

# Wix?

## A note on language

Witch/Wizards = Gendered

Wix = Non-gendered

Wixen = Magical Society



The image features two wands crossed in an 'X' shape. The wands are rendered in a light grey, semi-transparent style. The background is white, framed by a colorful border consisting of red, green, yellow, and blue sections. Diagonal lines in gold, black, and brown are scattered across the white area. The title 'Giving Wands Their Due' is centered in a brown, sans-serif font.

# Giving Wands Their Due

Applying Speculative Realism to  
Harry Potter and Beyond

# What is Speculative Realism?

An attempt to get around Kantian “correlationism,” or using anthropocentric epistemology to inform ontology.

Focuses on ontology to sidestep the epistemological gap between phenomena (sense information) and noumena (the actual object).

- Object-oriented ontology (Harman)
- Transcendental Materialism (Shaviro & Bennett)
- Onticology (Bryant)

# What is a Wand?



- OED: “A magic rod; the staff used in enchantments by a fairy or a magician” (11a)

This reduces the wand out of existence (Harman 25). It is no longer a wand, it is a verbal representation of a wand

- Undermining
  - Understands wands ONLY via its composition or causal elements
- Overmining
  - Understands wands ONLY via their relationship to humans
- Duomining
  - Combination of Over- and Undermining

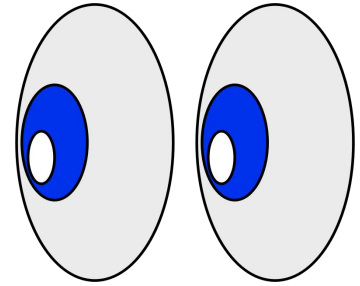
# Conatus

Def: “the trending tendency to exist” which is “present in every *body*” (Bennett 2, emphasis mine); vitality

“any thing whatsoever...will *always* be able to persist in existing with that same force whereby it begins to exist” (Spinoza qt. Bennett 2, emphasis mine).



# How to Know Objects



## OBSERVATION!

**Local Manifestations:** The qualities of an object [which] can undergo variations while still remaining the object that it is.

**Phase Space:** the range of local manifestations of an object.

**Symmetrical Manifestations:** manifestations through which an object can “snap in and out of existence” i.e. casting a spell vs. dormant

**Asymmetrical Manifestations:** manifestations that are irreversible once entered i.e. breaking

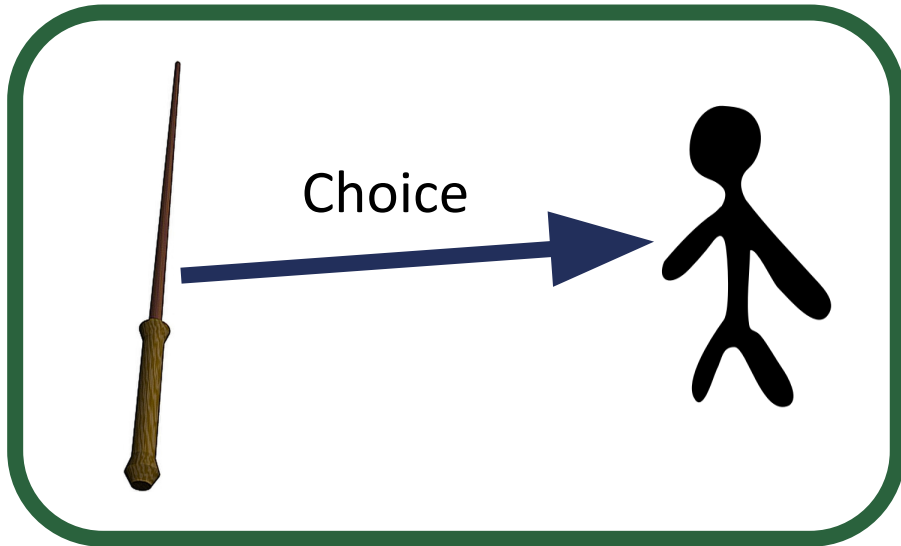
# Turning to Wands



The wand chooses  
the wizard!

# Turning to Wands

Alliance



Enhances the power of both members



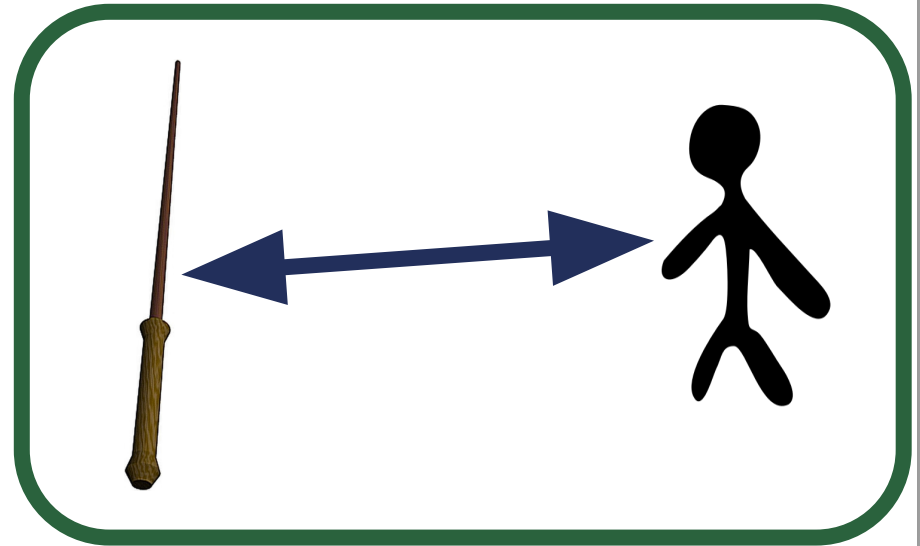


# Turning to Wands

Alliance - collective object

- “Ad hoc grouping of diverse elements”
- “Living, throbbing confederations”
- “Able to function despite...energies that confound them within”
- No “central head”

Alliance



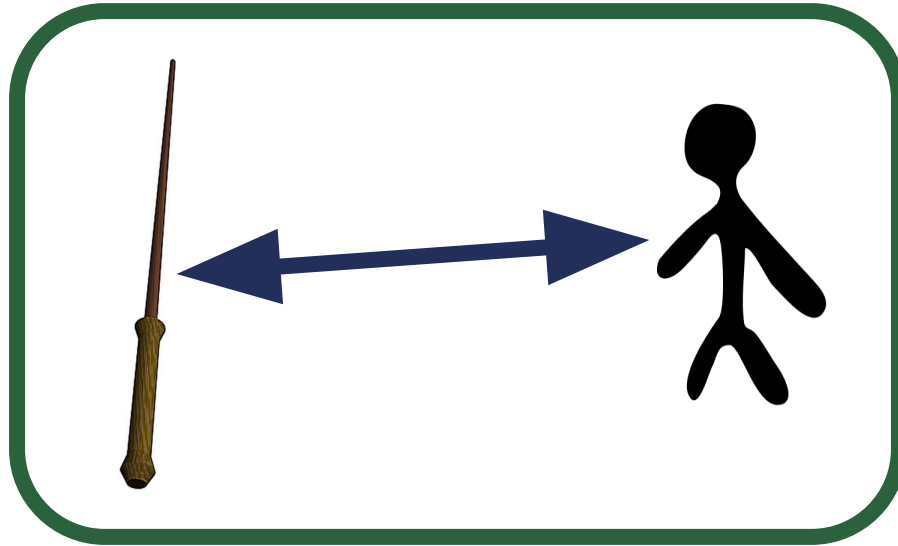
# Shi

- Style, energy, propensity, [and] trajectory inherent to their arrangement
- Vibratory
- The mood or style of a whole within which the members can change individually
- Source of “mutual attraction”



## Alliance

Wood  
Core  
Experiences



Cells  
Psyche  
Memories  
Experiences



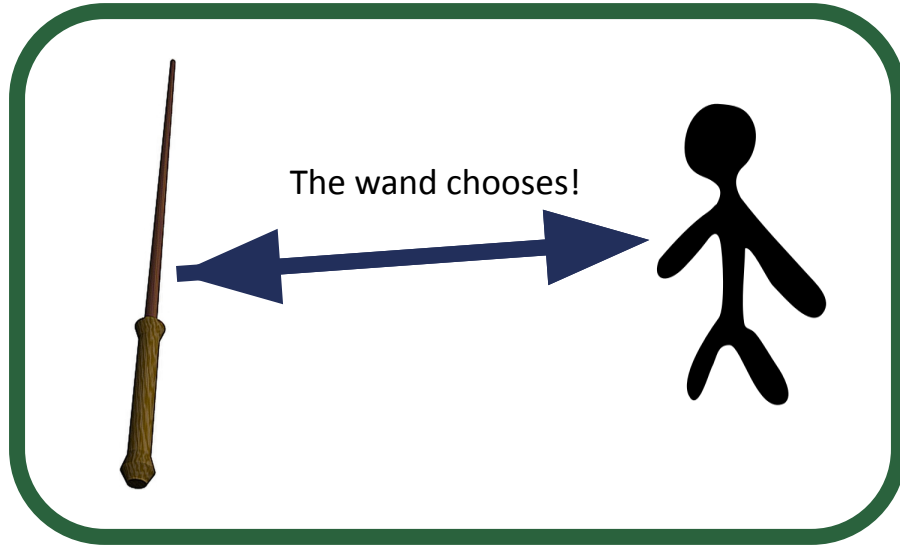
## Central Head?



- Aptitude for certain magics
- Focus
- Ability to change alliances at will

- Personality
- Intellect
- Mobility
- Production
- Protection







# Inherited Wands

- Wands can sense their wielder.
- Wands and Wixes “perturb” each other. These “tickles” elicit responses.
- Perturbations are the result of “exorelations.”
- Responses come from “endorelations”



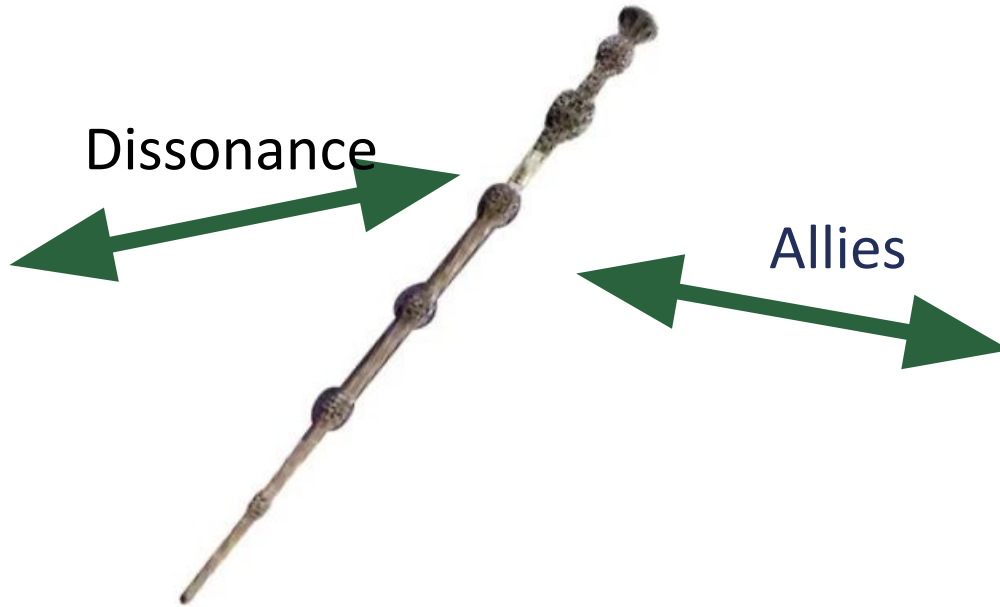


# Inherited Wands

- Wands cannot keep a wix from wielding them.
- They can resist use.
  - Making spells “clumiser and less powerful”
  - “Feeling wrong” in the wielder’s hand
  - Rebounding attacks
- Accumulated effects can be profound.



# The Elder Wand



Dissonance

Allies





# Conclusion

To give objects their due, we must:

- Recognize that ontology is flat
  - Everything exists equally
- Observe
  - Look at what objects are, not what they are made of or what they do
- Recognize that objects affect us as much as we do them.

**WHAT YOU DID WAS MAGICAL**



**THANK YOU**

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