

Emma Cocker reads Ben Spatz's *Making A Laboratory: Dynamic Configurations with Transversal Video* (Punctum Books, 2020)

Emma Cocker's 'readings' of the publication can be encountered here:

<https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/1290573/1290574>

What different kinds of sense-making are produced through experimental practices of reading? Reading as an aesthetic practice, as a poetic-aesthetic practice. How might the notion of 'transversality' and the operation of 'two cuts' outlined within Ben Spatz's publication, *Making A Laboratory*, be explored through the act of reading, indeed, through the very act of reviewing Spatz's book. Transversality from *trans* 'across' and *vertere* 'to turn' or 'to bend'. Akin to traversal 'to pass across, over or through'. How can the act of reading operate as a transversal cut as a practice of lateral reading? Two cuts the opening cut (sets up the conditions, 'what was done'); the closing cut (trace of inscription, 'what happened'). This reading / review / response comprises three 'opening cuts' (separate reading 'scores') for setting up conditions for an experimental encounter with Spatz's publication, alongside three spoken word texts, traces or inscriptions (the 'closing cuts' perhaps) that emerged through practising these scores. Each of the spoken word extractions might offer a different orientation (traversal) through the publication, whilst the scores also have the capacity to be activated by future readers engaging with the book themselves.