

**TAXI-TOXI-CITY**—ZIP ZAP, ZIP—I take out my cell phone, ZAP—I am zapping information, ZIP—it is in the pocket, ZIP, ZAP... Bodies, objects and spaces are containers, pockets if you would like, that you zip and unzip; ZIP, zap... the *neo-nomad*—digitally geared, mobile body moving in “Supermodern” spaces—pour in and pour out information, emotions and things. Everywhere, where the infrastructure exists, the *neo-nomad* roams in *hotel-like*, *taxi-like* spaces: ZIP—they SHARE their usage with other strangers... ZAP—any visible trace of previous users is carefully erased—but kept in the system—and before neo-nomads invest these *taxi-spaces*. Consider then the *elasticity* of bodies, object and spaces, mobile urban containers, *temporary receptacles of emotions*—elasticITY: taxi-spaces are resilient! Zap :) *Neo-nomads* roam in taxi-spaces, taxed for space, and tagged... Public bodies in public cities... PubliCITY, TOXICITY? Toxic Taxi City? ZAP! Beyond “junkspace”, spamspace? *Neo-nomads*, flesh + machine/electronic influx, have *integrated* the *mechanisms* of swift spatial appropriation, swift spatial *incorporation—embodiment*. Customary renters, they acquire habits and assemble the cultural and informational luggage—ZIP in information—necessary to feel *at home* in a *hotel-like* space. ZIP, ZAP, CUT and PASTE to feel in a HOME-HOTEL, HOME TEL. They ZAP spam, they ZAP carrying things, use “ZIPcar”, and pay per view. They use the taxi-CITY as needed. *Neo-nomads* living in a consumerist society also want to zap the stress related to mental and physical travel in carrying, zipping in, less. In promoting obsessive consumption, societies encourage *neo-nomads*, if not making them feel better about consuming, to respect their territories the way traditional nomads (anyway) do. Hence *neo-nomads* oscillate schizophrenically between *prodigality* and *frugality*. This is one of the many paradoxes of “Supermodernity”. Still, *temporary spatial embodiment* can *emerge* because of spatial practices and because of—ZIP, ZAP—the meeting of neo-nomads habits, circumstances and context... *Emergence*... The *temporary spatial embodiment* (don’t invade my space I am on the (cellular) phone) fosters a sociality based of random encounters, on parking places. Besides, storage places, taxi-spaces, as many transitory containers constitute a *meta-architecture of temporary storage spaces*. ZIP ZAP, ZIP—I take out my cell phone, ZAP—I am zapping information, ZIP—it is in the pocket, ZIP, ZAP... The physical, mental and digital movements between these containers participate in building the trajectories, the bio and the paths, of *neo-nomads* and the making of our TAXI-CITIES!

**Yasmine Abbas** :: March 8, 2006