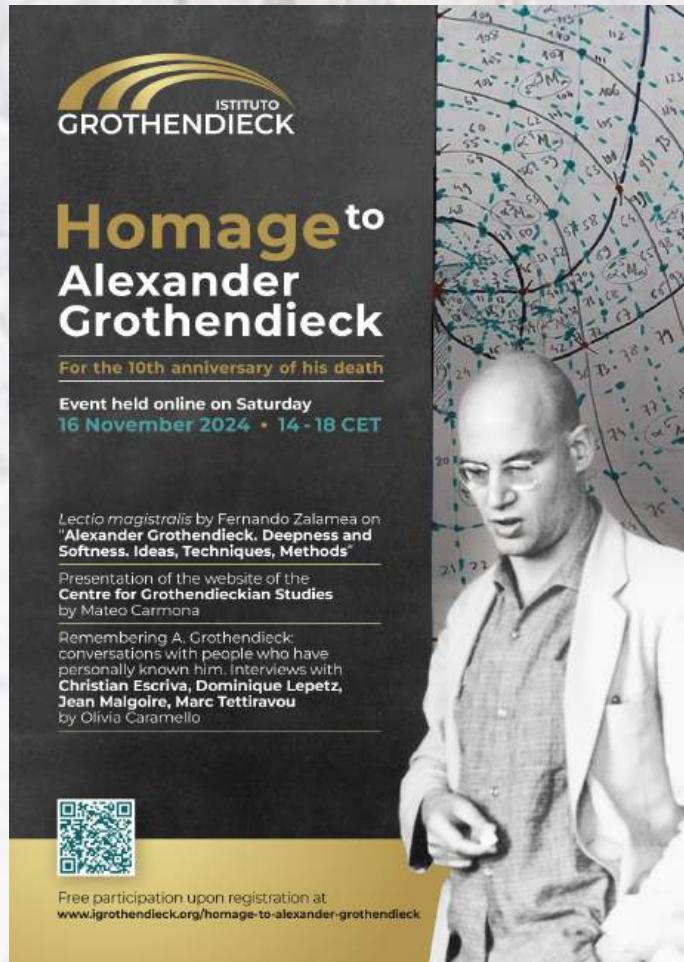


ISTITUTO GROTHENDIECK  
CENTRO DI STUDI GROTHENDIECKIANI

On Occasion of the 10th Anniversary of Grothendieck's Death (13 November 2024)



ALEXANDER GROTHENDIECK.  
DEEPNESS AND SOFTNESS

TECHNIQUES – IDEAS – METHODS

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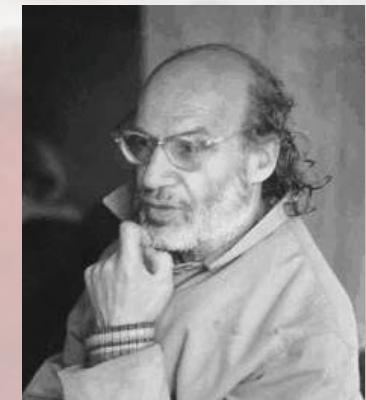
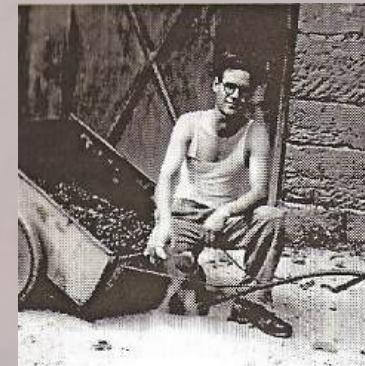
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## 0.1. Life (a)

### back-and-forth between margins and center

- 1928 – Berlin: Birth (March 28)
  - 1933-39 – Hamburg: Infancy, care under Lutheran Father Heydorn
  - 1940-42 – Rieucros: Adolescence, concentration camp
  - 1942-45 – Chambon: High school, care under Lutheran Father Trocmé
  - 1945-48 – Montpellier: Career (mathematics, “incredible capacity, unbalanced by suffering”)
- 
- 1948 – Paris: Initiation to higher mathematics, at Séminaire Cartan
  - 1949-53 – Nancy: Ph. D. (under Dieudonné, Schwartz)
  - 1953-54 – Sao Paulo: Postdoc (topological vector spaces)
  - 1955 – Kansas: Postdoc (homological algebra)
  - 1959-70 – Paris: **THE GREAT CENTER:** Professor at IHES, created specially for him; Fields Medal 1966
- 
- 1970: Retires IHES for political reasons; travels to Vietnam; extensive activism in ecologist groups
  - 1970-83: Partial positions at the Collège de France and Université de Montpellier
  - 1983-87: *Esquisse d'un programme; Récoltes et Semailles, La Clef des Songes*
  - 1980-90: Long manuscripts; rejects the Crafoord Prize
  - 1991: Disappears from the community and retires in small Pyrenean villages
  - 2014: Death in Saint-Girons (November 13)

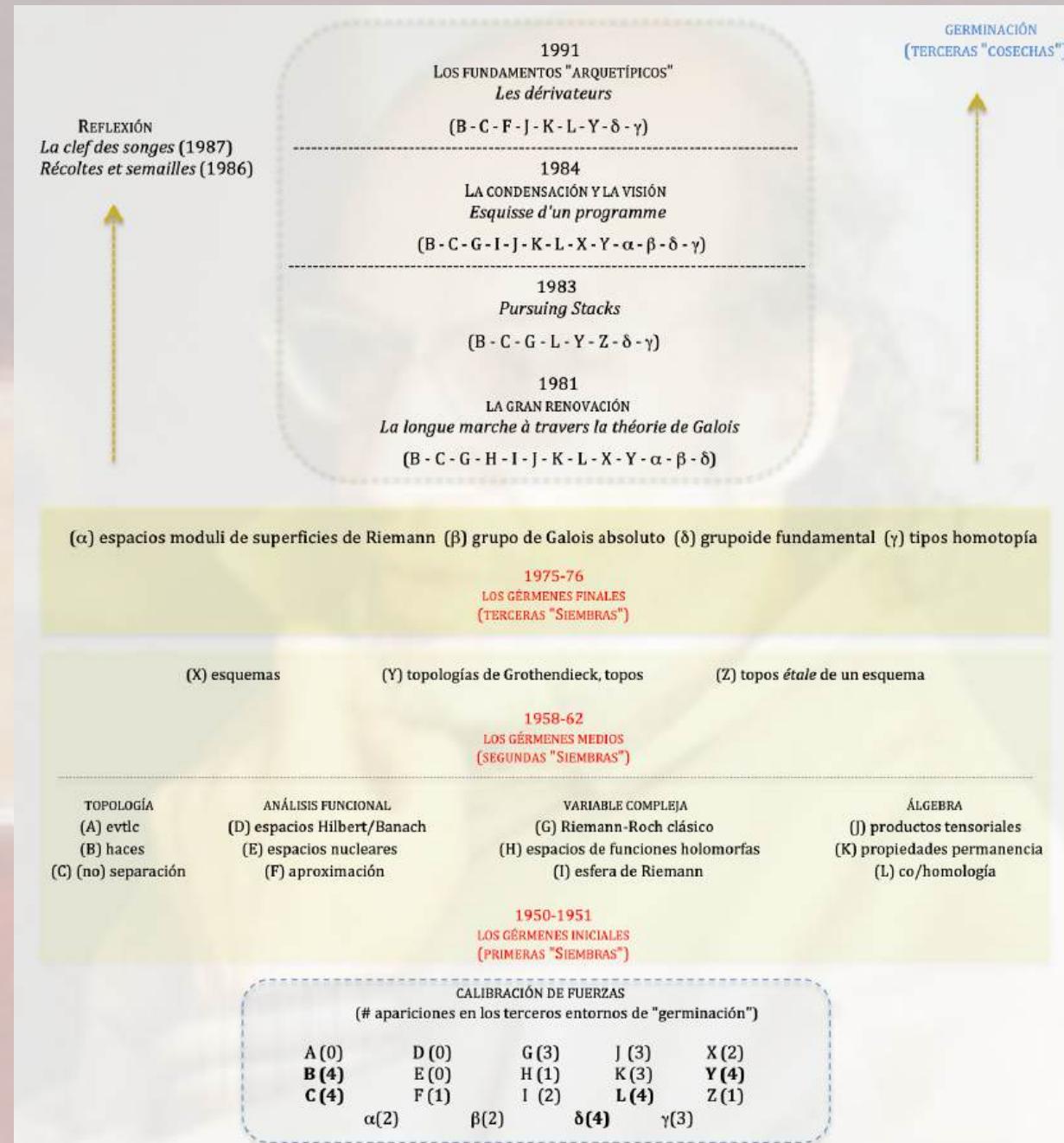
## 0.1. Life (b)



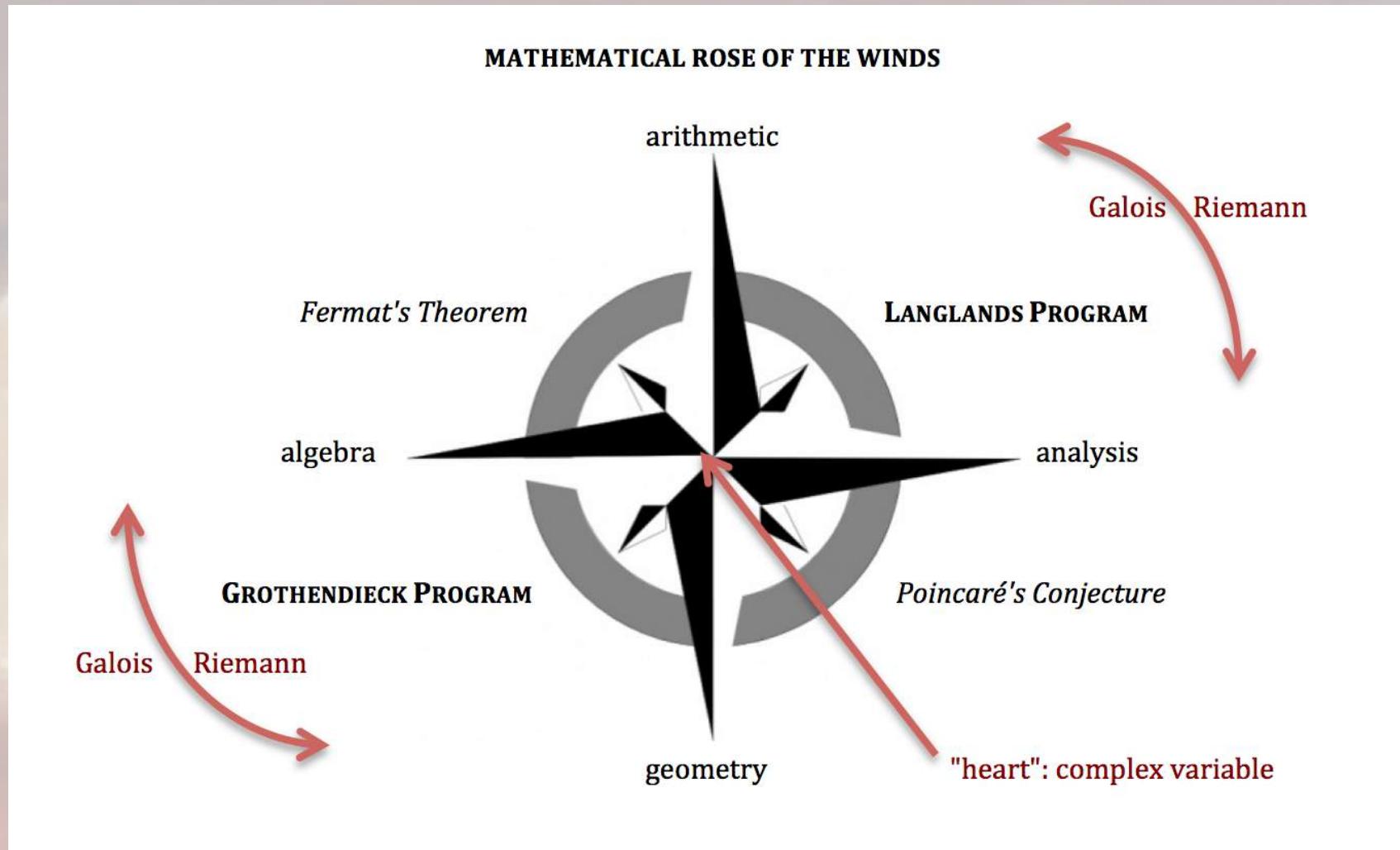
## 0.2. Work (Multiplicity)

- [1953a] Alexander Grothendieck, *Produits tensoriels topologiques et espaces nucléaires*, American Mathematical Society Memoirs 16, 1955 (Ph. D. Thesis, Nancy, 1953).
- [1953b] Alexander Grothendieck, *Topological Vector Spaces*, New York: Gordon and Breach, 1973 (Seminar, São Paulo, 1953).
- [1953c] Alexander Grothendieck, "Résumé de la théorie métrique des produits tensoriels topologiques", *Bol. Soc. Mat. São Paulo* 8 (1956): 1-79 (written in 1953).
- [1957a] Alexander Grothendieck, "Sur quelques points d'algèbre homologique", *Tohoku Math. Journal* 9 (1957): 119-221 (writing begun in 1955).
- [1957b] Alexander Grothendieck, "Classes de faisceaux et théorème de Riemann-Roch" (written in 1957, published in [1960-1969, vol. 6, pp. 20-71]).
- [1958a] Armand Borel & Jean-Pierre Serre, "Le théorème de Riemann-Roch (d'après des résultats inédits de A. Grothendieck)", *Bull. Soc. Math. France* 86 (1958): 97-136.
- [1958b] Alexander Grothendieck, "The cohomology theory of abstract algebraic varieties", in: *Proceedings International Congress of Mathematics Edinburgh 1958*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1960, pp. 103-118.
- [1960] Alexander Grothendieck, "Techniques de construction en géométrie analytique I-X", *Séminaire Henri Cartan*, volume 13, Paris: Secrétariat Mathématique, 1960-61.
- [1960-67] Alexander Grothendieck (with Jean Dieudonné), *Éléments de Géometrie Algébrique*, IV volumes (8 parts), Paris: IHES, 1960-1967.
- [1960-69] Alexander Grothendieck (with diverse authors), *Séminaire de Géométrie Algébrique du Bois-Marie*, VII volumes (12 parts), Berlin: Springer, 1970-1973 (original multicopies, 1960-1969).
- [1965-70] Alexander Grothendieck, *Motifs*, manuscript, 24 pp.
- [1981] Alexander Grothendieck, *La Longue Marche à travers la Théorie de Galois*, manuscript, 1600 pp.
- [1983a] Alexander Grothendieck, *Esquisse d'un programme*, manuscript, 57 pp.
- [1983b] Alexander Grothendieck, *Pursuing stacks*, manuscript, 629 pp.
- [1985-86] Alexander Grothendieck, *Récoltes et Semailles*, manuscript, 1252 pp.
- [1987] Alexander Grothendieck, *La Clef des Songes*, manuscript, 315 pp.
- [1990-] More than 50.000 pages of manuscripts to be sorted out (BNF).

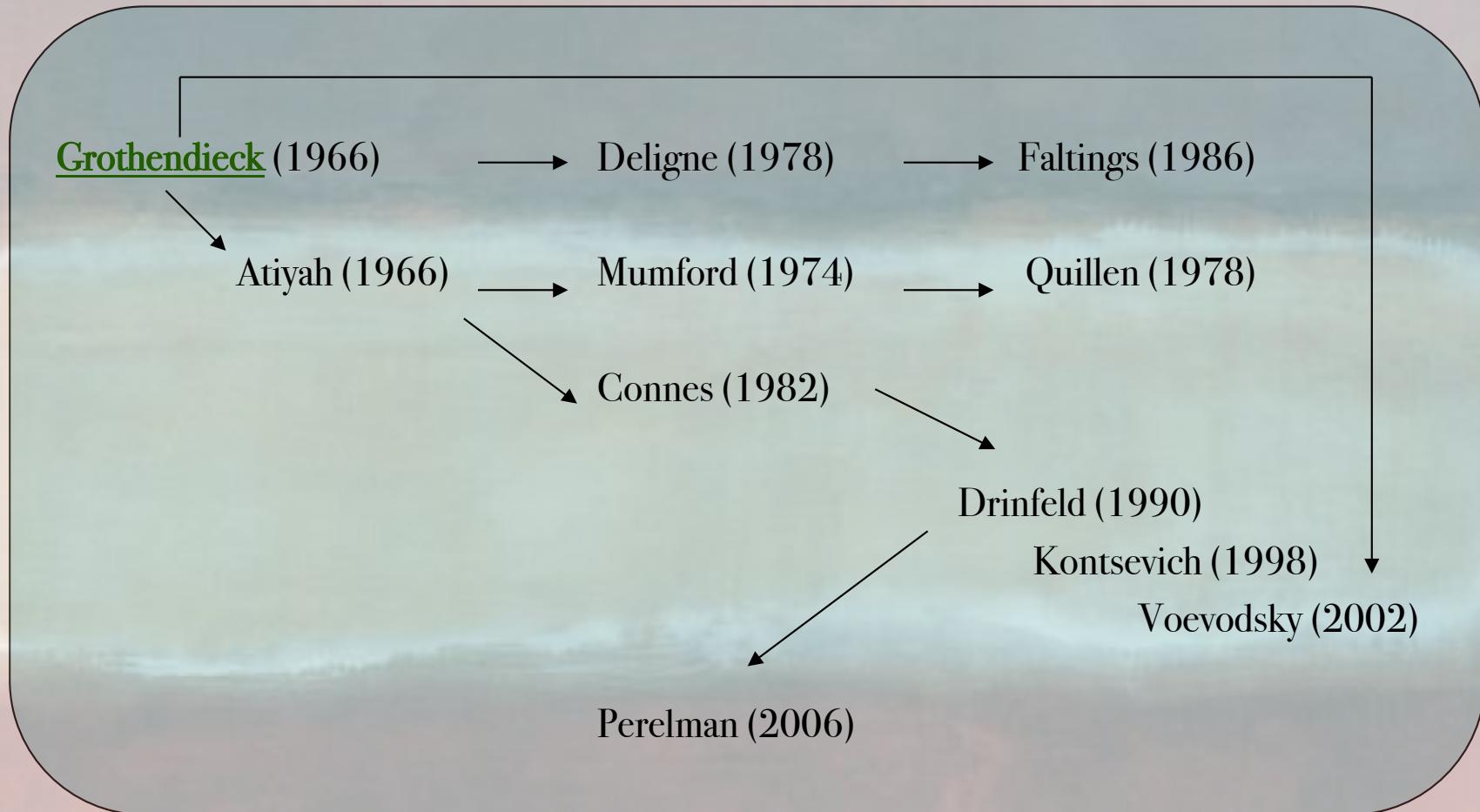
## 0.2. Work (Unity)



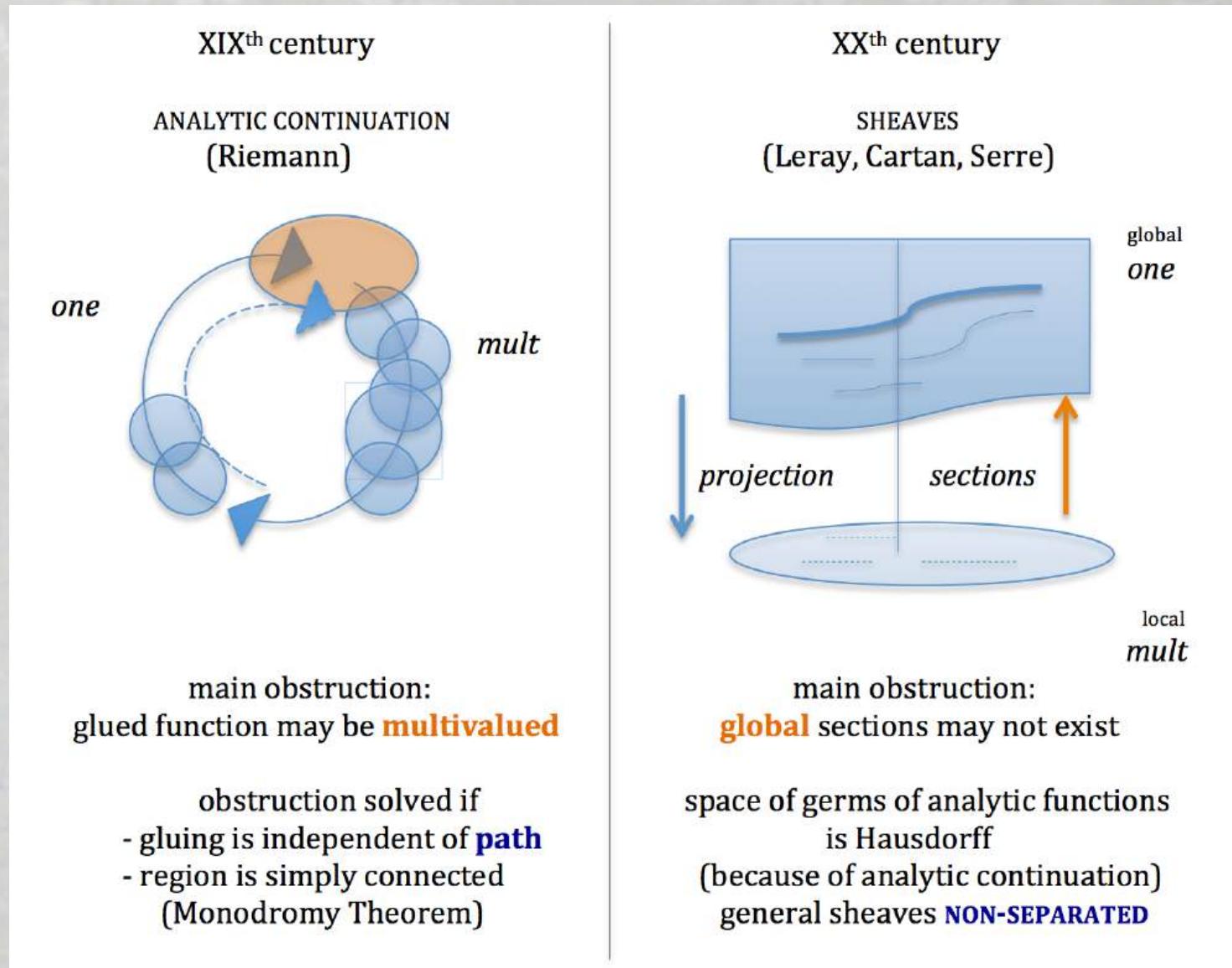
### 0.3. Mathematical influence: the great contemporary programs



## 0.4. Mathematical influence: the Fields panorama



## 1.1. The situation (a): generalization of transits



## 1.2. The *Tôhoku* (1955)

1955-56

Work: Kansas 1955 - París 1956 (see *Grothendieck-Serre Correspondence*, SMF 2001)

1957

[1957] "Sur quelques points d'algèbre homologique"

*Tôhoku Math. J.* 9 (1957): 119-221 (Tannaka, editor).

### (1) back-and-forth between the Many and the One

**NOT:** defining *an* object and exploring an *external* structure on the object

Obj + Str      particular

**YES:** defining the **category** of *all* objects and exploring the *internal* structure of the category

Cat - Str      general

**NOT:** understanding an object "in-itself" (internal object  $X$ )



**YES:** understanding "in-otherness" (external **representable functor**  $h_X$ )

### (2) "common frame"

"formal analogy" between

cohomology with coefficients on a sheaf (RIEMANN's heritage)

series of derived functors from functors of modules (GALOIS' heritage)

natural bridges between

algebraic geometry, topology, complex variable, (co)homology

**basis: sheaf theory**

**abelian categories** (canonical example: categories of abelian sheaves)



### (3) infinitary methods (Cantor's "paradise")

axioms **AB3-AB6**: products and arbitrary inductive limits

**generator:** internal *integration* (in *one* object) of external *differentiation* (in *all* the category)

**AB5 + generator:** existence of enough injectives

**abelianess+ injectivity:** construction of derived and cohomological functors

## 1.3. The *Riemann-Roch Report* (1957)

1957	[1957] "Classes de faisceaux et théorème de Riemann-Roch" (Rapport Riemann-Roch, RRR) (November 1 1957), reprinted in : SGA6, pp. 20-77.
1958	[1958] Armand Borel & Jean-Pierre Serre, "Le théorème de Riemann-Roch (d'après des résultats inédits de A. Grothendieck)", <i>Bulletin de la Société Mathématique de France</i> 86 (1958): 97-136.

### CLASSICAL RIEMANN-ROCH

*Theory of abelian functions* [Riemann 1857, Section V]

#### HARMONIC CONJUGATION

- of POSITIVE (transits) and NEGATIVE (obstructions)
- of SPACE (geometry) and NUMBER (algebra)

the study of ONE function is determined by the study of a MULTIPLICITY of functions  
over the *Riemann Surface* of the original function

analytic function  $f$

→ **Riemann surface**  $S$  associated

→ system of points  $P_i$  on  $S$  affected with multiplicities  $m_i$ ,  $m = \sum m_i$

→ **vector space**  $H$  of holomorphic functions with  $m$  assigned zeros on  $S$

→ vector space  $M$  of meromorphic functions with  $m$  assigned poles on  $S$

$$m - \text{genus}(f) + 1 = \dim(M) - \dim(H)$$

geometric invariant                          algebraic harmonics

### RIEMANN-ROCH-SERRE

**sheaf**  $\Theta$  of (germs of) meromorphic functions with assigned poles

→ cohomology groups  $H^0(\Theta), H^1(\Theta)$  (finite-dimensional complex vector spaces)

**sheaf**  $\Omega$  of (germs of) meromorphic functions with assigned zeros

→ Serre's **duality theorem**:  $H^1(\Theta) \simeq (H^0(\Omega))^*$

$$m - \text{genus}(f) + 1 = \dim(H^0(\Theta)) - \dim(H^1(\Theta))$$

$$= \dim(H^0(\Theta)) - \dim(H^0(\Omega))$$

geometric invariant

cohomological equilibrium

### RIEMANN-ROCH-HIRZEBRUCH

in a fixed variety  $X$  with "good" properties,  
weaving between Chern classes ("additive" exponential invariants in  $H^*(X)$ ),  
Todd classes ("multiplicative" polynomial invariants in  $H^*(X)$ )  
and alternated sums of cohomological dimensions

### RIEMANN-ROCH-GROTHENDIECK

- **linearization**: emergence of **K-theory**, with group  $K(X)$ , ring  $A(X)$
- **naturalization**: Chern and Todd classes as transformations between  $K$  y  $H^*$
- **relativization**: Serre-Hirzebruch in the case of a morphism  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  (base variation)

## 1.4. The diagrammatic imagination (a): types and archetypes



*universal constructions and new notions of equivalence*

<b>NOT:</b> $(\exists)$ $\approx$	<b>YES:</b> $(\exists!)$ $\sim$	
"metaphysical" inversion: methodological inversion:	(types) (statics)	(archetypes) (dynamics)

the archetype (= *arkhē*; *ark-* Greek root; *arkēō* = move away; *akhō* = found; *arkhēn* = project)  
emerges through the *transformations* of types and the associated *invariants* of transformations  
("Serre's C-language", quotient categories, and Grothendieck's **variation over the base**)

RRG: obstruction to commutativity

$$f_*(ch_Y(x) \otimes (Y)) = ch_X(f_*(x)) \otimes (X)$$

multiplication  
naturalization  
smoothness

*non-commutative adjustement*  
**(archetype)**

space **TYPES** (geometric genus)  
number **TYPES** (algebraic dimension)

## 2.1. The situation (b): generalization of number

DISCR   = = = = = = =	CONT	:	Towards a resolution of Weil conjectures
modern mathematics (1830-1950)		:	algebraic varieties   = = = = = = = topologies
contemporary mathematics (1950 – )		:	schemes   = = = = = = = topos

Riemann	Galois - Dedekind	Grothendieck
curve $X$ ~~~~~	variety $V$ $k$	comm. unit. ring $A$
$M(X)$ ring meromorphic	$Spec(V)$ maximal ideals	$Spec(A)$ prime ideals – Zariski top. sheaves over $Spec(A)$
<i>number (dimension)</i>	<i>number (extension)</i>	<i>number (ramification)</i>

## 2.1. The situation (c): generalization of space

SPACE SHOULD NOT BE RIGID  
SETS SHOULD NOT BE STATIC

VARIABLE SETS = PRE-SHEAVES

+ TOPOLOGY

→ SHEAVES



CATEGORIES OF (ARBITRARY) SHEAVES = (GROTHENDIECK) TOPOS

STATIC POINTS *DO NOT* DETERMINE THE GEOMETRY

TOPOS *DO NOT* HAVE TO BE CLASSICAL

DYNAMIC POINTS (=SECTIONS) *DO* DETERMINE THE GEOMETRY

TOPOS *DO* HAVE PRECISE PLASTICITY

In particular, the logic of (pre)sheaves is intuitionistic, non classical

Example: topos of monoid actions:  $\text{Set}^M$  Boolean iff  $M$  group.

## 2.2. The *Edinburgh ICM Lecture* (1958)

1958

[1958] "The cohomology theory of abstract algebraic varieties", in: *Proceedings International Congress of Mathematics Edinburgh 1958*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1960, pp. 103-118.

DISCR

CONT

SERRE - CHEVALLEY - NAGATA (1955-56): introduction of "schémas", *gluing* affine spaces

GROTHENDIECK (1958): generalization, *gluing* local rings over an arbitrary ring  $A$

SCHEMES

sheaves with basis  $\text{Spec}(A)=\{ P: P \text{ prime ideal in } A \}$  (adequate topology), fibers= $\{A_P \text{ local rings, } P \in \text{Spec}(A)\}$

algebraic varieties  
over  $k$  (char.  $p$ )



cohomology groups  
with coefficients over  $F$  (char. 0)

*relative mathematics:* comparisons of schemes

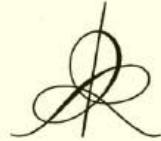
now that the Weil cohomology has to be defined by a completely different approach. Such an approach was recently suggested to me by the connections between sheaf-theoretic cohomology and cohomology of Galois groups on the one hand, and the classification of unramified coverings of a variety on the other (as explained quite unsystematically in Serre's tentative Mexico paper<sup>[12]</sup>),

## 2.3. The *Éléments de géométrie algébrique (EGA)* (1960-67)

1960-67

[1960-67] *Éléments de Géométrie Algébrique* (with Jean Dieudonné),  
IV volumes (8 parts), Paris: IHES, 1960-1967.

INSTITUT  
DES HAUTES ÉTUDES  
SCIENTIFIQUES



ÉLÉMENTS DE GÉOMÉTRIE ALGÉBRIQUE

par A. GROTHENDIECK

Rédigés avec la collaboration de J. DIEUDONNÉ

I

LE LANGAGE DES SCHÉMAS

1960

PUBLICATIONS MATHÉMATIQUES, N° 4  
5, ROND-POINT BUGEAUD — PARIS (XVI<sup>e</sup>)

A titre informatif, nous donnons ci-dessous le plan général prévu pour ce Traité, d'ailleurs sujet à modifications ultérieures, surtout en ce qui concerne les derniers chapitres :

Chapitre Premier. — Le langage des schémas.

- II. — Étude globale élémentaire de quelques classes de morphismes.
- III. — Cohomologie des faisceaux algébriques cohérents. Applications.
- IV. — Étude locale des morphismes.
- V. — Procédés élémentaires de construction de schémas.
- VI. — Technique de descente. Méthode générale de construction des schémas.
- VII. — Schémas de groupes, espaces fibrés principaux.
- VIII. — Étude différentielle des espaces fibrés.
- IX. — Le groupe fondamental.
- X. — Résidus et dualité.
- XI. — Théories d'intersection, classes de Chern, théorème de Riemann-Roch.
- XII. — Schémas abéliens et schémas de Picard.
- XIII. — Cohomologie de Weil.

En principe, tous les chapitres sont considérés comme ouverts, et des paragraphes supplémentaires pourront toujours leur être ajoutés ultérieurement ; de tels paragraphes

(A suivre.)

## 2.4. The Séminaire de Géométrie algébrique (1960-69)

1960-69

[1960-69] Séminaire de Géométrie Algébrique du Bois-Marie (with diverse co-authors),  
VII volumes (12 parts), Berlin: Springer, 1970-1973 (original multicopies, IHES, 1960-1969).

<p>SEMINAIRE DE GEOMETRIE ALGEBRIQUE DU BOIS MARIE 1960-61</p> <p>REVEMENTS ETALES ET GROUPE FONDAMENTAL (SGA 1)</p> <p>un Séminaire dirigé par A. GROTHENDIECK</p>	<p>SGA 1. Revêtements étalés et groupe fondamental, 1960 et 1961.</p> <p>SGA 2. Cohomologie locale des faisceaux cohérents et théorèmes de Lefschetz locaux et globaux, 1961/62.</p> <p>SGA 3. Schémas en groupes, 1963 et 1964 (3 volumes), en coll. avec M. DEMAZURE.</p> <p>SGA 4. Théorie des topos et cohomologie étale des schémas, 1963/64 (3 volumes) (en coll. avec M. ARTIN et J.L. VERDIER).</p> <p>SGA 5. Cohomologie <math>\ell</math>-adique et fonctions L, 1964 et 1965 (2 volumes).</p> <p>SGA 6. Théorie des intersections et théorème de Riemann-Roch, 1966/67 (2 volumes) (en coll. avec P. BERTHELOT et L. ILUSIE).</p> <p>SGA 7. Groupes de monodromie locale en géométrie algébrique.</p>	<p>SEMINAIRE DE GEOMETRIE ALGEBRIQUE DU BOIS MARIE 1963-1964</p> <p>THEORIE DES TOPOS ET COHOMOLOGIE ETALE DES SCHEMAS (SGA 4)</p> <p>Un séminaire dirigé par M. ARTIN, A. GROTHENDIECK, J-L. VERDIER</p> <p>Avec la collaboration de M. SOUBRAKIAN, P. DELIGNE, R. SAINT-DONAT</p> <p>TOME I: THEORIE DES TOPOS (Exposés 1 à 17)</p>	<p>EXPOSE IV: "TOPOS" par A. GROTHENDIECK et J.L. VERDIER</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>0. Introduction</td><td>299</td></tr> <tr><td>1. Définition et caractérisation des topos</td><td>302</td></tr> <tr><td>2. Exemples de topos</td><td>311</td></tr> <tr><td>2.1. Topos associé à un espace topologique</td><td>311</td></tr> <tr><td>2.2. Topos ponctuel ou final, et topos vide ou initial</td><td>313</td></tr> <tr><td>2.3. Topos associé à un espace à opérateurs</td><td>314</td></tr> <tr><td>2.4. Topos classifiant d'un Groupe</td><td>315</td></tr> <tr><td>2.5. "Gros site" et "Gros topos" d'un espace topologique.</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Topos classifiant d'un groupe topologique</td><td>316</td></tr> <tr><td>2.6. Topos de la forme <math>\tilde{E}</math></td><td>318</td></tr> <tr><td>2.7. Topos classifiant d'un pré-groupe</td><td>319</td></tr> <tr><td>2.8. Exemple d'un faux topos</td><td>322</td></tr> <tr><td>3. Morphismes de topos</td><td>323</td></tr> <tr><td>4. Exemples de morphismes de topos</td><td>352</td></tr> <tr><td>4.1. Le topos <math>\text{Top}(X)</math> pour un espace topologique <math>X</math> variable</td><td>353</td></tr> <tr><td>4.2. Propriétés de fidélité de <math>X \mapsto \text{Top}(X)</math></td><td>356</td></tr> <tr><td>4.3. Morphisme dans le topos final : objets constants d'un topos : foncteurs sections</td><td>359</td></tr> <tr><td>4.4. Morphisme du "topos vide"</td><td>342</td></tr> <tr><td>4.5. Le topos classifiant <math>\mathcal{B}_G</math> pour <math>G</math> groupe variable</td><td>343</td></tr> <tr><td>4.6. Le topos <math>\tilde{E}</math> pour <math>C</math> catégorie variable</td><td>346</td></tr> <tr><td>4.7. Le topos <math>C'</math> pour un site <math>C</math> variable (foncteurs continus)</td><td>350</td></tr> <tr><td>4.8. Le morphisme de topos <math>\tilde{E} \rightarrow \tilde{E}'</math> pour un site <math>C'</math></td><td>353</td></tr> <tr><td>4.9. Effet d'un foncteur continu de sites. Morphismes de sites</td><td>354</td></tr> <tr><td>4.10. Relations entre le petit et le gros topos associé à un espace topologique <math>X</math></td><td>358</td></tr> </table>	0. Introduction	299	1. Définition et caractérisation des topos	302	2. Exemples de topos	311	2.1. Topos associé à un espace topologique	311	2.2. Topos ponctuel ou final, et topos vide ou initial	313	2.3. Topos associé à un espace à opérateurs	314	2.4. Topos classifiant d'un Groupe	315	2.5. "Gros site" et "Gros topos" d'un espace topologique.		Topos classifiant d'un groupe topologique	316	2.6. Topos de la forme $\tilde{E}$	318	2.7. Topos classifiant d'un pré-groupe	319	2.8. Exemple d'un faux topos	322	3. Morphismes de topos	323	4. Exemples de morphismes de topos	352	4.1. Le topos $\text{Top}(X)$ pour un espace topologique $X$ variable	353	4.2. Propriétés de fidélité de $X \mapsto \text{Top}(X)$	356	4.3. Morphisme dans le topos final : objets constants d'un topos : foncteurs sections	359	4.4. Morphisme du "topos vide"	342	4.5. Le topos classifiant $\mathcal{B}_G$ pour $G$ groupe variable	343	4.6. Le topos $\tilde{E}$ pour $C$ catégorie variable	346	4.7. Le topos $C'$ pour un site $C$ variable (foncteurs continus)	350	4.8. Le morphisme de topos $\tilde{E} \rightarrow \tilde{E}'$ pour un site $C'$	353	4.9. Effet d'un foncteur continu de sites. Morphismes de sites	354	4.10. Relations entre le petit et le gros topos associé à un espace topologique $X$	358
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### IHES School (Grothendieck, Artin, Giraud, Verdier) SGA 1962-63

#### Grothendieck topologies

in categories with enough exactness properties:

abstract notion of *covering* (morphisms stable families) / *sieves* (morphisms ideals)

abstract notion of *topology* (collection  $J$  of coverings / sieves)

#### sites (categories $C$ with Grothendieck topologies)

abstract notion of *sheaf* : presheaf ( $\text{functor } C^{\text{op}} \rightarrow \text{Set}$ ) which *equalizes* appropriate coverings

*Grothendieck Topos*: topos  $\text{Sh}(C, J)$  of sheaves over a site



Giraud (small): reflexive subcategories come from topologies

Giraud (big): intrinsic characterization of Grothendieck topoi

## 2.5. The diagrammatic imagination (b): types and archetypes



*universal extensions of number*

<b>NOT:</b> separated (real) integers  "metaphysical" inversion: methodological inversion:	<b>YES:</b> glued (ideal) sections  (types) (statics)      (archetypes) (dynamics)
---	--

the archetype (= *arkhē*; *ark-* Greek root; *arkēō* = move away; *akhō* = found; *arkhēn* = project)  
emerges through the *transformations* of types and the associated *invariants* of transformations  
("Serre's schémas", categories of schemes, and Grothendieck's **morphisms variations**)

EGA: obstruction to separation

$$X \xrightarrow{h} Y$$

$$f \searrow \swarrow g$$

$$S$$

multiplication  
naturalization  
smoothness

non-separated adjustment  
**(archetype)**

number **TYPES** (prime ideals)  
form **TYPES** (cohomologies)

## 2.6. The diagrammatic imagination (c): types and archetypes



*universal extensions of space*

NOT: points "metaphysical" inversion: methodological inversion:	(types) (statics)	YES: sections (archetypes) (dynamics)
---	----------------------	---

the archetype (= *arkhē*; *ark-* Greek root; *arkēð* = move away; *akhō* = found; *arkhēn* = project) emerges through the *transformations* of types and the associated *invariants* of transformations ("Grothendieck's yoga", variable sets, and Grothendieck's **common roots for number/space**)

SGA: obstruction to classical punctuality

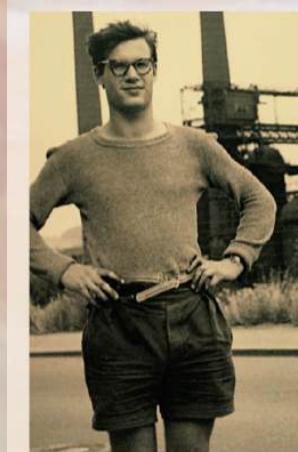
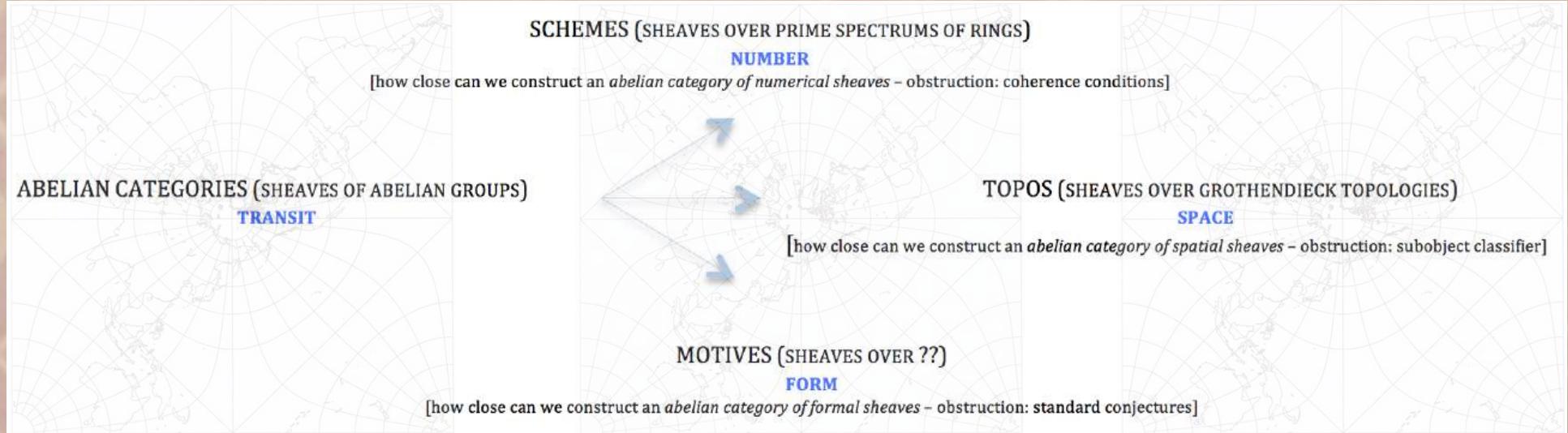
7.4. Topos non vides sans points

multiplication  
naturalization  
smoothness

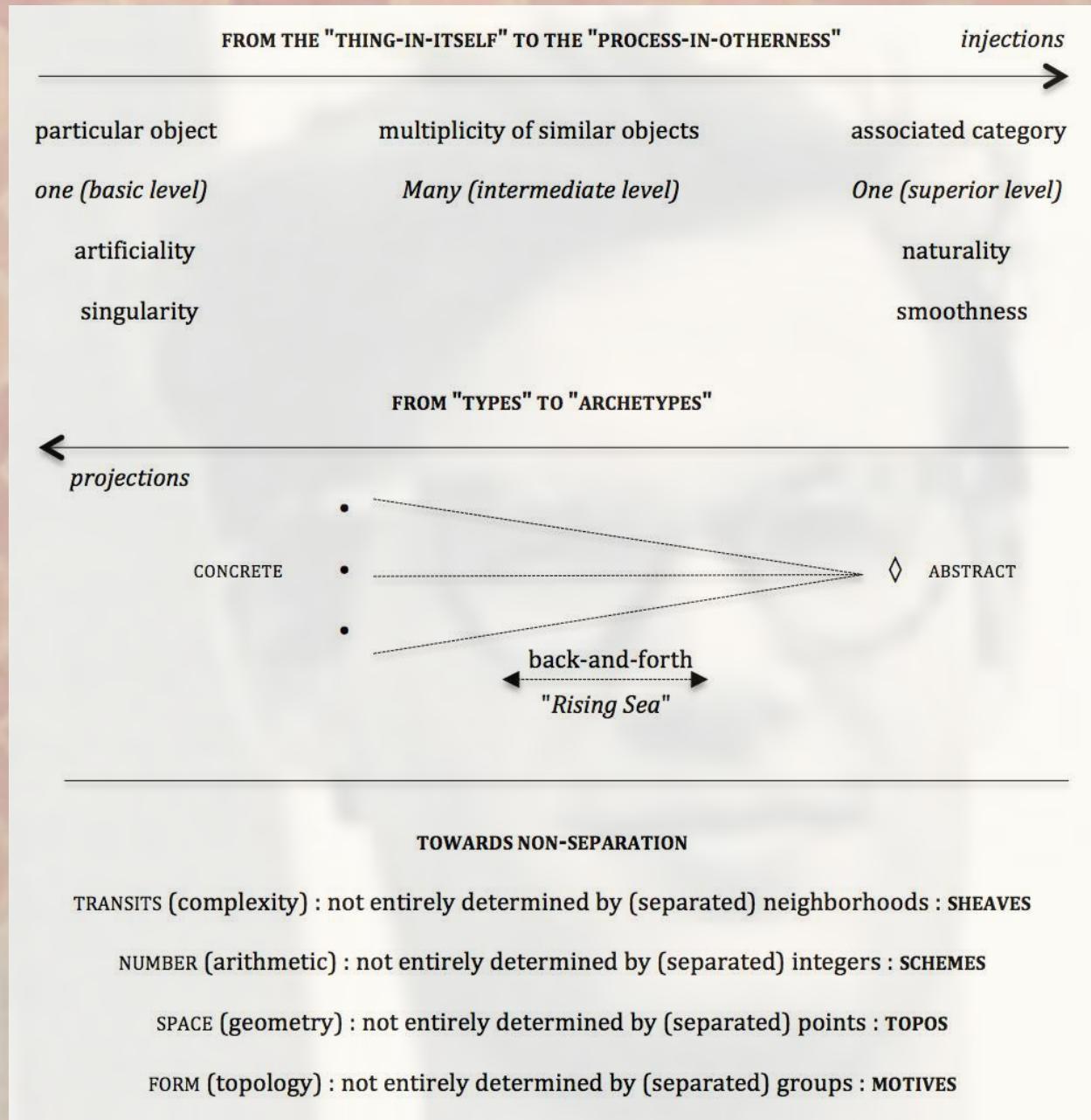
non-punctual adjustement  
(archetype)

space **TYPES** (sites)  
form **TYPES** (sheaves over a site)

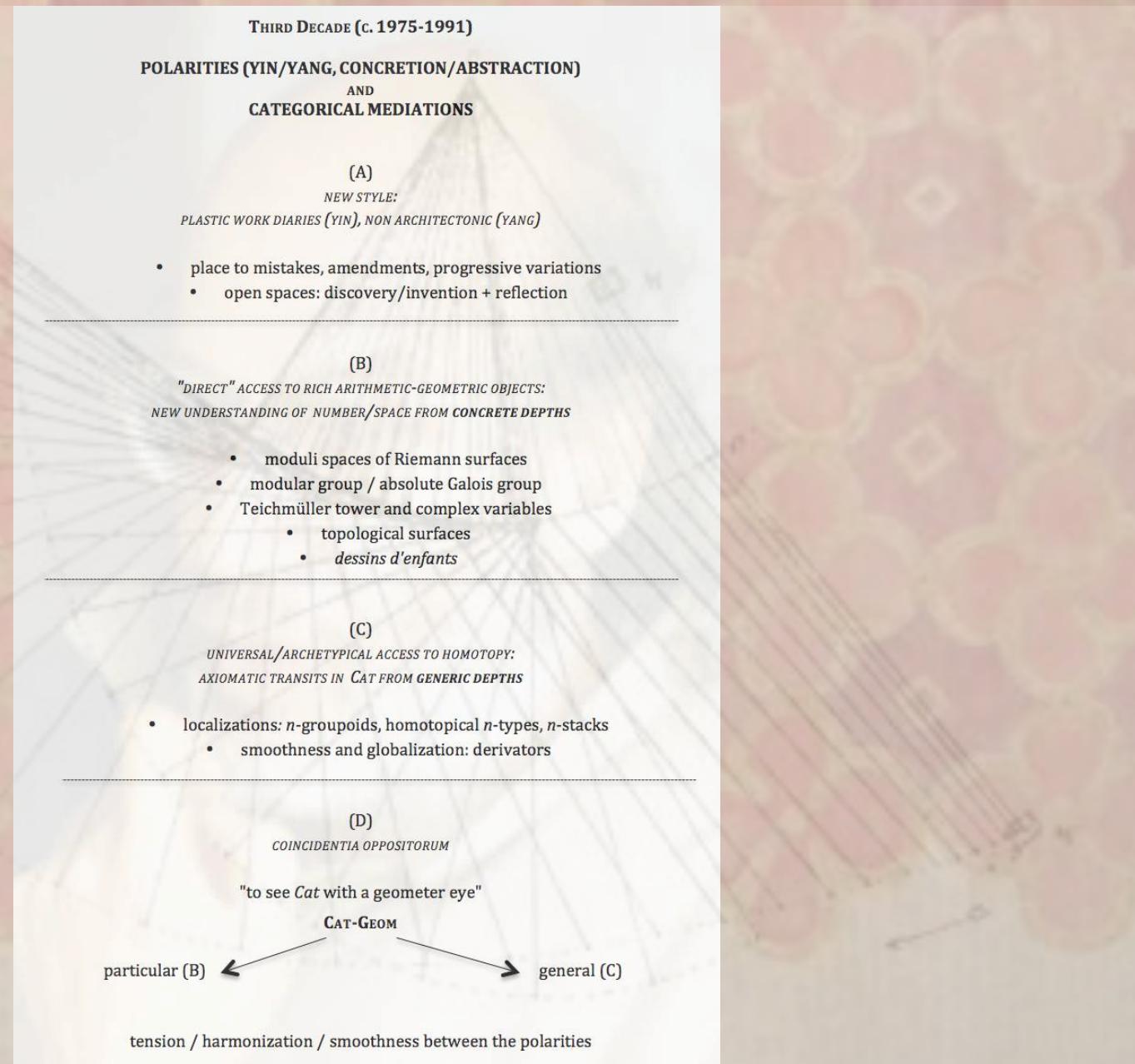
### 3.1. A map of main Grothendieck contributions: transit, number, space, form



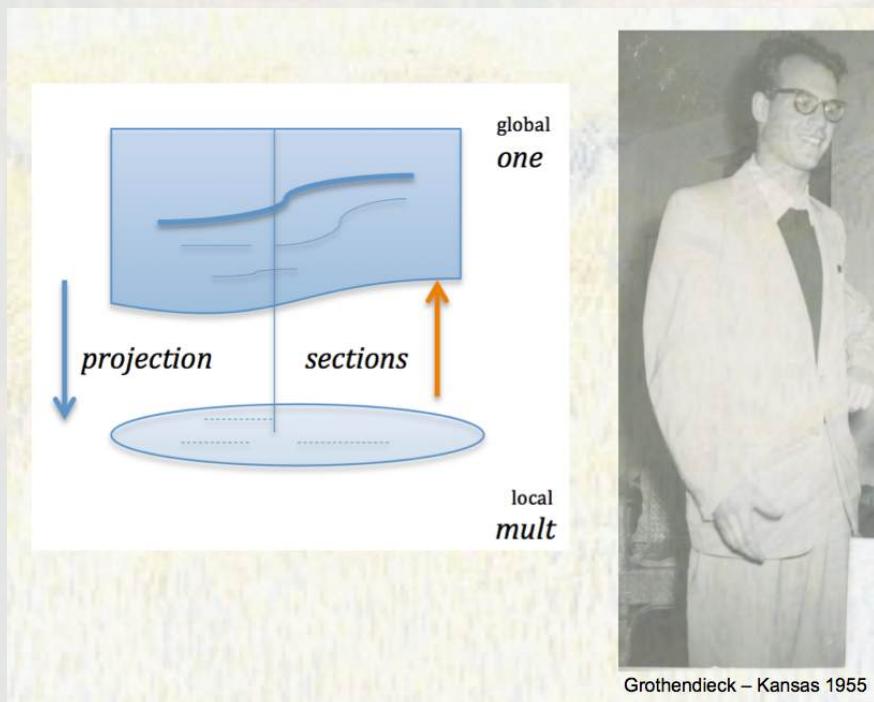
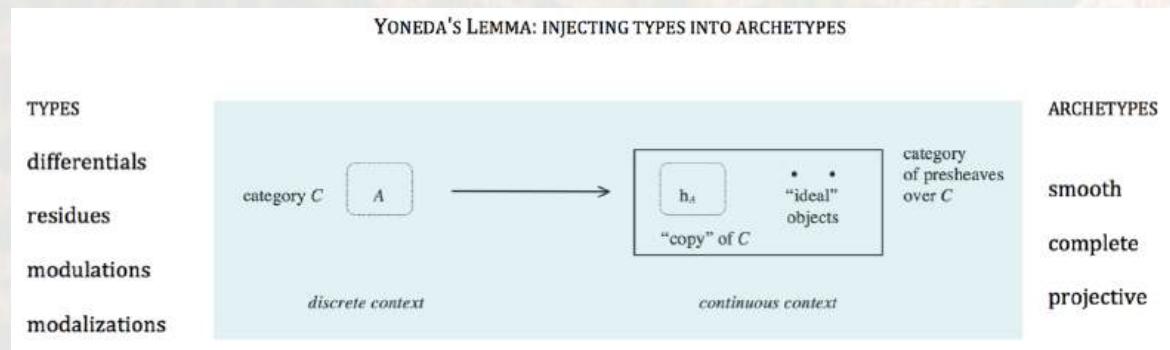
### 3. 2. Some methodological strategies



### 3. 3. Back-and-forth along Grothendieck's *third decade* (1981-1991)



## 4.1. Grothendieck lenses (a)



Elementary Topos (Lawvere, Tierney 1969-70; Kock, Freyd 1971-72; Johnstone 1977)

program of first-order (elementary) category-theoretic axiomatizations

algebraic theories  
1963

$Set$   
1963

$Cat$   
1966

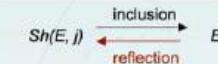
cartesian closed categories with subobject classifier

(Sub representable:  $\text{Sub}(-) = \text{Mor}(-, \Omega)$ )

+ limits      elementary topoi  $E$

elementary category of sheaves (1970)

elementary topology:  $j: \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$  such that  $j \circ T = T$     $j \circ j = j$     $j \circ \lambda = \lambda \circ (j \circ \lambda)$   
elementary sheaf: characterization through extension of  $j$ -dense morphisms



double negation topology

$j = \neg\neg$

double negation sheaves

$E = Sh(Set^{op}, \neg\neg)$  (Fouman 1977-80: equivalent to Boolean valued models)

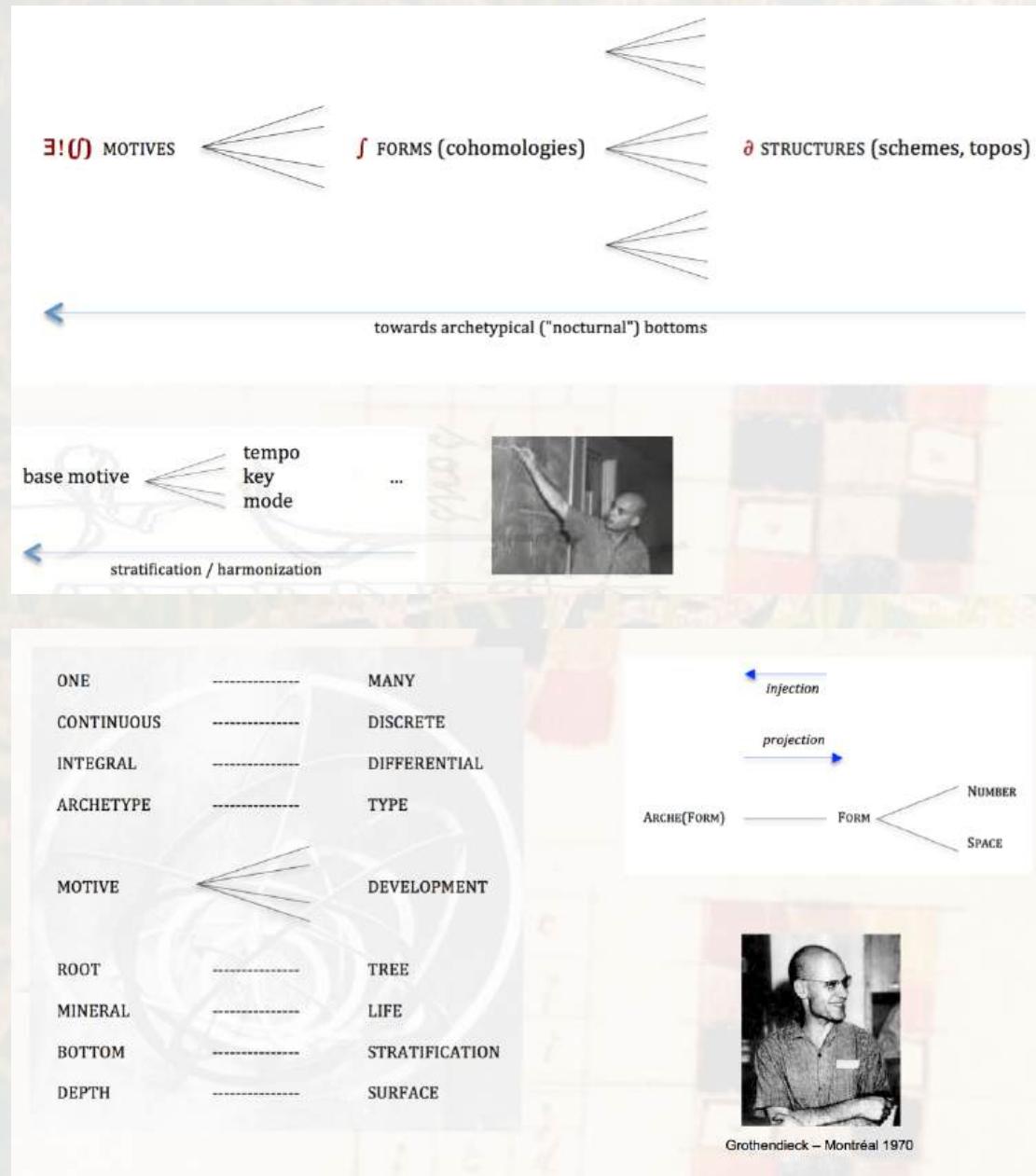
Freyd (1980: independence axiom choice)

$C$       non-zero finite ordinals / left inverses to inclusions  
non-zero finite ordinals / appropriate tuples  
monoid of 1-s words and appropriate equations

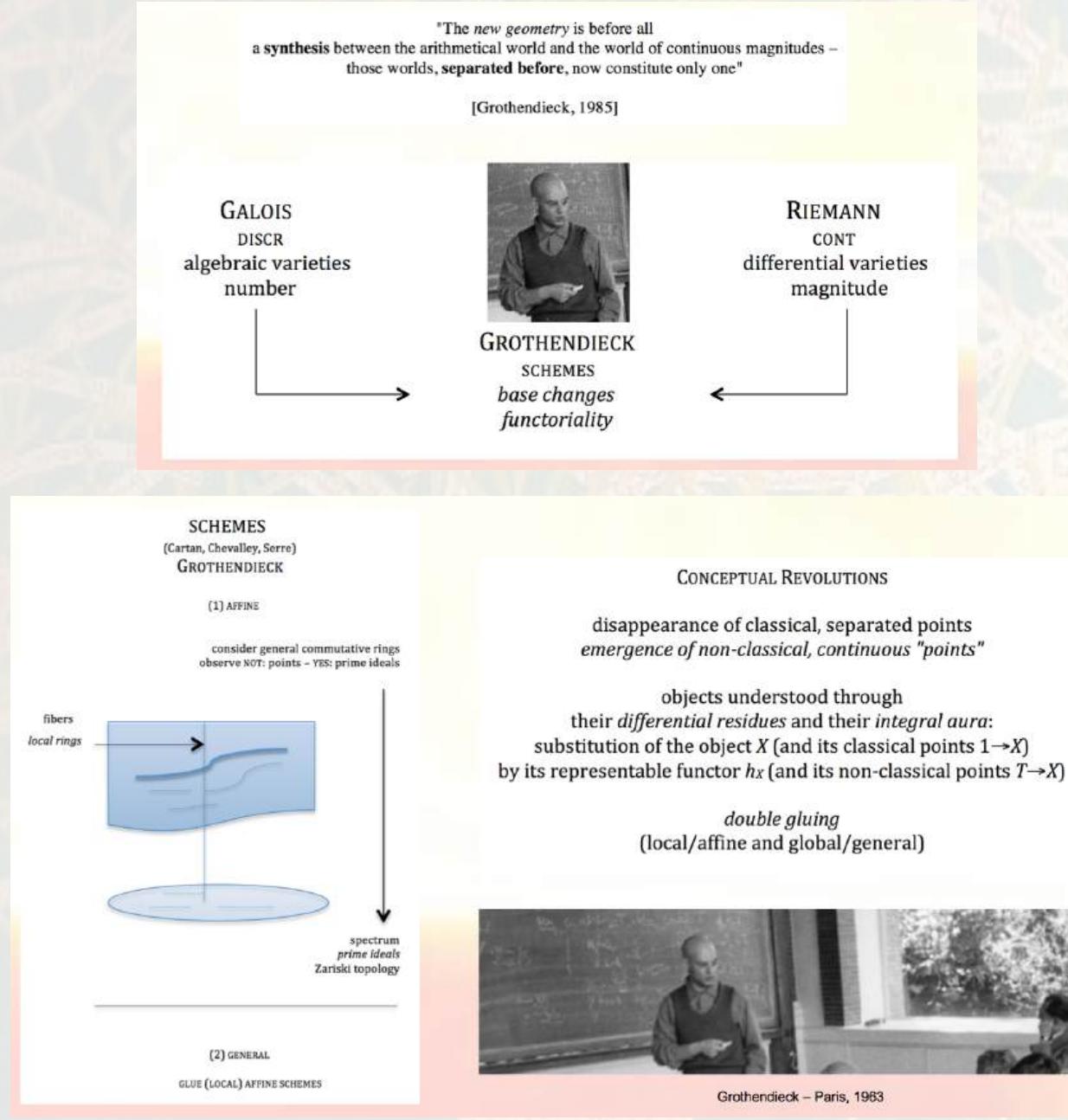
$E$  forces  $\neg AC$



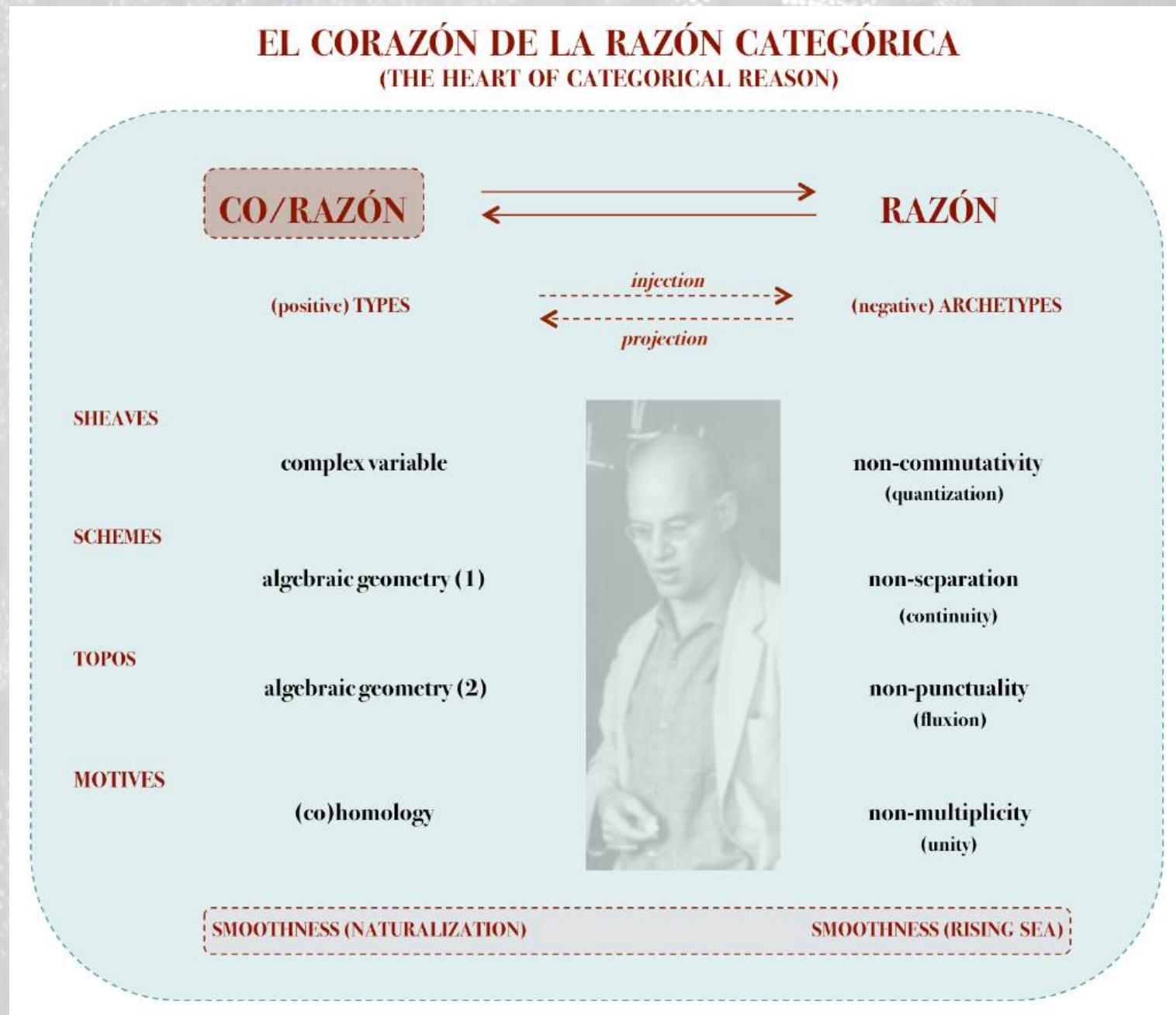
## 4.2. Grothendieck lenses (b)



## 4.3. Grothendieck lenses (c)



## 4.4. Non-Separated “Razón / Co-razón”



#### **4.4. Non-Separated “Razón / Co-razón”**

“Grothendieckean Lemmas”

**UNITY** is revealed through **MULTIPLICITY**

**ABSTRACTIONS** dissolve **OBSTRUCTIONS**

**DEEPNESS** enhances **SOFTNESS**