

**Testing Times: Experimental Policies in an Age of Emergency** – *Alexander Vasudevan*  
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In this paper, I retrace the unseemly affinities between experimental ‘matters of fact’, bio-political modes of rationality and contemporary forms of neoliberal governance. My main aim is to recast recent geographical engagements with the scene of experimentation in light of Avital Ronell’s urgent call for further critical reflection on the singularity of the modern experimental turn. In particular, I wish to draw further attention to the contemporaneous relationship between epistemic and political ordering. To do so, I focus on the production of experimental polities crucial to the re-spatialization of global politics in a ‘New American Century’. What, I ask, does the latest round of ‘military neoliberalism’ have in common with experimental inquiry? And how has the generation of scientific knowledge and experimental practice been mobilised in the service of ‘security’? Ultimately, I am interested in the extent to which ‘experimental’ and ‘political’ communities have come to speak to a set of common historico-geographical circumstances. I therefore seek to remain alert to the ways in which very different epistemological vocabularies overlap and promote new arenas of ‘truth-validation’ and how such arenas of truth-validation have expanded and reorganised the relationship between the scientific and the political.