my site, from postcards to bibliographical searches.

My work has always been *ad honorem* and I do not regret it, but the maintenance and the constant work in the improvement of the material or the translations demand a time that I often do not have.

The idea of a platform for approaching the different projects of the Flusser work could without much effort draw the attention of the university research centers in Chile and finally produce the long-awaited discussion. Likewise, a recognition would be given to each of the Flusserian websites included in the platform. I imagine a logo of Flusser Studies and the research centres considered in this project to unify the search. Undoubtedly, this idea of a single platform will help eliminate the dispersion of the material, and finally determine the size and scope of the intellectual work of Vilém

Flusser.

Flusser (<http://www.magmamater.cl/flusser/> )

The Flusserian Net of Chile

Editor and Webmaster: Gerardo Santana Trujillo

Website: <http://www.magmamater.cl>

Vilcún, La Araucanía, Chile, November 2017