Point to Point: Towards a Chorography of Reason

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Following on the recent release of a report of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change (Feb. 2007), a news commentator remarks that the argument has now moved from theory to fact. In this paper, I consider what is at stake in an argument's movement and the spaces involved. In particular, I am interested in the spatial dimensions of theory and how vision there is comparable to vision of the world of things. Meanings of 'theory' in the OED present a *system* of ideas or *set* of principles, and trace the etymology to the Greek *theoria* understood as contemplation or speculation. This relates the space of theory, and how things are organized within that space, to the space that the spectator views (or speculates) when she views the theatre, understood as the area in which something happens or a set of actors move. The theorist sees in the mind the related parts of an argument and moves that seeing into the world. The example of Meno's slave boy illustrates this movement between the theoretical (Aristotle's *basis* of reasoning) and the visible, where reason's consequences are seen. A point within is connected to a point without.