

Nanopublication – A legend of coded quilts tests where 'instituted' starts existing

by Arnaud Quercy

The line runs between a confirmed instituting act (Bond's fist, where P3a and P19a grip cleanly) and an unconfirmed, merely narrated one (the Underground Railroad code, where P3a's existence clause is stretched past what the source can settle) – the source hands the lens a case it cannot adjudicate, not a case it fails on.

WHAT THE SOURCE SAYS [1]

The article previews a forthcoming book, 'Stories in the Seams,' documenting centuries of Black quilting – from enslaved women's utilitarian bedcovers through Reconstruction-era survival crafts to 20th- and 21st-century narrative and symbolic works. It flags the persistent but historically unconfirmed folk claim that certain quilt-block patterns encoded a secret map for the Underground Railroad, and contrasts that legend with a documented case – Ruth Clement Bond's 1934 appliqué of a fist gripping a lightning bolt, flanked by the flag and sun – an intentional, explicable symbol of Black power.

WHERE THE LENS GRIPS

P3a's given/instituted split grips cleanly on the article's own contrast: the quilt-block shapes and stitching are the given invariant – measurable by any viewer, code or no code – while the alleged Underground Railroad meaning would be the instituted invariant, a rule that only a codex (a shared, transmitted key among freedom-seekers) could decipher. Ruth Clement Bond's fist-and-lightning-bolt appliqué is a second, cleaner instance: an intentional design whose logic (Black power, framed by flag and sun) is explicit and articulable, which also grips P19a's condition that an invariant be explainable on request.

WHERE IT BREAKS

P3a's existence clause states the instituted invariant 'exists as soon as its rule is met and recognized – including by whoever refuses it.' The Underground Railroad quilt-code case stresses that clause: the article itself says the code 'has never been confirmed with solid evidence' – there may be no original rule to be met at all, only a later folk narrative re-

cognizing a code that might never have been instituted by any maker. P3a is written for a case where a real codex exists and access is the variable; it has no vocabulary for a case where recognition runs ahead of, or entirely absent, any confirmed instituting act. This slips IF one reads the legend as recognition without any rule ever met; it holds if one reads the original quiltmakers (even if undocumented) as having instituted the rule, with only its historical confirmation – not its existence – in doubt. The source does not adjudicate which reading is correct, and neither can the lens from this material alone.

PROPOSITIONAL GRID [2]

Read this grid. “Not evaluated” does **not** mean the source has nothing to say about that proposition. It means **the reading did not instruct it**. That is not a result, and it counts in no denominator. A silence, by contrast, is a finding: the reading touched the proposition without concluding, or noted its absence itself.

Evaluated

proposi- tion		audit status	relational verdict
P3a	Double Structure of the In-variant	audited	pressure-against
P19a	Explicability as Condition	not audited	evidence-for

What was instructed. These propositions have been judged and carry a current statement: it is **that** statement the reading tested, not the founding one.

- **P3a** – judged in Note 05 · current statement : say GIVEN invariant and INSTITUTED invariant, never 'physical' and 'intentional' – the axis is MODE OF EXISTENCE, read as regime of access: the given is what a sensor measures on the surface WITHOUT the codex; the instituted is the rule that elects relations in that surface and that only the disclosed codex deciphers

Not evaluated (35) – P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P10, P11, P12, P13, P14, P14a, P14b, P15, P16, P16a, P17, P18, P18a, P19, P20, P21, P22, P23, P24, P25, P26, P27, P28, P29, P30, P31

Overall verdict: Bounded – taxonomy of the August 2026 pass, predating the move to relational verdicts. Kept as metadata: the gap between the two forms is data, not residue. This reading's judgement is in the grid above.

Reading of 2026-08-21 · model claude-sonnet-5
· source 6,395 chars · 2 attempt(s)

REFERENCES

- [1] 'Stories in the Seams' Showcases the Enduring Legacy of Black Quilts Across Centuries. Colossal, 2026-08-21. <https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2026/08/stories-in-the-seams-quilts-sharbreon-plummer-book/>
- [2] Quercy, A. (2026). The 31 Propositions of Ideamorphism. <https://ideamorphism.org/en/publications/2026/03/the-31-propositions-of-ideamorphism.html>

EPISTEMIC PROFILE

Claim type	boundary reading
Voice	third person analysis
Epistemic status	bounded grip
Methodology	Boundary-finding lens applied to one source, model claude-sonnet-5, 2 attempt(s), traceability check passed.

CHECKSUM (SHA-256)

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