Following the flâneur: a methodological and textual critique. My take on 'writing cities' will focus on Paris in the 19th century and mediated depictions of the American urban landscape in the era around the end of World War II. I'll be doing this by using the figure of the flâneur as a guide. The flâneur is the spectator and depicter of modern life, most specifically in relation to contemporary art and the sights of the city. The flâneur moves through space and among the people with a viscosity that both enables and privileges vision...The flâneur possesses a power, it walks at will, freely and seemingly without purpose, but simultaneously with an inquisitive wonder and an infinite capacity to absorb the activities of the collective, – often formulated as 'the crowd.'