

## ABSTRACT

The thesis considers Félix Guattari's notion of transversality, Fernand Deligny anti-pedagogy, and Brigid Brophy's novel *In Transit* (1969) to argue that the terms of subsumption and stratification have the potential to address the conceptual apparatus of the avant-garde to avoid certain foreclosures concerned with the rhetoric of revolutionary transformation traditionally associated both with vanguardism in a politico-ideological sense and with the avant-garde as an aesthetic and critical project. To unlock the critical potential of the terms of subsumption and stratification in regard to the avant-garde, the theoretical framework of Félix Guattari and Fernand Deligny developed as a result of their clinical experience with psychotic and autistic patients, respectively, is used to foreground how subsumption and stratification are inherent in the notions of transversality, group subjectivity, assemblage of enunciation, signification, schizoanalysis, tracing, and mapping. Using these, the thesis argues that in order to address the theoretical foreclosures associated with the notion of the avant-garde, the latter should be viewed in the light of the complementary operations of subsumption and stratification. To substantiate the argument, the thesis juxtaposes Félix Guattari's notion of transversality, developed between the 1950s and 1960s to Deligny's notions of networks and tracing. These and Brigid Brophy's novel are used to show that the principle of complementary operations of subsumption and stratification precludes the formation of binaries and, instead, opens lines of flight for the avant-garde as an institution even from within institutionalization.