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Introduction

Based at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Amsterdam since 1994, the Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis (ASCA) is an internationally renowned research institute and doctoral school dedicated to the critical and innovative study of culture from a broadly interdisciplinary perspective grounded in the humanities but increasingly extending to non-humanities fields. ASCA is not bound to one particular discipline, one particular theoretical approach or one type of cultural object. Home to more than 100 scholars and over 150 PhD candidates, it brings together cutting-edge scholarship in philosophy, musicology, literary studies, cultural studies, European studies, art history, theater and performance studies, and (new) media studies.

What unites the research conducted within ASCA are the five principles of Cultural Analysis, originally formulated by Mieke Bal:

- First, within ASCA disciplinary knowledge is highly valued and respected but is mobilized in conversation with other disciplines to allow new insights to emerge at the intersection of fields of knowledge. This **commitment to interdisciplinarity** is at the core of its mission.
- The second principle of Cultural Analysis that ASCA adheres to is that its research is **theoretically grounded**. Theory is not considered as a master discourse, but as opening up important critical perspectives in its dynamic engagement with particular cultural objects (which can be cultural products but also social phenomena). This engagement also tests and transforms the theories brought to bear on the objects.
- The third principle important for all ASCA research is that it is **socially relevant**: it aims to diagnose, dissect and answer urgent questions about the world we live in by working with theories and objects that themselves are not seen as coming out of the blue or as having fixed uses and meanings, but as emerging from and functioning within historically and socially specific contexts.
- The fourth principle that binds cultural analysis research is the centrality of **detailed analyses of cultural objects** (through close reading or other methods, including digital and ethnographic ones).
- The fifth and final principle of cultural analysis is that it offers an engagement with culture and society from a **contemporary perspective**. The past is

important, but always from the perspective of our present engagement with it. ASCA researchers ask: why and how does a cultural product, social phenomenon or theory still matter to us now?

With respect to the content of its research programs, ASCA has always adopted and promoted an open, bottom-up approach to foster a wide variety of curiosity-driven innovative and topical research. ASCA researchers are invited to create their own research groups to share and advance research findings; to organize academic events; to apply for grants; and to produce articles, books and dissertations. This open structure inspires innovative research; supports individual excellence; allows for cross-disciplinary collaboration; promotes work in emerging research areas; and has resulted in a dynamic, non-hierarchical research environment responsive to changes in both the academic context and society at large.

ASCA currently has 90 research groups, divided into three categories: funded research projects (28); reading groups & seminars (28); and network groups (34). Each group belongs to one or more of the five constellations that identify the broader thematic research areas ASCA focuses on. These five constellations, designated with the acronym MAGIC, are:

- **M**ediality
- **A**rts & Aesthetics
- **G**lobalization & Migration
- **I**dentities
- **C**ultural & Social Critique

The themes identified by the constellations are at the forefront of academic and public debates, allowing ASCA researchers to collaborate not only with each other, but also with external academic and non-academic partners. ASCA's vibrant PhD community is at the center of our activities and operates in a spirit of openness, collaboration and experimentation.

In 2024, 25 new PhD candidates and 7 new staff members joined ASCA; ASCA offered 28 ongoing seminars and/or reading groups, and (co-)organized 153 conferences, lectures, workshops and other meetings; ASCA members acquired over 3 million Euros of external funding for their research; and 12 ASCA PhD candidates earned their doctor's title.

ASCA in 2024

The year 2024 was marked by difficulty and turbulence for many. The ongoing war in Ukraine and the devastating violence in Gaza deeply affected ASCA members, particularly those with personal connections to these regions. The protests on the University of Amsterdam campus, and the police violence accompanying them, also prompted strong feelings of anger, sadness and powerlessness among many of us. Meanwhile, our work came under increasing pressure following the Dutch government's announcement of far-reaching cuts to higher education. Together, these developments created an atmosphere of uncertainty and unrest.

In response to the geopolitical situation, ASCA continued to facilitate the Teach-In series "History Is Not Context, It's Reality – on Israel/Palestine," building on the seven sessions organized in late 2023. As ASCA was the only UvA research school willing to facilitate such a series, the Teach-Ins involved not only ASCA members but also scholars from other research schools and faculties. Organizing the series in such a highly charged atmosphere, while seeking to ensure its inclusivity, was not without challenges. Nevertheless, we believe that the Teach-Ins provided a crucial forum for dialogue among diverse perspectives, informed by personal experience, activism, artistic practice and research across multiple disciplines. As a research school, we cannot take away our members' grave concerns about the state of the world, but we can continue to offer support and encourage critical reflection, openness to other perspectives, and care for others and ourselves.

In July 2024, ASCA published its "[Statement on Collaborations with Israeli Institutions and International Corporations Complicit in Atrocity Crimes](#)" on the ASCA website. The statement was issued by the ASCA directors (one on sabbatical and the other serving ad interim) in response to numerous inquiries from ASCA members and others regarding ASCA's policy in this matter. Our intention was to communicate as openly and transparently as possible. From the outset, we made clear that ASCA could not speak on behalf of every individual member, nor on behalf of the research school as a collective. Following a productive members' meeting on 25 June and several meetings with the ASCA Board, the ASCA directors issued a statement specifically concerning activities that ASCA finances through its annual operational budget and/or actively facilitates. Throughout this process, ASCA kept the faculty, the directors of the other research schools and the relevant department chairs informed.

In 2024, AIHR and its research schools, including ASCA, also underwent a research quality assessment. The ASCA self-assessment report was written by the two ASCA academic directors, Jaap Kooijman and Esther Peeren, with input from the ASCA Board and in consultation with AIHR. The major preparatory work was carried out by ASCA managing director Eloë Kingma. In November, an international review committee visited the faculty for a week. The visit included four panel meetings with ASCA, among them meetings with ASCA management and with ASCA PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers. Two further panel meetings with ASCA members addressed topics that ASCA had specifically requested for discussion: doing research in a polarized world, and the increasing dependence on external funding.

The year ended on a positive note with the celebration of ASCA's thirtieth anniversary. A symposium brought together three panels devoted to the past and future of cultural analysis in the broadest sense. The first panel, organized by Claudio Celis Bueno, focused on technology and power. The other two panels were organized by Murat Aydemir, Aylin Kuryel and Noa Roei, editors of the new collection *The Future of Cultural Analysis*, published by Amsterdam University Press. Across the three panels, speakers included contributors to the collection, current PhD candidates, ASCA alumni, and ASCA co-founder and former director Mieke Bal.

Highlights of 2024

Throughout 2024, ASCA's extensive program of lectures, workshops, screenings, masterclasses and public events demonstrated the continued urgency of examining the political stakes of culture, media and knowledge production. A central thread was the critical examination of war, colonialism, genocide, displacement and state violence, particularly through the ongoing "History Is Not Context, It's Reality – on Israel/Palestine" Teach-In series, which held eleven sessions, and the associated three sessions of the Palestine Teaches workshops. These concerns resonated with other ASCA events on abolition, racial capitalism, anti-colonial resistance, carcerality, archives and cultural memory, as well as with work on global and decolonial histories spanning Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America, Indonesia and East Asia. Another prominent thread concerned the critical examination of technological transformation, including artificial intelligence, data colonialism, digital platforms, audiovisual archives, games and AI-enabled warfare. The following highlights are given to showcase the diversity and wide range of our events:

**Public lecture by Dr. Maya Wind “Towers of Ivory and Steel” | 16 May |
Dominicuskerk**

In this public lecture, Maya Wind discussed her book *Towers of Ivory and Steel: How Israeli universities deny Palestinian freedom* (Verso, 2024). Maya Wind is a Killam Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. Her lecture was followed by comments by Omar Barghouti (PhD candidate at UvA and co-founder of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel) and Prof. dr. Sarah Bracke, Professor of Sociology of Gender and Sexuality at the UvA. The event was collectively organized by Palestine Solidarity Scholars at VU Amsterdam, the University of Amsterdam, and ASCA.

**Symposium Sea Mediations: Hydro-criticism and Tidal Thinking | 30-31 May
2024 | Bushuis and OMHP**

Organizers: Patricia Pisters, Leonie Schmidt, Laszlo Muntéan, Jeroen Boom, Carolyn Birdsall

Over the past decade, as part of a larger tendency in humanities, media studies has become ‘elemental’, i.e. the field has become attuned to its constituent parts, especially to the substances and substrates that compose media. Media technologies, their materiality, hardware, and energy are connected with geophysical nature: nature affords and bears the weight of media culture. In the field of elemental media studies, different scholars have critically engaged with such issues to urge us to rethink what media and mediations exactly are. Much of the research in elemental media studies is oriented by the periodic or the Greek elements, while others contest this Eurocentric focus and have for instance added wood and metal, elements of Chinese philosophy and point to the legacies of colonialism and the dangers of neo-colonialism. While addressing these more general problems and questions related to the elemental turn in the humanities, this symposium focuses in particular on the element of water. So as part of so-called ocean humanities, blue humanities or hydro feminism, the symposium brings together some of the most prominent scholars who engage with and hydro-criticism and different dimensions of sea mediations, and oceanic or tidal thinking. Our keynote speakers each are pioneers and experts in this rapidly growing (overflowing) field of media studies in the humanities.

2024 ASCA International Workshop: Resistance, Refusal, Fugitivity | 5-7 June | University Theater and other locations

Organizers: Hannah Poon, Oscar Talbot, Safae El Khannoussi El Boudrin

Keynote speakers: Layal Ftouni (University Utrecht), Nicholas Thoburn (University of Manchester), and Jia Tan (Chinese University of Hong Kong).

Asymmetries of power continue to be felt, lived in, and subverted. Where there is power there is resistance, but the forms of these counteractions are myriad and various. Understanding these struggles, whether they come from the resurgent decolonial movements, the embattled struggles that have emerged as we face the Anthropocene, or the re-composition of our medialandscape through the whims of the billionaire class, is truly the struggle of our time. This workshop brought together theorists, historians, practitioners, and media researchers to understand the multiplicities contained within contemporary resistance. At the same time, the fugitive, a figure of the subaltern is making their presence known. Networks of actors whose very life is made illegal are forced to seek refuge outside of systems of control and surveillance. In response, large-scale civil society organizing, from migration to abortion networks, have made significant impact on Dutch, European, and global society through strategies of resistance, refusal, and fugitivity. The aesthetics of these defiant and subversive practices color our cultural and media landscapes like never before. Authors, artists, content creators, and cultural institutions continue to reconstitute gender, sexuality, adulthood, nationality, coloniality, and capitalism in response to the constraints of the past. This workshop aimed to provide an interdisciplinary platform for a pressing and multifaceted investigation of resistance, refusal and fugitivity on a conceptual level as well as a form of methodology and practice.

Workshop by Dr. Sami Schalk: “An Introduction to Disability Justice & Accessible Pedagogy” | 9 September | Roeterseiland

Organizers: Wigbertson Julian Isenia, Slava Greenberg, and Leni Van Goidsenhoven

This interactive workshop introduced participants to the principles of the disability justice movement followed by discussion of ways to incorporate these principles into how educators design and teach their courses. The workshop provided space for questions, group discussion and collaborative brainstorming to address issues and concerns of participants about making their specific teaching more accessible, including acknowledging that some of us are disabled ourselves and are impacted by the ableism of our institutions in ways that effect our teaching.

Book presentation *It's My Party: Tat Ming Pair and the Postcolonial Politics of Popular Music in Hong Kong* | 10 December | Spui25

Organizers: Jeroen de Kloet and Leonie Schmidt

How can music, art, and popular culture survive and even thrive in the current political tide? How can it open up new imaginations of the present or future? Can it help us to live life differently? In *It's My Party: Tat Ming Pair and the Postcolonial Politics of Popular Music in Hong Kong*, the authors Yiu Fai Chow, Jeroen de Kloet, and Leonie Schmidt focus on just one band from one city – but the story of Tat Ming Pair, in so many ways, is the story of Hong Kong's recent decades, from the Handover to the Umbrella Movement to the social protests in 2019. The book, published by Palgrave, is a timely and daring inquiry into the intricate relationship between politics and pop music. This is all the more urgent in times like ours, where we can witness an increasing urgency for a different and more resilient cultural politics – not only in East Asia but also in the world at large. The presentation also included presentations by media scholars and ASCA members Joke Hermes and Jaap Kooijman.

Management and Research Groups

ASCA's management team consists of the academic director, the vice director, and the managing director (Eloe Kingma), with administrative support provided by Jantine van Gogh. Until 1 September 2024, vice director Jaap Kooijman (Associate Professor of Media Studies) also took on the role of academic director ad interim while academic director Esther Peeren (Professor of Cultural Analysis) was on sabbatical. After her return, Peeren became vice director ad interim for three months to ensure that both the academic director and the vice director were present during the research assessment of November 2024. On 1 December 2024, Kooijman was appointed academic director. A new vice director will be appointed in early 2025.

The management team is jointly responsible for the day-to-day running of the research school. The academic director sits on the AIHR Research Council, which meets every six weeks or so to discuss general policies, strategic roadmaps and finances that are part of the policies and governance of the Faculty of Humanities, and liaises with the Heads of Department and Program Directors in the so-called "triangle," most importantly about new positions opening up. The vice director is responsible for all matters concerning the PhD community, including welcome meetings, pilot study assessments and evaluation meetings.

The ASCA Board consists of a mix of senior and junior staff members, and two PhD representatives. Current members are: Barnita Bagchi (Professor of English Literature and Culture), Sruti Bala (Associate Professor of Theater Studies), Jana Cattien (Assistant Professor of Philosophy), Gaston Franssen (Professor of Literary Culture), Serra Hughes (PhD Candidate), Jeroen de Kloet (Professor of Globalization), Boris Noordenbos (Associate Professor of Cultural Analysis), Esther Peeren (Professor of Cultural Analysis), Patricia Pisters (Professor of Media and Film Studies), Hannah Poon (PhD candidate), Oliver Seibt (Assistant Professor of Musicology), Esther Weltevrede (Assistant Professor Media Studies).

The main task of the ASCA management team and Board is to facilitate the research activities of its members. We have chosen to do this by creating a community that is open, inclusive and supportive of bottom-up initiatives. ASCA hosts research groups that differ in size, aim, lifespan and in how active they are. A coherent profile is nonetheless ensured by all research groups subscribing to ASCA's interdisciplinary, theory-driven humanities approach and engaging with at least one of the thematic constellations. In their variety and flexibility, the research groups ensure that new pressing issues, emerging fields (such as animal politics or disability studies) and innovative approaches (such as new digital methods) can be taken up quickly in relation to the constellation themes. The groups also showcase the vast range of themes, approaches, initiatives and collaborations ASCA members are involved in.

The assessment of research within ASCA occurs primarily at the level of the individual researcher, who may be a member of multiple research groups. Each individual is assessed annually by the ASCA director on the basis of their own report about their research activities. The assessment – which takes the form of a letter – is discussed with the researcher's Head of Department and on the basis of the assessment and upon request of the Department positive and sometimes negative recommendations are made concerning promotions, grant applications and sabbatical leaves. In cases of underperformance, individual research and publications plans are made with specific deadlines; if these are not met, ASCA, in consultation with the Department and the AIHR director, can take away research time.

At the level of the research groups, the ASCA director inquires annually with the coordinator(s) about the group's activities and output (publications, seminars and other events, valorization, etc.), including whether the group is

still active (if not, it is disbanded), whether the website description needs updating and which constellation(s) the group engages with.

ASCA distinguishes three different types of research groups: funded research projects, readings groups & seminars, and network groups (see Table).

- **Network groups** bring together researchers with shared interests that meet on an ad hoc basis. Although these groups do not necessarily work towards defined outputs, they frequently lead to conferences/workshops or other events, publications and funding applications.

- **Funded research projects** are projects comprising one or more researchers that are externally funded at the national or European level (ERC, VENI, VIDI, VICI, Horizon2020); their performance goals are fixed, as is their lifespan.

- **Reading groups & seminars** are groups that meet regularly (generally once a month) to discuss articles, books or work in progress, or around a specific theme, sometimes with guest speakers. Reading groups & seminars often result in conferences or other events, joint publications and funding applications.

Network Groups	Coordinators	M	A	G	I	C
AI and Cultural Production	Claudio Celis Bueno					
Amsterdance	Oliver Seibt					
Art - Activism - Conflict	Sruti Bala					
Art Education as Critical Tactics	Fabiola Camuti					
ASCA Cities Project	Carolyn Birdsall					
ASCA Comics Studies	Rik Spanjers, Kristina Gedgaudaitė					
Cosmologies	Halbe Kuipers, Erica Biolchini					
Crisis, Critique and Futurity	Maria Boletsi					
Critical Health	Gaston Franssen					
Cross Media	Markus Stauff					
Decolonial Meridians	Sunderason, Szakács, Mazadiego					
Digital Methods Initiative	Richard Rogers					
Emergencies of Authoritarianism	Daniel Loick					
Fashion/Representations in Global Context	Christine Delhay					
Film and Philosophy	Patricia Pisters, Monique Roelofs					
Game Lab	Toni Pape					
Geomediations	Patricia Pisters, Leonie Schmidt					
Global Digital Cultures	Thomas Poell					
Literature of the 21st Century	Ellen Rutten					
Moving Images	Floris Paalman					
Music and Culture	Barbara Titus					
Networked Images	Annet Dekker					
Peripheries Project	Esther Peeren, Hanneke Stuit					
Philosophy and Public Affairs	Thomas Nys					
Postcolonial Film Histories and Heritages	Emiel Martens, Asli Tuncer					
Reading Pain	Assel Kadyrkhanova					
Queer Analysis	Diego Semerene, Misha Kavka					
Sex Negativity	Marija Cetenic					
The Significance of Phenomenology	Christian Skirke					
Thinking Artistic and Design Practices	Marie Aude Baronian					
Videographic Criticism Group	Jaap Kooijman					
Walking as Research Practice	Tania Cardoso					
Word and image	Mia Lerm-Hayes					
World Literature and the Environment	Jeff Diamanti					

Funded Projects	Principal Investigators	M	A	G	I	C
A Planetary Aesthetics for the Future Democratic Society	Stefan Niklas					
Abolition Democracies	Daniel Loick					
AV-Collection Histories to Enrich Data and Public Value	Carolyn Birdsall					
China Fashion Power	Tommy Tse					
Coalitions of Distrust: Conspiricization via Hashtag Hijacking	Marc Tuters					
Conspiratorial Memory	Boris Noordenbos					
Content Moderation: A Cross-Platform Analysis	Richard Rogers					
Decolonizing Southeast Asian Sound Archives	Barbara Titus					
EcoIslam	Leonie Schmidt					
Entangled Freedoms	Sanjukta Sunderason					
Fixers, Stringers and Foreign Crews	Johana Kotišová					
Future Modernities and Non-modern Futures	Baldi, Villaescusa Illan					
Governance by data in the post-pandemic democracy	Stefania Milan					
Imagining Institutions Otherwise	Chiara de Cesari					
Making the hidden visible	Stefania Milan					
Moral Truth	Thomas Nys					
Narratives from the long tail	Giovanna Fossati					
Oceanic Imaginaries, Oceanic Solidarities	Mikki Stelder					
Opinion Dynamics and Cultural Conflict	Richard Rogers					
Pressing Matter	Chiara de Cesari					
Re-Imagining Water in the Neerlandophone Space	Marrigje Paijmans					
Restituting, Reconnecting, Reimagining Sound Heritage	meLê Yamomo					
SoBigData++	Richard Rogers					
The Platformization of the Global Sex Industry	Thomas Poell					
The Politics of (not) Eating Animals	Eva Meijer					
(Trans-)Sexualities and Psychoanalysis	Semerene, Cetinic					
Untimely World Pictures	Simon Ferdinand					
Worlding Public Cultures	Chiara de Cesari					

Seminars and Reading Groups	Conveners	M	A	G	I	C
Abolition Democracies Seminar	Daniel Loick					
Capitalism 2.0	Ben Moore, Marc Farrant					
ASCA Theory Seminar	Esther Peeren, Jaap Kooijman					
Anti Social Querness	Murat Aydemir					
Capital Reading Groups	Safae El Khannoussi, Oscar Talbot					
Cities Seminar	Carolyn Birdsall					
Cosmology Workgroup	Halbe Kuipers, Erica Biochini					
Critical Animal Studies	Divya Nadkarni					
Critical Cultural Theory	Aukje van Rooden					
Documenting Audibilities	Luc Marraffa					
Digital Rhythmanalysis Reading Group	Daniel de Zeeuw					
Eco-Pschoanalysis: Psychoanalysis and the Climate Crisis	Catherine Lord					
Emergencies of Authoritarianism	Daniel Loick					
Esoteric Media	Amir Vudka					
Form and Disorder	Stephan Besser, Michael Miller					
Global Africa	Tommy Tse, Fairuzah Atchulo					
History is not Context, It's Reality: Israel/Palestine	Yolande Jansen a.o.					
Long Covid+ Conversations	Eva Meijer					
Media & Performance	Kati Rottger					
Moving Images: Preservation, Curation, Exhibition	Giovanna Fossati, Floris Paalman					
New Tendencies in Critical Theory	Jeff Diamanti, Marija Cetinic					
Philosophy and Public Affairs	Jasmijn Leeuwenkamp					
Philosophical Histories and Culture	Michael Thomas					
Planetary Memecry	Daniel de Zeeuw					
Political Ecologies	Jeff Diamanti, Joost de Bloois					
Potentialities between Thinking and Feeling	Sudeep Dasgupta					
Queer Analysis Reading Group	Diego Semerene, Misha Kavka					
Queer Formalism Group	Samuel Ludmila					
Sound Studis Reading Group	Luc Marraffa					
The Critical AI Seminar series	Dieuwertje Luitse, Anna Schjott					
This is Film!	Giovanna Fossati					
Trans-Asia Cultural Studies	Jeroen de Kloet					
Useful TV Standing	Markus Stauff					
Videographic Criticism Seminar	Jaap Kooijman					
We Have Never Had Sex	Marija Cetenic					

Researchers and Publications

After the increase of research staff in the previous two years, mainly due to new Assistant Professor hires, has the number of staff members been stabilized. Although in 2024 we do not have an increase in employed PhD candidates, we expect an increase in 2025 through successful external ERC funding and as part of the starting grants awarded to some new Assistant Professors. While the starting grants require PhD projects linked to the research interests of the Assistant Professor(s) who will be the daily supervisor(s) of the PhD, ASCA will continue to call for the financing of open PhD calls inviting projects devised by PhD candidates themselves, as we believe that this offers most potential for bottom-up innovation.

With regard to the large number of non-contracted PhD candidates, it should be noted that some of these do receive (some) funding. We also strive to give such candidates a realistic idea of what pursuing a PhD without (full) funding will entail, and we continue to monitor how all our PhD candidates fare on the job market. As long as a high percentage of both contracted and self-funded PhDs end up obtaining academic positions, we do not see a reason to curb their number.

With regard to publications, the total number of publications remains high. The average is far above the minimum requirement of two peer-reviewed articles annually, of one monograph in five years and one peer-reviewed article annually. The number of publications in the categories ASCA values highest – refereed journal articles, books and book chapters – went up (refereed journal articles, from 162 in 2023 to 168 in 2024; book chapters, from 92 in 2023 to 100 in 2024; books, from 22 in 2023 to 30 in 2024).

ASCA continues to encourage its researchers to aim for high-quality peer-reviewed publications, especially in international journals and with international academic publishers.

The number of defended PhD dissertations went slightly down from 14 in 2023 to 12 in 2024 (10 non-employed PhDs, 2 employed PhDs). This increase was unexpected, as we had anticipated an increase, due to several extensions granted to PhD-project due to COVID-19 delays in previous years. We expect an increase of defended PhD dissertations in 2025.

We continue to look for ways to make postdocs more visible within ASCA and provide them with more of a sense of community. The ASCA postdoc group, formed in 2023, continued to meet throughout 2024.

Research staff in fte at institutional level								
	2022 #		%	2023 #		%	2024 #	
Staff								
Full Professor	7,05	13	15%	5,3	18	8%	10,8	19
Associate Professor	7,98	15	17%	5,3	20	8%	9,8	17
Assistant Professor	22,58	57	49%	36,4	75	57%	27,1	70
Postdocs	8,9	18	19%	17,1	19	27%	13,7	15
Total Staff	46,46	103	100%	64,1	132	100%	61,4	121
PhD Candidates	fte	#		fte	#		fte	#
Contracted PhDs	24,7	29		26,8	27		23	23

Main Categories of Research Output at Institutional Level						
	2022 %		2023 %		2024 %	
Refereed journal articles	140	44%	162	41%	168	44%
Non-Refereed journal articles	10	3%	34	9%	34	9%
Books	22	7%	22	6%	30	8%
Book chapters	80	25%	92	23%	100	26%
PhD Theses	11	3%	13	3%	12	3%
Conference Papers						
Professional publications	32	10%	40	10%	27	7%
Publications aimed at public	24	8%	35	9%	15	4%
Other Research Output*						
Total publications	319	100%	398	100%	386	100%
Dissertations	11		13		12	
staff members	103		132		121	
Average publications p.p.	3,1		3,0		3,2	

PhD Program

ASCA offers an internationally recognized PhD degree, awarded by the University of Amsterdam. The ASCA curriculum, which brings together academic staff, PhD candidates, and selected Research MA students in collaborative and supportive contexts, is designed to provide high-quality, comprehensive scholarly and professional training for future scholars working within the interdisciplinary humanities.

Sustaining ASCA's vibrant PhD community is a top priority. While emphasizing the importance of expanding funding for independent PhD projects (now only possible through NWO's PhDs in the Humanities scheme, as the Faculty of Humanities' funding for such positions has been replaced by PhDs funded through the starting grants) in order to keep rejuvenating the research community and open up new research fields, ASCA has been increasingly successful in securing national and European funding for large projects that include PhD candidates (and postdocs). Having a critical mass of funded PhD candidates employed by the Faculty of Humanities, who have more time for their research and are therefore able to be more involved in ASCA events and their organization, helps to keep the PhD community vibrant.

ASCA trains young researchers to develop an informed understanding of cultural phenomena, stimulating them to combine theorization with detailed analysis of specific case studies. The seminars, courses, and workshops offered within the training program are open to all ASCA PhD candidates, as well as to other scholars, including those working in other research schools or faculties, and those outside the university (artists, curators, activists, etc.).

The PhD project is considered as a collaborative endeavor in which the PhD candidate is the central figure, supported by the supervisors and ASCA's vice director. At the start of the PhD project, all PhD candidates and their supervisors have a welcome meeting with ASCA's vice director. At this meeting, an individually tailored training program is drawn up. PhD candidates work under the close supervision of (at least) two senior researchers and are evaluated on an annual basis (contracted PhD candidates in meetings; non-contracted PhD candidates by email or, if issues are flagged, in a meeting). During the annual evaluations, specific attention is paid to the progress of the dissertation and the quality of the supervision, as well as to career perspectives and the building of a strong CV for the academic or non-academic job market. PhD candidates are encouraged to gain teaching experience (up to

0.2 fte of teaching in the 2nd and 3rd year is expected for candidates with fulltime contracts), to have at least one peer-reviewed article or book chapter published before the defense and, if they are so inclined, to spend some time at a university abroad. In the evaluations, it is emphasized that activities undertaken during the PhD trajectory should feed into the dissertation as much as possible, to avoid delayed completion.

Supplementing the PhD training program offered by the Faculty of Humanities, ASCA organizes annual skills workshops on publishing and the academic job market. The advice given – by ASCA’s director and vice director, and recent ASCA alumni – is geared specifically to PhD candidates with an interdisciplinary profile.

ASCA provides opportunities for PhD candidates to present their work and to take part in the organization of international events, from the annual ASCA workshop, organized by a team of PhD candidates, to smaller events related to the research groups.

The effectiveness of ASCA’s PhD training is evidenced by the fact that after graduating, 78% of ASCA’s contracted PhD candidates that finished between 2012 and 2024 hold academic jobs (temporary or permanent), within and outside the Netherlands. Of the self- and externally funded PhD candidates that finished between 2014 and 2023, 60% hold an academic job (temporary or permanent). Finished ASCA PhD candidates who pursue non-academic careers end up (or, in the case of many self-funded PhD candidates, continue) working mainly in the cultural sector, in policymaking and in secondary education.

Social Impact

The most prevalent form of societal impact of ASCA research is its contribution to scholarly and societal debates. Most ASCA research critically engages with contemporary issues in arts, politics, media and culture with the aim of making productive contributions to the public debate. Its audience consists of professionals from the field of cultural production, policymakers, activists and members of the general public with an interest in the critical analysis of culture. ASCA researchers are eager to share their research.

In addition, ASCA members engage with public debate by publishing in non-academic journals and national and international newspapers, and by appearing in media including television, radio and podcasts. Contributions to **national media (radio and television)** include Jaap Kooijman on public personalities (6 January) and The Music Factory (18 January) on NPO Radio 1; Richard Rogers on Telegram in the NPO 1 television program *EenVandaag* (11 September); and Timo Koren on the Amsterdam Dance Event on NPO Radio 1 (19 October).

Contributions to **national newspapers and online news media** include Gaston Franssen on Jacob Israël de Haan in *Trouw* (16 January); Geert Lovink on social media in NU.nl (18 January); Mark Deuze on Facebook in NU.nl (2 February), Vice Media in *Trouw* (23 February), journalism in *NRC* (14 March), influencers in *Algemeen Dagblad* (21 July), and Netflix and Disney+ in NU.nl (23 August); Jaap Kooijman on music television in *de Volkskrant* (13 February) and *NRC* (31 October); Erik Borra on the AI chatbot Gemini in *FD* (4 March); Lovink on non-fungible tokens in *de Volkskrant* (10 March); Richard Rogers on the Voice of Europe in *Trouw* (4 April), meme culture and American politics in *de Volkskrant* (24 May), and Russian propaganda on social media in *NRC* (7 October);,; Yolande Jansen on antisemitism in *NRC* (11 April), police violence against students in *de Volkskrant* (11 May), and Israel and international law in *Het Parool* (30 November); Michiel Leezenberg on philosophy against the grain (18 May) and early civilizations (20 June) in *NRC*; Deuze and Stefania Milan on Gaza and social media in *de Volkskrant* (29 May); Margriet Schavemaker on women in history books in *Het Parool* (1 June) and the art of fashion in *Algemeen Dagblad* (14 October); Jacob Engelberg and Noa Roei on the need for dialogue with students in *de Volkskrant* (4 July); Barbara Titus on returning the Jaap Kunst music collection to Indonesia in *Het Parool* (4 October); and Ellen Rutten on budget cuts in education in *NRC* (28 October).

Contributions to *national magazines* include Diewertje Luitse on AI in *De Correspondent* (3 January); Beate Roessler on alternative facts in *Filosofie Magazine* (19 February); Sruti Bala on antisemitism in *Theaterkrant* (3 April); Paula Helm on Indigenous languages in *De Groene Amsterdammer* (21 August); Daniel Loick and Oscar Talbot on police violence in *De Nederlandse Boekengids* (8 October); Richard Rogers on Big Tech in *De Groene Amsterdammer* (28 October); and Michiel Leezenberg on women philosophers in *Filosofie Magazine* (3 December).

Contributions to international media include Matthias De Groof on filmmaker Haesaerts in *The New York Times* (9 January); Geert Lovink on social networks in *Noticias Financieras* (3 February); Daniel Loick on abolitionism on Freie Radio Net (21 April); Richard Rogers on Russia's RT network in *The New York Times* (30 May); and Barnita Bagchi in an interview on literary criticism in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* (4 July).

Financial Overview

ASCA Financial Report 2024	
Working budget	50.000,00
<i>Expenses:</i>	
Workshops/Conferences	21.599,60
Seminars	18.526,35
Events	8.113,87
Admin/social	1.069,84
Total:	49.309,66
Balance	690,34

ASCA receives an annual budget from the Faculty of Humanities to support its PhD training program, research events, administration and other operational costs. The amount of this budget is determined by the Faculty's financial position and by the total research time allocated to ASCA members. Personnel costs for academic and administrative staff, as well as other overhead costs, are funded separately and do not form part of ASCA's annual budget. In 2024, ASCA's annual budget increased to €50,000. ASCA remains committed to distributing these resources as widely as possible, enabling as many members as possible to organize research events and other scholarly activities.

All ASCA members and research groups can apply for money from the annual budget to fund research activities such as the organization of workshops, conferences and other academic meetings with guest speakers. If the event involves and is targeted at ASCA members, and a description and full budget (including contributions by other sponsors) is provided, ASCA will grant the application for an amount up to 1,000 Euro. On principle, ASCA does not pay honorariums to academics in full, non-precarious employment, but honorariums may be paid to precarious academics, artists and activists. The majority of the annual budget is reserved for activities organized by members and research groups. Another part (about 9,000 Euro) is reserved for the ASCA International Workshop.

Events

- 4 January **Palestine Teaches: Commemoration**
Second session of a workshop series on what we can we learn from Palestine | Organizers: Eleri Connick and Safae el Khannoussi | With Laleh Khalili, Firas Shehadeh and Thomas Kilpper
- 11 January **Extimacies**
Public seminar and lecture with Nadai Bou Ali | Organized by ASCA's Sex Negativity Group and part of the seminar We have Never Had Sex.
- 12 January **History is not context, it's reality; On Israel/Palestine: Colonialism and Genocide. On remembrance culture and scholarship**
Teach-in about the political and social reality in the region and how we got here. Organizers: Erella Grassiani, Mikki Stelder, Sinin Nakhle, Chiara De Cesari, Sudeep Dasgupta, Yolande Jansen. Speakers: Dirk Moses, Maha Abdallah, Marjolein Pagee, Chris de Ploeg.
- 16 January **Without/Beyond: Sexuality, Consent, Gender, Identity**
Public lecture and masterclass with Ann Pellegrini and Avgi Saketopoulou in the We Have Never Had Sex Seminar organized by the Sex Negativity Research Group.
- 17 January **Gender, Psychoanalysis, and Beyond—(Re)Thinking Embodiment, Culture, and Trauma**
First session of the Trans* and Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Contemporary Cultural Issues 2023-2024: Workshop and Roundtable with Ann Pellegrini and Avgi Saketopoulou | Organizers: Alvaro Lopez, Mina Burnside, and Ben Moore.
- 17 January **This Must Be The Place: How Music Can Make Your City Better**
Amsterdance lecture by Shain Shapiro, in collaboration with IASPM Benelux.
- 18 January **Jazz and Death: Reception, Rituals, and Representations**
Book presentation with Walter van de Leur

- 18 January **Surplus People of the World Unite! On Borders, Policing, and Abolition**
Abolition Democracies Seminar - In Conversation with Dr. Vanessa Thompson
- 19 January **History is not context, it's reality; On Israel/Palestine: Israel and the EU in the Global Arms and Security Industry**
Teachers: Dr. Wassim Ghantous (Tampere University), Dr. Erella Grassiani (UvA), and Mark Akkerman (Stop Wapenhandel). Moderator: Yolande Jansen.
- 19 January **Paul and Menno de Nooijer: Working In Progress**
Organized by the ASCA research group "Moving Images: Preservation, Curation, Exhibition" | Master Class and q+a session coordinated by Simona Monizza and Amber Mota.
- 26 January **German occupation photography in WWII Greece. An examination**
Talk by Dr. Carl Mauzy (Marilena Laskaridis Visiting Research Fellow, University of Amsterdam) | Moderated by: Maria Boletsi.
- 30 January **Moving Images of Violence**
Workshop with Daniele Rugo, organized by Eleri Connick and Esther Schoorel.
- 1 February **Palestine Teaches: (An)Archiving**
Third session of the workshop series on what we can we learn from Palestine | Organizers: Eleri Connick and Safae el Khannoussi.
- 2 February **Brotherly Strangers: Kenya's and Zambia's Relations with China 1949-2019**
Third event of the Global Africa Reading/Research Group with Dr. Jodie Sun (Fudan University).
- 2 February **Unboxing Gaza: Disrupted Histories and Photo Kegham**
Talk with Kegham Djeghalian Jr, organized by Özge Calafato and Karène Sanchez Summerer.
- 6 February **Book Launch: De muziekfabriek**
Festive event in De Melkweg with Jaap Kooijman, Sylvana Simons and Linda Duits.

- 7 February **Materiality and Machinic Embodiment: A Postphenomenological Inquiry into ChatGPT's Active User Interface**
Philosophy and Public Affairs with Dr. Selin Gerlek (UvA) and Dr. Olya Kudina (TU Delft).
- 9 February **History is not context, it's reality; On Israel/Palestine: Anticolonial Queer Liberation in Palestine**
Teach-in about the political and social reality in the region and how we got here. Organizers: Mikki Stelder and Roberto Filippello, with Haneen Maikey and Lynn Darwich.
- 9 February **Workshop on conducting cross-media research with Twi-XL**
Workshop on conducting cross-media research featuring keynotes by Emillie De Keulenaar (University of Groningen, Faculty of Arts) and Sal Hagen (University of Amsterdam, Faculty of Humanities). Organizer: Sarah Burkhardt.
- 15 February **Social Hell and the Resistance of Discourse**
Public lecture and seminar with Nadia Bou Ali | Organizers: SEX NEGATIVITY Research Group (Dr. Marija Cetinić, Tessel Veneboer, Persis Bekkering, Stefa Govaart).
- 15 February **Eco-Psychoanalysis: When Psychoanalysis meets the Climate Crisis**
ASCA/NICA Research Seminar organized by Catherine Lord with guest speaker Sally Weintrobe.
- 15 February **The Hinterland: in Front of Us or Behind Us?**
Organized by Hanneke Stuit and Esther Peeren, with five contributors to the new book *Planetary Hinterlands: Extraction, Abandonment and Care* – Marringje Paijmans, Esther Peeren, Hanneke Stuit, Tjalling Valdés Olmos and Maarten Zwiers.
- 21 February **Useful Television in Britain in the Interval of Uncertainty, 1928-1939**
Presentation by John Wyver in the Useful Television Standing Seminar organized by Markus Stauff (ASCA) and Anne-Katrin Weber (University of Lausanne).

- 23 February **History is not context, it's reality; On Israel/Palestine: European colonialism and its contemporary consequences**
Teach-in about the political and social reality in the region and how we got here | Speakers: Anne-Lot Hoek, Sai Englert, Sinan Çankaya, Nadira Omarjee | Chair: Rébecca Franco (UvA)
- 28 February **Breath of Life, Kiss of Death: on Breathing and Olfaction**
Presentation by Berjanet Jazani (London-based Iranian psychoanalyst) organized by the Queer Analysis Group | Respondent: Catherine Lord.
- 28 February **The Political Agency of Water: Community, Value, and Legal Personality**
Philosophy and Public Affairs | Speaker: Dr. Mihnea Tanasescu (Brussels) Commentator: Drs. Jasmijn Leeuwenkamp (ASCA)
- 29 February **William Grant Still's From the Delta: A Work in Culture and Context**
Critical Cultural Theory workshop with Eric L. Hinton (Susquehanna University) and Michael Thomas (ASCA).
- 1 March **History is not context, it's reality; On Israel/Palestine: (online) censorship of palestinian voices**
Teach-in about the political and social reality in the region and how we got here. Organizers and moderators: Jill Toh and Naomi Appelman | The confirmed speakers are: Nadia Benaissa from Bits of Freedom and Kifaia, Deborah Brown from Human Rights Watch, Osama Al-Sayyad from Arabi Facts Hub, and Jamil Fiorino-Habib (UvA).
- 1 March **Historical film digitization and restoration: from material analysis to novel imaging solutions**
ASCA Research Group 'Moving Images: Preservation, Curation, Exhibition' (UvA/ASCA i.c.w. Eye Filmmuseum) with Alice Plutino, who will share with us her current research on characteristics of film scanning for digitization and restoration.

- 1 March **Cosmologies Workgroup – Eduardo Viveros de Castro’s Ontological Perspectivism**
Organised by: Erica Biolchini, R. Gold, and Halbe H. Kuipers
- 5 March **Animals as Participants**
Congress Animal-Human Studies 2024 organized by Fien Lindelauff and Maarten Reesink | CREA Amsterdam |
Keynote by Eva Meijer.
- 5 March **Anteaesthetics**
Public Lecture and seminar by Rizvana Bradley | Organizers: SEX NEGATIVITY Research Group (Dr. Marija Cetinić, Tessel Veneboer, Persis Bekkering, Stefa Govaart)
- 5 March **An Asian Ghost Story**
Dutch premiere at Eye Filmmuseum of the multi-awarded film *An Asian Ghost Story* (2023), directed by ASCA PhD candidate Bo Wang.
- 8 March **Eastsplainers # 10 with Olga Burlyuk and Oleksandra Ivashenko**
For our tenth edition of the Eastsplainers public programme series organized by the [Department of Slavic Languages & Cultures](#) (University of Amsterdam), in cooperation with the [University of New Europe](#), with artists and intellectuals who recently migrated or fled from Central & Eastern Europe to the Netherlands.
- 11 March **Being Responsible**
Philosophy and Public Affairs, 11 March: Faculteitskamer 2 OTM, 16:00-17:30 | Speaker: Prof. dr. Susan Wolf (Chapel Hill, North Carolina) | Commentator: Dr. Thomas Nys (UvA).
- 12 March **Cosmological and Spiritual Dimensions of (Transformational) Musicking**
Music Discussion Club with Brian Trinanda Kusuma Adi
- 13 March **The Queerness of Featuses**
Presentation by Luca Greco (Université de Lorraine) organized by the Queer Analysis Group | Respondents: Misha Kavka and Diego Semerene

- 15 March **Desire for Trans**
Symposium organized by Diego Semerene and Misha Kavka with Jack Halberstam (Columbia University) and Beatriz Santos (Université Paris Cité France, psychoanalyst), performance by Relaxking from the drag king House of Løstbois.
- 15 March **ASCA Cities Seminar: Lava and Concrete: Spatial Production in the Pedregal de Santo Domingo**
ASCA Cities talk by Joseph Heathcott (The New School) | ASCA Cities Seminar - Material Cities | Co-organized by Carolyn Birdsall, Alex Gekker, and Linda Kopitz.
- 15 March **History is not context, it's reality; On Israel/Palestine: Intifada, Revolution. A History of Resistance**
Teach-in about the political and social reality in the region and how we got here. Organized and moderated by Jamil Fiorino-Habib and Annelies Moors | The speakers are Miriyam Aouragh, Mouin Rabbani, and Mezna Qato.
- 22 March **History is not context, it's reality; On Israel/Palestine: Witnessing Palestine through Art**
Teach-in, supported by “Decolonial Futures” (UvA) | Speakers: Aisha Mershani, Qais Assali, and Karmel Sabri | Moderator: Jan Mendes
- 22 March **Global Africa: Africa in Fashion: Luxury, Craft and Textile Heritage.**
Keynote speaker Ken Kweku Nimo. Kweku Nimo is a Ghana-born, South Africa-based fashion author and researcher | Moderated by Tommy Tse
- 23 March **Stressing Solidarity - Witnessing Palestine through Art and Architecture**
Symposium initiated by the Teach-in Series workgroup of the Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis at Framer Framed.
- 26 March **Documenting Audibilities**
Film Series organized by Emily Clark, Julia Kursell, Luc Marraffa, Layan Nijem, and Otto Stuparitz. *Gelora: Magnummentary of Gedung Sate* (2021) directed by musician, archivist, and journalist Alvin Yunata (Jakarta) and Tesla Manaf (Bandung).

- 3 April **Reaching into the Underlands of Extractive Capital**
A Masterclass with Macarena Gómez-Barris organized by Florence Evans
- 3 April **Heist Politics**
Public lecture by Luka Arsenjuk (University of Maryland)
- 4-5 April **The Aesthetics of Geopower: Imagining Planetary Histories and Hegemonies**
Conference organized by Simon Ferdinand, Katarina Nesic, and Colin Sterling
- 5 April **The conservator's task and the aesthetics of documenting time-based media art**
ASCA Research Group 'Moving Images: Preservation, Curation, Exhibition' with Haitian Ma. Respondent: Annet Dekker.
- 5 April **Riotville, U.S.A.: Image and Collective Action in the Essay Film.**
Master Class by Luka Arsenjuk (University of Maryland)
- 5 April **Cosmologies Workgroup – Cosmofeminism**
Organised by: Erica Biolchini, Jasmijn Leeuwenkamp, Halbe Kuipers, and R. Gold
- 8 April **Decolonial Meridians Film Screenings**
Screening of two films that work with archival footage, erasure and memory in the present. Organized by Sanjukta Sunderason.
- 9 April **ASCA Supervision Workshop**
ASCA invites all current and prospective PhD supervisors to a workshop on PhD supervision, organized by Jaap Kooijman and Eloë Kingma
- 9 April **Speculative Technologies in the Age of Financialization**
A Masterclass by Aris Komporozos-Athanasίου organised by Claudio Celis, Stefania Milan, Jernej Markelj, Gavin Mueller.
- 10 April **Digital Digs and Data Dives: Excavating Digital Media Research in the Global South** A Masterclass by Merlyna Lim
- 10 April **Fairness, Accountability and Transparency: Friction and Reconciliation**
Philosophy and Public Affairs seminar with Prof. dr. Linnet Taylor (TiU) | Commentator: Dr. Marjolein Lanzing

- 15-16 April **Celebration of the 134th birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar**
Special two-day event hosted by the University of Amsterdam's Department of Anthropology (Momat group) and the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA), along with the collective 'Other Indias' Commemorating the 134th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a visionary Indian anti-caste thinker and social reformer.
- 19 April **History is not context, it's reality; On Israel/Palestine: Palestinian Political Prisoners**
Teach-in about the political and social reality in the region and how we got here. Organized and moderated by Jamil Fiorino-Habib and Annelies Moors | Speakers: Annelies Moors (Professor, Department of Anthropology, UvA); Sahar Francis (General Director, Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association); and Ashjan Ajour (Researcher, Department of Sociology, University of Leicester).
- 19 April **Infrastructural and Tactical Cinema Practices: A View from Scotland**
ASCA Cities Seminar - Material Cities with a Guest talk by María Vélez-Serna (University of Stirling)
- 23 April **Large Language Models as Interlocutors: Between Reliability and Deconstruction**
Part of the seminar series "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on AI & Culture". The aim of this series is to bring humanities scholars and computer scientists to the table to exchange critical perspectives on the intersections between AI and culture. In this session Sandro Pezzelle and Michael F. Miller will reflect on Large Language Models (LLMs) as "interlocutors".
- 23 April **The Shape of Fear: Racial Fascism and the Counterrevolutions of Property in W.E.B. Du Bois's Black Reconstruction**
Lecture by Alberto Toscano (Goldsmiths) | Abolition Democracies Seminar organized by Safae El Khannoussi el Boudrin, Daniel Loick and Oscar Talbot.

- 25 April **Gut-Level Hauntologies: From Specters of Marx to Mr. Morale & the Big Steppers**
Public lecture by Julius Greve (University of Oldenburg) organized by Abe Geil and Eugenie Brinkema.
- 25 April **History in Games**
Workshop organized by Toni Pape and Georgia Samaritaki
- 25 April **True Colors: Race and Technology**
Colorist Natacha Ikoli, and Cinematographer Freek Zonderland on how our everyday technology is still deeply racialized | Respondents: Filmmakers Bo Wang and Karen Sztajnberg
- 2 May **Films that Work Harder / The Power of Flows**
Workshop with Yvonne Zimmermann (University Marburg) hosted by the Useful Television Standing Seminar | Organized by Markus Stauff (ASCA) and Anne-Katrin Weber (University of Lausanne).
- 3 May **Palestinian Performing Arts and Cultural Resistance**
Israel/Palestine teach-in with: Huda Odeh (Palestinian cultural activist and professional): A short history of Palestinian performing arts | Jacky Lubeck and Jan Willems (Theatre Day Productions Gaza): Playing Resistance: children's theatre in Gaza | Alaa Shehada (Palestine Comedy Club): The Horse of Jenin (preview) | Musician: NN | Moderators: Nan van Houte and Sruti Bala.
- 13 May **Documenting Audibilities: Screening of Expedition Content**
Film Series organized by Emily Clark, Julia Kursell, Luc Marraffa, Layan Nijem, and Otto Stuparitz
- 13 May **Walking in Post-Growth Landscapes**
WARP Masterclass with Julia Grosinger organized by Tania Cardoso.
- 14 May **Nostalgias, Critical Memories, Imaginative Fabulations**
Philosophy and public Affairs with Silvia Pierosara (Macerata) and Daniel Loick (ASCA)
- 16 May **Towers of Ivory and Steel. How Israeli universities deny Palestinian freedom**
Presentation by Dr. Maya Wind of her book. The talk was followed by a commentary by Prof. Sarah Bracke (Professor of Sociology of Gender and Sexuality, UvA) and Omar

- Barghouti (ASCA PhD candidate at UvA and co-founder of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel). The event was moderated by Prof. Suzanne Legêne (Prof. of Political History, VU).
- 16 May **New Rituals for the Multispecies Community**
Symposium organized by Eva Meijer
- 17 May **Waste Siege and Material Practices of Resistance - Public Lecture**
Public Lecture organized by Giulia Bellinetti In the framework of the workshop series Palestine Teaches (ASCA); the teach-ins series History is not context, it's reality (ASCA); and the programme Future Materials (Jan van Eyck Academie). Speakers: Sakeb (Mariam Dahabreh and Raghad Saqfalhait); Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins (Associate Professor of Anthropology, Bard College). *Moderator: A. George Bajalia* (Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Wesleyan University).
- 21 May **Postmortem Privacy**
Lecture by prof. Anita L. Allen organized by AlgoSoc, the Institute for Information Law (IViR), Faculty of Humanities, and the Amsterdam Law School.
- 21 May **Digital Transformation in the Amazon Assemblage**
Vernissage, Indigenous Addresses and Academic Keynotes by Paola Ricaurte and Linnet Taylor | The event is organized by Paula Helm, Beatrice Bonami and Roanne van Voorst with the support of the Global Digital Culture Research Priority Area.
- 22 May **ASCA Postdocs meeting**
All ASCA postdocs and visiting post-PhD researchers are welcome to share your work in progress, seek advice on any academic matters and beyond or join in a writing session. Organized Kristina Gedgaudaite and Fieke Jansen.
- 22 May **“Offensive Advice” (co-authored with Jonas Haeg)**
Philosophy and Public Affairs with Dr. Romy Eskens (UU).
- 23 May **Research Seminar with Silvia Vari**
Organized by Elio Baldi. This seminar is part of the new Comics studies research group | Kristina Gedgaudaite and Rik Spanjers will act as respondents.

- 23 May **‘Queer Rigidity’ – Masterclass and Lecture by S. Pearl Brilmyer**
Master class and Lecture organized by Ben Moore
- 24 May **Reading Eva Hayward**
Eva Hayward (Utrecht University) in conversation with Diego Semerene (ASCA) organized by the ASCA Queer Analysis group.
- 24 May **Re-Reading 2000s Greek Television: Online Audience Perspectives on Fatness, Celebrity Accountability, and Cancel Culture**
A talk by Dr. Spyros Chairetis (Marilena Laskaridis Visiting Research Fellow, University of Amsterdam). Supported by: the ASCA group “Crisis, Critique and Futurity,” the department of Modern Greek Language and Culture of the University of Amsterdam, and the Dutch Society for Modern Greek Studies (NGNS).
- 24 May **Africadelic 2024: Diaspora Talks on Congo and Sudan**
Africadelic Festival 2024 hosted a full-packed night of information and entertainment in Tolhuistuin with Congo and Sudan in Focus, featuring Diaspora Talks on both nations, performances by Hatoon, Razeen, and Yanno, and a concert by Fulu Miziki.
- 26-29 May **Presenting Audiovisual Collections: Experiments and Explorations**
Eye International Conference in collaboration with ASCA
- 28 May **The Handbook of Gender Studies in the Dutch Caribbean**
Book launch of this edited volume by Rose Mary Allen and Sruti Bala.
- 28-29 May **Territories of Incarceration guest-edited by Sabrina Puddu**
Launch for special issue of *The Journal of Architecture* organized by Hanneke Stuit.
- 30-31 May **Sea Mediations: Hydro-criticism and Tidal Thinking**
Symposium at the University of Amsterdam organized by Patricia Pisters, Leonie Schmidt, Laszlo Muntéan, Jeroen Boom, Carolyn Birdsall.
- 30 May **Waste Siege and Material Practices of Resistance**
Workshop organized by Giulia Bellinetti In the framework of the workshop series Palestine Teaches (ASCA); the teach-ins

- series History is not context, it's reality (ASCA); and the programme Future Materials (Jan van Eyck Academie).
- 30-31 May **Humor and its Political Affordances Today: From Nostalgia to Cancel Cultures**
Workshop organized by Spiros Chairetis (Marilena Laskaridis Visiting Research Fellow, University of Amsterdam) and Maria Boletsi (ASCA).
- 31 May **Water Justice in Palestine**
Israel/Palestine Teach-in History is not Context, It's Reality | Speakers: Muna Dajani (London School of Economics), Lamis Qdemat (Founder, Water Heroes and activist, Palestine) | Moderator: Margreet van Zwarteveen (Professor of Water Governance, UvA and UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, Delft).
- 31 May **Self-Portraits of Coral Visual Archives and Radiation Ecologies in the Anthropocene**
Lecture by Yuriko Furuhashi (McGill University) organized by Linda Kopitz, Alex Gekker and Carolyn Birdsall.
- 5-7 June **2024 ASCA Workshop: Resistance, Refusal, Fugitivity**
ASCA International Workshop 5-7 June 2024 | Organizers: Hannah Poon, Oscar Talbot, Safae El Khannoussi El Boudrin | Keynote speakers: Layal Ftouni (Utrecht University), Nicholas Thoburn (University of Manchester), Jia Tan (The Chinese University of Hong Kong).
- 5 June **Reimagining a Theoretical Turn in Fashion Scholarship roundtable and Special Issue launch**
Roundtable with Tommy Tse, Vésma Kontere McQuillan, Marie-Aude Baronian, Misha Kavka, Christine Delhaye and Diego Semerene.
- 6 June **Fairness, Accountability and Transparency: Friction and Reconciliation**
Philosophy and Public Affairs | Speaker: Prof. dr. Linnet Taylor (TiU)
- 11 June **Park Chan-wook's The Handmaiden: Performing Not-yet Queerness Toward a Utopian Future**
Talk by Hee-seung Irene Lee (University of Auckland, New Zealand) | Queer Analysis Group organized by Misha Kavka and Diego Semerene

- 13-14 June **Amsterdam Kant Conference 2024: Kantian Philosophy Today**
The University of Amsterdam commemorated the 300th birth year of Immanuel Kant by organizing a conference dedicated to the question: what is the state of Kantian philosophy today? | Hosted together with the Philosophy Department of the University of Amsterdam. In cooperation with Duitsland Instituut & Goethe-Institut Amsterdam
- 13 June **The Materiality of Air in Dineo Seshee Bopape's and Alejandro Restrepo's installations**
ASCA Political Ecologies Seminar | Guest Lecture by Dr. Raphaelle Occhietti | ASCA Political Ecologies Seminar is an annual research seminar co-directed since 2019 by Joost de Bloois and Jeff Diamanti
- 14 June **'Against Cisness' — A Masterclass and Lecture with Emma Heaney**
Sex Negativity/Queer Analysis Collaborative Event | Organizers: Marija Cetinić, Diego Semerene, Eliza Steinbock, Imogen Grigorovich
- 18 June **New perspectives for small Latin American film archives: the case of LUPA-UFF, in Brazil**
Moving Images Research Group hosted a presentation by Rafael de Luna (Fluminense Federal University, Brazil) organized by Giovanna Fossati and Floris Paalman.
- 18 June **Precarious Collections and Data Colonialism**
Master Class and Public Lecture with Ofri Cnaani (artist and researcher) organized by Noa Roei and Annet Dekker.
- 18 June **Resisting Racial Capitalism: An Antipolitical Theory of Refusal**
Lecture by Ida Danewid (Sussex) in the Abolition Democracies seminar organized by Safae El Khannoussi el Boudrin, Daniel Loick and Oscar Talbot.
- 19 June **Palestine. Ethical obligations towards Palestinians and the call for cutting ties with Israeli universities. What does it entail?**
ASCA, AHM, the department of art and culture, and literary and cultural analysis organized a meeting to talk about Gaza and Palestine and about the university's obligations in the

- face of genocide and apartheid. With a lecture by Santiago Slabodsky (Chair in Jewish Studies at Hofstra University).
- 1-3 July **Celebrity Crises and Conflicts**
5th International Celebrity Studies Conference organized by Gaston Franssen.
- 4-5 July **Critical Theories Today Axel Honneth and the Frankfurt School(s)**
Conference organized by the Philosophy and Public Affairs Group.
- 6 September **History Repeating: Populist Imaginaries, Cultural Productions, and Subaltern Identity Formation in a Trans-Historical Perspective**
Multidisciplinary Seminar organize by Salvatore Giusto and Francesca Zantedeschi \.
- 9 September **“Refusing”: Community archiving for social and epistemic justice**
First session of the Decolonial Futures of Audiovisual Archives and Archiving Series in Eye organized by Asli Özgen and Jamil Fiorino Habib. Guest speaker: Jeftha Pattikawa and Verloren Banden project.
- 9 September **An Introduction to Disability Justice & Accessible Pedagogy**
Workshop led by Dr. Sami Schalk | Organized by Wigbertson Julian Isenia, Slava Greenberg, and Leni Van Goidsenhoven.
- 10 September **Interspecies Performance**
Symposium + Book Launch organized by Laura Cull Ó Maoilearca
- 12 September **Losing the Ground of Hope: Abandonment, Despair and Suicide in long Covid**
Long Covid Conversations organized by Eva Meijer | Speaker: Prof. dr. Vivienne Matthies-Boon, Radboud University Nijmegen
- 12 September **GameLab**
Co-organized by Barbora Bachanová, Furkan Dabaniyastı, Riccardo Freschi, Marein van den Heuvel, Jelmer Labots, Lingyun, Yuhong Liu, Shiyun Qian and Toni Pape
- 16 September **Political Veganism**
Organized by Eva Meijer | With a.o. Leonie Cornips, Dido van Oosten, and Carolina Trujillo.

- 18 September **Capital Owes You Nothing. On Lacan, Pascal, and Pure Love**
Session 1 of the "We Have Never Had Sex" seminar organized by Marija Cetinic, Catrinel Radoi, and Imogen Grigorovich | Masterclass by Dr. Dominiek Hoens, Royal Institute for Theatre, Cinema and Sound.
- 18 September **Thermodynamic Marx: Exploding Labor-Power**
Jan Overwijk (IFS Frankfurt/UvH) in the Philosophy and Public Affairs seminar, organized by Yolande Jansen and Jasmijn Leeuwenkamp | Commentator: Jeff Diamanti (ASCA).
- 19 September **Social deduction game "Mafia"**
Session guided by ASCA PhD Samaneh Asadi who is also an expert and aficionado of the game.
- 19 September **The New Fantastic: Reflections on Criticism, Creative Non-Fiction and the Novel Today**
Lecture Nicholas Royle organized by Esther Peeren, in collaboration with the English Department.
- 20 September **Creative Writing for Academics: Using Creative Writing as a Tool in Academic**
Workshop animated by Marie Beauchamps.
- 20 September **Contemporary Fiction, Creative Non-Fiction and Creative Criticism**
Masterclass Nicholas organized by Esther Peeren in collaboration with NICA.
- 24 September **The Indonesian Women's Engagements in the (Transnational) Decolonial Movement, 1940s-1960s**
Lecture by by Widya Fitria Ningsih, organized by Barbara Titus
- 24 September **ASCA PhD Meeting**
All ASCA PhD candidates were invited to our bi-annual general ASCA meeting with the directors.
- 25 September **Lecture by Neve Gordon: 'Academia in the Face of Genocide'**
In this talk, Neve Gordon discussed the response of academic institutions to the genocidal violence perpetrated in the Gaza Strip.

- 26 September **Islamic Manuscript Making. A Crucial Link in the World of Material Culture**
Lecture by Dr. Karin Scheper, Conservator, Leiden University, moderated by Özge Baykan Calafato.
- 26 September **Fashion, Beauty & Creativity Unbound: China, Africa and the Multiple Souths**
ERC China Africa Fashion Power X ASCA Global Africa Research Group International Workshop | Organized by Fairuzah Atchulo, Johanna von Pezold, and Tommy Tse.
- 30 September **Marlene Daut in Conversation**
Conversation with Marlene Daut Professor of French and African Diaspora Studies, Yale University, moderated by Alessandra Benedicty-Kokken.
- 1 October **The Spectre of Hysteria and the Marginalisation of (Medically Unexplained) Multisystem Diseases**
Long Covid Conversations organized by Eva Meijer | Speaker: Dr. Paula Muhr, University of Zurich and Technical University Berlin
- 4 October **Rainbow Cruise and Resilient Queer Activism in China: Screening & Discussion**
Screening of "Rainbow Cruise of Love" (2020), the documentary on the LGBTQ+ Rainbow Cruise event. After the screening the film director Jiang Nengjie was in conversation with Jeroen de Kloet.
- 9 October **The Republicanism of 'The Mother of Liberalism.' How Germaine de Staël's Love of Liberty Guides her Ideas About the Constitution**
Philosophy and Public Affairs seminar organized by Jasmijn Leeuwenkamp and Yolande Jansen. Guest: Eveline Groot (EUR) Commentator: Thomas Nys
- 10 October **New Rituals for the Multispecies Community II**
Symposium organized by Eva Meijer
- 10 October **Scenes of Television Instruction in 1950s Montreal**
Ira Wagman (School of Journalism and Communication; Carleton University; Ottawa, CANADA) was guest speaker in The Useful Television Standing Seminar (organized by Anne-Katrin Weber, University of Lausanne, and Markus Stauff, University of Amsterdam)

- 11 October **An African History of Africa, with Zeinab Badawi**
Lecture by the award-winning author and BBC broadcaster Zeinab Badawi. With a conversation between Badawi and writer Vamba Sherif, moderated by journalist Phaedra Haringsma.
- 14 October **“Recording”: Accidental archivism, video work and forensics of anticolonial resistance**
Second session of the Decolonial Futures of Audiovisual Archives and Archiving Series in Eye organized by Asli Özgen and Jamil Fiorino Habib. Guest Speaker: Dr. Sidar Bayram.
- 16 October **Deadly ground truths of AI-enabled warfighting**
Lecture by Lucy Suchman in the online Critical AI seminar series is organized by Anna Schjøtt Hansen, Dieuwertje Luitse and Tobias Blanke who are part of the Critical Data & AI Research Group at the University of Amsterdam.
- 17 October **Queer Analysis with Ednei Soares, psychoanalyst/Gender Clinic**
Queer Analysis Group organized by Misha Kavka and Diego Semerene
- 22 October **Decolonizing Outer Space**
Discussions with [Pamela Ohene-Nyako](#), [Deden Habibi Ali Alfathimy](#), [Dr Natalie Trevino](#), and [Sitraka Rakotoniaina](#).
- 23-30 October **Underground: Cinema Psychedelica at Eye Film Museum**
Series with Slava Greenberg, Erica Biolchini, Vincent Moon, Amir Vudka, Patricia Pisters.
- 24 October **Rethinking Gender Through African Lenses**
Lecture and Workshop by Professor Oyèrónké Oyěwùmí's, Stony Brook University | The workshop and lecture form part of a larger cultural programme concentrated on Africana philosophy co-organised by Africadelic, The University of Colour, the UvA departments of Philosophy and Literary and Cultural Analysis, ASCA and NICA.
- 30 October **Empire for Rent: Diagnosing Domination on Social Media**
Philosophy and Public Affairs with Dr Hannah McHugh, Ethics Institute, Utrecht University | Organizers: Jasmijn Leeuwenkamp and Yolande Jansen.

- 31 October **(Re)reading Derrida: A Library to Come**
Conference and Masterclass organized by Marie-Aude Baronian and Joost de Bloois
- 1 November **The State of Union: Sex and Recognition in Robert Glück and Obergefell**
We Have Never Had Sex Seminar with a Masterclass by Dr. Wendy Lotterman, University of Oslo.
- 1 November **An Evening with Olga Tokarczuk**
With Olga Tokarczuk, Margot Dijkgraaf, Karol Lesman and Niña Weijers.
- 5 November **Multispecies Oppression and Multispecies Health: Long Covid, Animals and Nature**
Round Table | Chair: Jin Qian, Speakers: Christopher Sebastian, Eva Meijer | Long Covid Conversations organized by Eva Meijer.
- 5 November **Lecture by Beverley Best: "Always Already: Periodizing the 90s"**
Hosted by ASCA Political Ecologies // Marxist Analysis and the New Tendencies in Critical Theory series,
- 7 November **Broadcasting and Building Minds: From radio to television in Austrian and European Schools (1924-1955)**
Maximilian Brockhaus (University of Vienna) was guest speaker in The Useful Television Standing Seminar (organized by Anne-Katrin Weber, University of Lausanne, and Markus Stauff, University of Amsterdam).
- 8 November **Comics Study Day**
Organized by Kristina Gedgaudaitė and ASCA Comics Studies, with support of the Netherlands Research School for Literary Studies (OSL) and the Dutch Society for Modern Greek Studies (NGNS).
- 11 November **"Re-membering the dismembered": Memory activisms in the face of constant displacement, fragmentation, annihilation of archives and film heritage**
Decolonial Futures of Audiovisual Archives and Archiving Series in Eye organized by Asli Özgen and Jamil Fiorino Habib. Guest speaker: Mohanad Yaqubi

- 13 November **Green Industrial Policy Without Inequality**
Philosophy and Public Affairs seminar organized by Jasmijn Leeuwenkamp and Yolande Jansen. Speaker: Jamie Draper (UU) Commentator: Sara Murawski (Senior Researcher and Project Leader, Sustainable Finance Lab)
- 15 November **Transgressive Poetics: Re-examining the Work of Parajanov**
Organized by Marie-Aude Baronian | Speakers: David Baronian, Tina Bastajian, Daniel Bird, Floris Paalman, Amir Vudka, Marie-Aude Baronian.
- 19 November **Transformation of Bon Odori in Post 3.11 and COVID-19 Japan: Trans-Asian Sensibilities and Re-Vernacularization**
The ASCA Research Group Music first instalment of its lecture series in the academic year 2024/25 with Wajima Yusuke, Professor of Musicology, Osaka University, Japan.
- 20 November **On Fun as a Political Category**
A late afternoon with Nicholas Holm, Linda Duits and Dick Zijp.
- 22 November **Carceral Worlds: Legacies, Textures and Futures**
Explorations in Carceral Geography. Book Launch and Panel Discussion organized by Hanneke Stuit.
- 3 December **Stabilising Generative AI as a Public Concern**
Invited lecture by Mike Ananny (USC Annenberg).
- 4 December **Alexander von Humboldt on Race: Beyond the Kantian Frame**
Philosophy and Public Affairs with Dr. Marie Louise Krogh (LEI) | Comments Dr. Jana Cattien (ASCA)
- 9 December **Psychoanalysis and... Comedy! A Post-Comedy Talk with Alfie Bown**
First session in the Psychoanalysis and...Series organized by Ben Moore and Alvaro Lopez.
- 10 December **It's My Party: Tat Ming Pair and the Postcolonial Politics of Popular Music in Hong Kong**
To celebrate the publication of the book "It's My Party: Tat Ming Pair and the Postcolonial Politics of Popular Music in Hong Kong," the authors Yiu Fai Chow, Jeroen de Kloet, and Leonie Schmidt, were joined by media scholars Joke Hermes and Jaap Kooijman to discuss the politics of pop.

- 10 December **Researching club culture. A praxeological approach**
An Amsterdance Day with Gabriele Klein organized by Amsterdance, the ASCA Electronic Dance Music Research Group.
- 10 December **Creative Writing for the Queer Screen**
A screenwriting workshop organised by Diego Semerene, supported by ASCA and NICA. A hands-on screenwriting workshop with Jeanne Jo, a Los Angeles-based screenwriter, film director, and visual artist whose work embraces a feminist camp sensibility and an unabashed pop aesthetic.
- 13 December **ASCA's 30th Anniversary**
Please come join us in celebrating 30 years of ASCA. During the afternoon, we will have two panel discussions: "Technology and Power: Pasts, Presents & Futures" and "The Future of Cultural Analysis", in which several ASCA members and alumni will look both back and forward to the continuously changing research of ASCA.

New Research Groups

Eco-Psychoanalysis: Psychoanalysis and the Climate Crisis

ASCA/NICA Research Seminar organized by Catherine Lord

These sessions, mostly in seminar format, but with guest lectures included, introduce the burgeoning field of eco-psychoanalysis. This is an ASCA Research seminar. It is aimed at academic colleagues and visiting scholars at all levels. It is, therefore, also aimed at post-doctoral researchers and PhD candidates. Research Masters and Masters students working in the field of environmental humanities, are also invited.

With its emphasis on the climate crisis, environmental humanities can engage in a fruitful dialogue with psychoanalytic thinking. In our current environmental emergency, how do we mourn what we are losing from the more-than-human world? The first session introduces the field through the publications of psychoanalysts who are now strongly identified with this interdisciplinary domain. The second session features, as our first guest lecturer, a leading specialist in the field: Sally Weintrobe, an eminent psychoanalyst, will give an online lecture. The third session focuses on the topic of mourning and melancholia for the more-than-human world. Future seminars will consider how to queer and decolonize environmental humanities. More sessions will be dedicated to exploring how matters of extinction and the death drive are linked to the themes of biodiversity and Earth systems survival, as well as their collapse.

New ASCA Group on Comics Studies

Coordinated by Rik Spanjers, Kristina Gedgaudaitė, Erin La Cour, Vasiliki Belia

This newly set up group consists of scholars with an interest in comics and comics studies. We come from various disciplines, such as cultural analysis, history, media studies, literary studies, and area studies. Our research spans a range of theoretical approaches as well as practice-based research; engages a variety of forms, including political cartoons, newspaper strips, graphic novels and digital comics, and responds to pertinent social issues, such as processes of decolonisation, visual politics of race, histories of social movements, struggle, and conflict.

This network aims to create a space for exchange and connection, for instance, in the form of:

Reading key theoretical texts from the field of comics studies together;

Reviewing each other's work in progress; Inviting comics makers to give talks or workshops; Organising symposiums or conferences

We warmly welcome new members. If you want to get involved, please send an e-mail to R.Spanjers@uva.nl and K.Gedgaudaite@uva.nl.

New Research Group: Reading Pain

New ASCA Research Group led by Assel Kadyrkhanova and Tanja Konstenius

What is Pain? Pain-as-symptom, pain-as-metaphor, pain-as-event... What does it mean to be 'in pain'? How are we affected by the pain of others? How do we respond to our own and someone else's histories of suffering?

In this research group, we read, discuss, and share knowledge about pain. As a group, we tackle making sense of pain that does not necessarily show visible signs of bodily injury. While conceptualizing pain, we consider embodied knowing crucial in reading and formulating pain narratives. How is the individually felt pain made visible and known to others? How do we share our experiences of pain? Drawing together diverse life experiences and wider understandings of pain, we seek to make sense of pain as a concept and a lived reality.

The *Reading PAIN* group aims to bring together researchers and early career scholars across visual arts, artistic research, art history, and cultural analysis, who are interested in thinking collectively about various dimensions of pain.

New Reading Group on Sound Studies

Reading Group organized by Luc Marraffa

The Sound Studies Reading Group is dedicated to critical perspectives in sound studies. In our sessions we work closely with sound materials, using the theoretical texts as support to unpack the implications of working with sounds in an academic setting. We center creative and artistic practices as modes of reflection on/with sound. Our approaches are explicitly oriented towards decolonial, queer and feminist approaches to sound studies. Some of the topics we have covered thus far are the use of voice recording technologies for the determination of asylum seekers' origin (Lawrence Abu-Hamdan), the implications of decolonizing sound archives (Yamomo and Titus), masculinity and black identities in sound (Nina Sun Eidsheim), queer memories of the AIDS crisis in sound (Groom), sonic fictions (Eshun), etc. We welcome scholars from any discipline and background (academic or not) who are interested in engaging with the sonic.

We meet approximately every 4 weeks on Zoom, for two hours. In preparation we read one text/engage with one sound object. Anyone can suggest readings and facilitate a session. For more information or to join a meeting, please send an email to Luc Marraffa (they/them): l.m.o.marraffa@uva.nl.

New ASCA Reading Group: Philosophical Histories and Culture

Organized by Michael Thomas

This group examines texts that aim to expand and deepen our history of philosophy through an engagement with the works of cultures that have been marginalized or erased from the Western European frame predominant in academic research. We will begin with a reading of Biko Gray and Ryan Johnsons' *Phenomenology of Black Spirit*, which "studi[ies] the relationship between Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit and Black Thought from Frederick Douglass to Angela Davis." Our first meetings will take place on Mondays in June. We'll cover approximately 2 chapters per session.

New Series: The Long Covid+ Conversations

Organized by Eva Meijer

The Covid-19 pandemic caused a spur of philosophical reflection: about biopolitics, anti-vaxxers and vaccination freedom, global multispecies health and many other topics. Long covid, not so much. This is unfortunate, because it raises many philosophical questions. Phenomenological questions, concerning body and mind, rationality, and social isolation. But also political questions, concerning the lack of care in neoliberal societies, or solidarity. Making space for long covid in academia matters not only theoretically: a large number of philosophers, other academics, and students are ill long term or disabled permanently, but this is currently invisible in academic discourse and university policies.

Long covid is not a new or unknown condition: it is a post-viral illness, similar to other multisystem diseases like ME/CFS, Lyme Disease, or Q-Fever Fatigue Syndrom – the + in the name of this series is meant to reflect this similarity and to invite those suffering from these and related conditions to join the conversations. However, because the majority of the patients are female and because patients cannot advocate for themselves (or only to a very limited degree), there is a lack of medical attention for and research about these diseases. This medical-political disinterest is interconnected with a lack of solidarity with those who are ill in academia, activism and society more generally.

This series of online talks is meant to collectively investigate the philosophical meaning of long covid and similar conditions, in relation to phenomenology, politics, gender and other topics, and to contribute to a more caring status quo in academia and beyond. We invite abstracts for a series of short online presentations. All sessions will be recorded and available to watch later for those who subscribe. There will also be opportunity to connect and respond to

the talks in written form. The format of the series might be updated as we go along, to be as inclusive and accessible as possible.

New Research Project: Emergencies of Authoritarianism

New international project co-coordinated by Daniel Loick. First event on October 10th at Spui25.

Authoritarian, right-wing populist and fascist tendencies are currently gaining strength all over the world. The task is not only to analyze authoritarianism critically, but also to respond to it politically. For this purpose, this project proposes the novel concept of *Emergencies of Authoritarianism*. Emergencies implies *emergences*, the development of authoritarian tendencies out of their "normal" latency and enabling conditions. We adopt a critical perspective that analyzes local trajectories in their transversal global entanglements and complex interactions in order to avoid both methodological nationalism and Eurocentric bias. At the same time, emergencies imply *urgencies*: they demand an immediate response. Authoritarianisms cannot be reduced to past times, nor to distant places, but can emerge, with new victim groups, anywhere. Over the coming years, the project will organize workshops and conferences at different locations around the globe, and present its results in various publication formats. As a transnational network with equal partners from the global South, we work closely with non-academic actors such as NGOs, cultural institutions, and journalists, using locally generated knowledge to develop robust responses to the threat of authoritarianism.

The project team is coordinated by Judith Butler (Berkeley), Robin Celikates (Berlin), Daniel Loick (Amsterdam) and Zeynep Gambetti (Istanbul), and involves Debaditya Bhattacharya (Delhi), Gisela Catanzaro (Buenos Aires), Denise Ferreira Da Silva (New York), Rosaura Martinez (Mexico City) and Eva von Redecker (Berlin). *Emergencies of Authoritarianism* was initiated by the [International Consortium of Critical Theory Programs \(ICCTP\)](#) and is funded by the VolkswagenStiftung (Germany).

The first event, entitled: *Emergencies of Authoritarianism: Global Entanglements*, will take place on 18 October 2024, 19.00 h, at [Spui 25](#), Amsterdam and features a panel discussion with: Debaditya Bhattacharya (Delhi), Gisela Catanzaro (Buenos Aires), Zeynep Gambetti (Istanbul), Eva von Redecker (Berlin), moderated by Daniel Loick (Amsterdam).

Capital: Volume One - Reading Group

Organized by Safae el Khannoussi

In his highly influential work *Capital*, Karl Marx offers a rich and complex critique of the rise and functioning of the capitalist system. Marx is particularly

interested in how within the inevitable crises caused by continuous flows of capital, the possibility of a new order takes shape. In this reading group, we will work our way through this important and timely book.

In this seminar, we will a) read *Capital: Volume One* in its entirety, b) read secondary literature on the text, presented by one or two participants.

We will meet once every two weeks to discuss one or several chapters. For every session, one or two people will present a reading selection to start the discussion. The reading group is open to all, but active participation and regular attendance is required. If you are interested in joining the seminar please contact s.elkhannoussielboudrin@uva.nl.

ASCA Digital Rhythmanalysis Reading Group

Organized by Daniel de Zeeuw

How to do justice to the pulsing, runaway, dynamic, emergent, cyclical, and ephemeral character of “terminally online” lifeworlds? In this reading group we explore various (new and old) theoretical frameworks and methodologies for studying the vernacular rhythms of digital culture. We are interested in tying the notion of rhythm to similar materialist temporal concepts of ‘difference-with-repetition’ such as (dark) refrains, cycles, formulas, vibes, motifs, flows, and of course memes. How are acoustic/environmental concepts used to register the flows of contemporary digital culture (including ideas of ‘ambience’ and ‘resonance’ deployed after the affective/new materialist turn in media studies)? How can we move beyond the static network visualization to capture the wild innovations of online slang or the becoming-viral of a hashtag or conspiracy theory? What would a genuinely ‘rhythmic media theory’ look like?

In the group’s inaugural iteration we read two short chapters on rhythmanalysis by the French Marxist philosopher of everyday life Henri Lefebvre: ‘The Critique of the Thing’ and ‘The Rhythmanalyst: A Previsionary Portrait’. We also had an open discussion on the reading group’s key theme(s) and potential future readings.

Starting Grants:

How to Welcome the Water: Re-Imagining Our Life with Water through Marginalised Stories in the Neerlandophone Space

Marrigje Paijmans, Gaston Franssen, Julee al Bayaty-de Ridder

The project aims to open new perspectives for sustainable becomings with water by dismantling objectifying narratives of water in historical and present-day water management. It seeks to envisage alternatives to the age-old Dutch

narrative of the 'battle against the water', which precludes a sustainable coexistence between humans and water. Hypothesising that Dutch narratives of water as the ecological Other hark back to colonial notions of toleration and integration, this project aims to confront dominant narratives about water with marginalised stories of living and becoming with water in the neerlandophone space at large, using ecocritical and decolonial theory.

Oceanic Imaginaries, Oceanic Solidarities

Mikki Stelder, Laura Cull, John Tauckave

Oceanic Imaginaries, Oceanic Solidarities explores oceanic imaginaries in arts, culture and politics with an emphasis on Global South perspectives (including the South within the North).

(Trans-)Sexualities and Psychoanalysis

Marija Cetinic, Diego Semerene, Misha Kavka, Samuel Ludmila

The project explores questions around gender and sexuality that center around trans-ness within a psychoanalytic framework.

2025 ASCA Awards

The 2025 ASCA Awards Committee, consisting of Barnita Bagchi, Sudeep Dasgupta and Agustin Ferrari Braun, has given awards to the following researchers:

ASCA Book Award: Ben Moore, *Invisible Architecture in Nineteenth-Century Literature: Rethinking Urban Modernity*. Edinburgh University Press, 2024.

Ben Moore's monograph *Invisible Architecture in Nineteenth-Century Literature: Rethinking Urban Modernity* argues elegantly and illuminatingly that inviable architecture holds the city together, yet always has some parts that are hidden. The book reads literature and architecture together, with architecture itself also employed broadly, so as to span the literary and the metaphorical. In its conceptual poetics, Moore employs the term invisible so as to bring together the transparent as well as the hidden, and undoes the opposition between the two, reading, very stimulatingly, Chernyshevsky's 1863 text and Dostoevsky's response to it in *Notes from Underground* (1864), as an example of the undoing of the opposition. Notable chapters in the book include one that reads James Kay's, and Friedrich Engels' and Elizabeth Gaskell's depiction of spaces such as cellar-dwellings in Manchester. The industrial capitalist system is disrupted by such spaces which are also however necessary in sustaining them. Another fine chapter reads Émile Zola's depictions of Paris, focusing on works such as *Au Bonheur des Dames* (The Ladies' Paradise), 1883, and shows how apparent total visibility in the Paris represented is exclusionary, and analysable as a phantasmagorical blending of architecture and commodities. Gothic architecture and New York skyscrapers are more connected than one would at first think, if one follows the book's analysis, while we learn much on arabesque in literature and ornamentation, and on whiteness and whitewashing in invisible architecture. A concluding section that does suggestive analysis of Teju Cole's *Open City* (2011) and Colson Whitehead's *Harlem Shuffle* (2021) is refreshing.

ASCA Dissertation Award: Juan Montoya Alzate, *Caribbean Palimpsests. Music and Heritage in Northern Colombia*

Juan Montoya Alzate provides an impressive, critical and urgent analysis of the relation between what one could call the "heritage industry" and the musical styles, practices and performances of indigenous, African and other minoritized presences in Columbia. Alzate analyzes processes of "cultural transmission" as they discursively homogenize the conflictual histories and presences of indigenous cultures and music in Columbia. In doing so, he

critically punctures the linear histories of colonial modernity which seek to manage the disturbing presences of cultures of struggle and contestation. Alzate does not just expose the hegemonic scripting of colonialism in writing national heritage. By transforming “heritage” into cultural palimpsests, he also shows how Caribbean presences in music offer decolonial perspectives on thinking both the politics of music and the logics of the culture industry of heritage. Through fascinating analyses of counter urbanscapes, and the place of sound in creating them in Cartagena, as well as attention to embodied performances, interviews and the place of contemporary sound systems, he shows how “the colonized are made actors of their own transformation” as they contest their marginalization. Congratulations on an impressive and much-needed contribution to decolonial studies, a field to which ASCA is deeply committed.

ASCA Article Award: Dieuwertje Luitse, Platform power in AI: The evolution of cloud infrastructures in the political economy of artificial intelligence. *Internet Policy Review*. 2024;13(2).

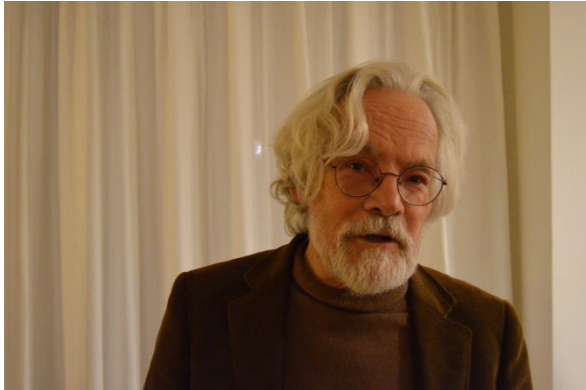
Dieuwertje Luitse’s article “Platform Power in AI: the Evolution of Cloud Infrastructure in the Political Economy of Artificial Intelligence” is a remarkable contribution to the ongoing debates around AI, and the politics of infrastructure more broadly. The committee was impressed with Luitse’s capacity to put forward methodological, empirical, and theoretical contributions in one single piece. The notion of “evolutionary platform technography”, which she introduces in this article, is a welcomed addition to the literature on technography as a method, and provides necessary tools to study technical systems characterised by vertical integration and heavy market concentration. The application of these methods in the empirical sections demonstrates remarkable scholarly rigor, and allows her to provide a typology of Big Tech strategies to condition technological innovation. It is hard to think of a more timely contribution to the field, considering the amount of market and political power amassed by the firms that she studied. Finally, this typology offers a valuable – dare I even say crucial – contribution to the theoretical debates around “platform power” in which many ASCA colleagues are involved. For all these reasons, the jury *unanimously* decided to award her this prize and wholeheartedly congratulates you for penning such an impactful piece of research.

Dissertation Defenses

Edward Skubisz

This is my body. About the – guilty? – relationship between sexual violence and the sacrificial theology of the Catechism of the Catholic Church within the context of the debate on sexual violence.

24 January 2024 | Supervisors: Jan Willem van Henten, Jan Jans, Laura Copier



The sacrificial theology of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* forms the core of the doctrine and morality of the Catholic Church; in doing so, the Church has also taken a distinct position and plays its own role in the public debate on sexual violence, as it is, for example, conducted within the Council of Europe. This research examines whether the text of this theology could also be a contributing factor to the sexual violence, as defined, for example, in the *Istanbul Convention*. Scholars such as Bal, Hinkelammert and Miller, have shown that the biblical narratives about Eve and Adam (Genesis 3) and about Isaac and Abraham (Genesis 22), contain elements of violence. These narratives hold a fundamental significance in the theology of sacrifice. Using their analyses, the research demonstrates to what extent this theology of sacrifice sexual violence denies, veils or legitimise, in various settings, ranging from confessionals to the Holy See.

Gerrit Schaafsma

Contestation in the Anthropocene. Climate change and civil disobedience

25 January 2024 | Supervisors: Beate Roessler, Robin Celikates



Despite the widespread public understanding of the dangers posed by climate change, action taken by political leaders to prevent, or even slow climate change has not been nearly enough to prevent significant planetary warming. In response to this lack of action, some individuals and groups have turned to civil disobedience as a way of trying to bring about the change necessary to deal with climate crisis. This is a relatively new development and differs in important ways from previous issues where civil disobedience played an important part in the struggle for justice. Making sense of how cross-border movements engaging in civil disobedience could justify their actions raises a host of interesting and under-theorised conceptual and normative questions. The aim of this dissertation is to investigate some of these questions in the context of liberal democratic states.

Pieter Bots

Een waardevol oordeel. Artistieke kwaliteit in het Nederlandse cultuurbeleid (A valuable judgment. Artistic quality in the Dutch cultural policy) | 28 February 2024 | Supervisors: René Boomkens, Pascal Gielen.



Since the Cultural Policy Act came to effect in 1993, the concept of artistic quality has been at the core of Dutch cultural policy. It's the main criterion in the assessment of applications of grants. But what is artistic quality, and how is it judged? In this thesis a theoretical framework is developed with four values that underlie the concept of quality. This model is the basis of research on the role and usage of artistic quality in Dutch cultural policy, as well as the way the criterion 'artistic quality' is applied in a committee of a Dutch public cultural fund. Besides that, it's researched if and how the concept of artistic quality could exclude certain art and artists.

Adam Chambers

Minor Moments in Modern Literature and Film

27 March 2024 | Supervisors: Patricia Pisters and Murat Aydemir



My dissertation, *Minor Moments in Modern Literature and Film*, follows a unique set of works in modern literature and cinema that moves beyond the grand events and dramatic scenes of traditional narratives. Throughout its chapters, I locate the beginning of this aesthetic development in the nineteenth-century novel, with the writings of Stendhal and Flaubert, but also in a line of twentieth and twenty-first-century works, including the stories and novels of Franz Kafka, Natalie Sarraute, Jorge Luis Borges, and Milan Kundera; along with the films of Michelangelo Antonioni, Lucrecia Martel, Pawel Pawlikowski, and Nuri Bilge Ceylan, among others. By examining a series of specific scenes in these literary and cinematic works, the main aim of my study is to rethink and to reframe our understanding of the “modern” as precisely that which resists great events and actions, as well as the dominant values that they represent, which I characterize as the “myth of great events.”

Vincent Seminck

Echoes of Friendship & Enmity. Agonal and Political Thinking in Friedrich Nietzsche and Carl Schmitt

3 May 2024 | Supervisors: Josef Früchtl



Today, we liberal democrats live in a time when nothing less than our liberal democracy is at stake: there is the threat of dictatorship from Russia, and the

threat of populism to America and Europe. Populism uses friend-enemy rhetoric to exploit people's gut feelings to gain power, at the cost of polarising society. In this rhetoric, we can often recognise the political thinking characteristic of Carl Schmitt, in which the enemy is identified as the other or the stranger, whose otherness or strangeness poses an existential threat to 'our' way of living. In this thesis, I aim to offer an immanent alternative, which is inspired by Friedrich Nietzsche's agonal thinking, in which the enemy is perceived not only as a threat, but also as a stimulant to self-overcoming and the transformation of our way of life into a rich plurality of ways of life. I also consider the implications of Schmitt's thesis of the metaphysical opposition between his own political and Nietzsche's agonal account of friendship and enmity for different appropriations of their friend-enemy thinking in theories of agonistic democracy. I discuss both Jacques Derrida's (im)possibility of transcending the friend-enemy dichotomy through a quasi-theological third figure and Chantal Mouffe's option of transforming friend-enemy antagonism into agonism. But the main question is: How can we liberal democrats use Nietzsche's and Schmitt's friend-enemy thinking to better understand and strengthen our liberal democracy?

Sal Hagen

Reactionary rhythm. Quali-quantitative studies on 4chan/pol/

25 June 2024, 16:00 | Supervisors: Bernhard Rieder and Marc Tuters



This dissertation explores how anonymous online subcultures use digital objects as vehicles for political identification. Supposedly caught up in an "online culture war", how do these masked groups constitute (political) collectivity in the absence of personal connections? In engaging with this, the project focuses on cultural productions, like vernacular and memes, to tell the story of their

collectivity and ongoing boundary work, notably by using interdisciplinary methods from both the humanities and computer science.

Juan Montoya Alzate

Caribbean Palimpsests. Music and Heritage in Northern Colombia

10 July 2024 | Supervisors: Julia Kursell, Oliver Seibt, Barbara Titus



This dissertation presents a decolonial overview of handed-down music practices commonly framed as heritage in Northern Colombia, and follows the question of how intergenerational acts of musical transmission take place. As heritage, the music practices under scrutiny, such as cumbia, lumbalú, porro, bailes cantaos, vallenato, and champeta, connect past and present in a temporal articulation that assumes cultural transmission has been achieved. However, these practices are affected by gaps, erasures, and mistranslations proper of colonial/modern entanglements. *Caribbean Palimpsests* interrogates issues of colonial/subaltern difference in the Americas, while documenting decolonial reconstitutions pulled by music practices in the spheres of space, time and being, which disturb the modern/colonial/extractivist political arrangement reproducing in the Caribbean since Columbus' arrival at La Hispaniola island in the late fifteenth century. As I demonstrate, palimpsests exemplify how extended processes of political, musical and cultural replication are carried out, particularly in postcolonial contexts. The intermittent occurrence of inscriptions in palimpsests, their seeming invisibility coming under question on closer inspection, account for the gaps and erasures that characterise colonial trajectories, where collective memory and culturally specific knowledge—musical or otherwise—are primarily passed on and reproduced through embodied performance. This work argues that the reproduction of intergenerationally transmitted musical forms follows a palimpsestic and trans-temporal trajectory that is audible at times, and silenced at others. Across

Caribbean modernity, the irregular and yet rhythmic re-surfacing of these forms of music-making constantly rework the mythical and sonic elements of the colonial Caribbean society.

Tânia Esteves Fernandes Cardoso

The Illustrated Cityscape. Imperfect Lines of Urban Exploration

15 October 2024 | Supervisors: Emilie Sitzia and Carolyn Birdsall



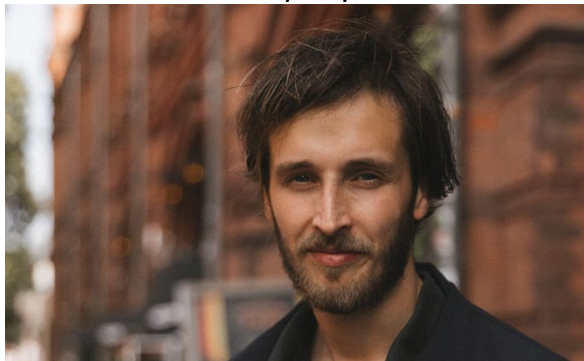
Tânia A. Cardoso's research seeks to generate original urban debate through a mixed methodology that combines theory and praxis. The study delves into illustration as a visual form of urban storytelling and communication. It addresses urban issues and engages with the city and its inhabitants proposing novel approaches to analysing, raising awareness, and uncovering new perspectives and insights in between urban studies and illustration. The artistic practice as research developed through the dissertation intends to demonstrate how the phenomenon of "illustrated cities" potentially inspires a more politically aware understanding of urban space, empowering the readers to see the city in a new light and revealing surprising connections at the intersection between urban experience, place, and illustration.

This research work led to participating in Stadstekenaars 2024: Rotterdam Getekend. The drawings created will be presented in the Kunsthal Rotterdam from 18 October 2024. They will then be included in the Stadsarchief collection and will become part of the Rotterdam Collection. Details will soon be announced.

Laurin Berresheim

The Right to Privacy: A Challenge for Judicial and Political Balancing

1 November 2024 | Supervisors: Beate Roessler, Thomas Nys



The right to privacy often clashes with other rights or interests. We have seen it in the debate over tracing apps during the COVID pandemic, or in the recurrent debates on whether security authorities should collect personal data to fight serious crime or terrorism. These conflicts make it necessary to balance privacy and these competing considerations. The question is: how do we find the right balance? The thesis *The Right to Privacy: A Challenge for Judicial and Political Balancing* develops a framework to address this question. It rejects an economic approach which would reduce privacy to a commodity and present balancing as a mathematical calculation. Instead, the thesis develops a framework that builds on the interplay between two perspectives, that of courts and of legislatures. This framework seeks to reflect two important features of privacy, the status of the right to privacy as a basic right and the multitude of different privacy conceptions that we find in liberal democratic societies.

Alvaro Lopez

Am I a Monster? Psychoanalysis, Global Fantasies, and Libidinal Reroutings in Contemporary Horror Cinema

November 4 2024 | Supervisors: Ben Moore, Patricia Pisters



On November 4, Alvaro will defend his doctoral dissertation "Am I a Monster? Psychoanalysis, Global Fantasies, and Libidinal Reroutings in Contemporary Horror Cinema" at the Agnietenkapel (10:00am)

In this project, Alvaro examines the changing relationship between monstrosity and desire in contemporary horror cinema from European, US, and Latin American contexts. This is a brief description of his project:

Am I a monster? With this allegorical question in mind, this dissertation presents an analysis of contemporary cultural anxieties relating desire, monstrosity, and horror cinema on the global landscape. From a (post)Bionian psychoanalytic perspective and drawing from disciplines that range from film, literary, and postcolonial studies to Latin American and decolonial stances, this dissertation examines a number of horror films, as well as other forms of media, to address the commonalities and differences connecting cinematic monstrosity across Europe, the US, and Latin America. In doing so, this work argues that, against the backdrop of the contemporary global landscape, monstrosity has abandoned the cinematic monster. As such, monstrosity, understood as a source of sociocultural anxieties and nameless desires, has become formless, permeating the relationship between film and audience position, between screen and gazing subject, in a cinematic renegotiation of the (global) self. By examining narratives and aesthetics, inter-textual and paratextual allusions, and contextual particularities and constraints characterizing cinematic horrors from such heterogeneous locations, the analyses in this work reveal a set of global fantasies and tensions with profound libidinal reach. From a renegotiation of centric and ex-centric subject positions and contexts to crumbling gender, sexual, and racial categories and expectations, contemporary cinematic horror reveals tensions opposing monstrosity and global fantasies of visibility that libidinally charge contemporary transformations in the relationship between the self and the world—a change in which the very notion of the human is put into question. Trapped in a cinematic nightmare and pervaded by formless monstrosity, the gazing subject is confronted with a libidinal rerouting and (un)doing of its own contextual self *vis-à-vis* a fantasized, all-visible, and globalized world. Stripped of its own humanity and faced with its own libidinal horrors, contemporary horror's audience now asks *am I a monster?*

Nadica Denić

Cinematic Ethics of Migration: First-Person Voices in Contemporary Documentary

21 November 2024 | Supervisors: Patricia Pisters, Carolyn Birdsall



This PhD research joins the growing interdisciplinary scholarship concerned with the relationship between migration and media by focusing on the ethical demands of first-person voices in contemporary documentary. First-person filmmaking, as I argue in this dissertation, comprises an everyday practice that is integral to migrants' negotiation of various bordering mechanisms in Europe towards more sustaining ways of sharing the world with others. This raises two questions: How can first-person voices negotiate the confining forces of the European border regime to envision and enact alternative configurations of the everyday? And what are the ethically salient aspects of the collaborative labour involved in the production of first-person voices? To answer these questions, I draw from critical border studies, affect theory, and film-ethics to offer an audio-visual and production analysis of a corpus of films that together address diverse experiences of migration in Europe, including the decision to migrate, the migration journey itself, and the experiences of displacement and belonging. With this theoretical and methodological backdrop, I examine how first-person voices interrogate the various impasses created by the European border regime's confinement of migrants' knowledge production, mobility, inclusion and belonging. On the basis of this analysis, I argue that first-person voices enact *migrants' epistemic rights* by defying the European border regime's discursive practices; *the right to autonomy* of migration by grappling with the processes of migrant interpellation by the European border regime; *the right to opacity* by resisting the racialising, homogenising and reductive forces of the European border regime; and *the right to in-betweenness* by refusing the European border regime's conflation of belonging with a singular location. In addition, on the basis of interviews with the directors of the films in corpus, I articulate how the process of expressing a first-person voice involves an extensive negotiation of vulnerability, trust, as well as contractual and creative rights. Overall, this dissertation elaborates how first-person voices in contemporary documentary

advance a cinematic ethics of migration that is invested in transgressing the confinement effected by the contemporary coloniality of migration in Europe.

Karin Christof

Longing for Autonomy: Citizen Professionals Engaging for the Common Good

18 December 2024 | Supervisors: René Boomkens and Jan Willem Duyvendak



This dissertation examines why and how civic actors contribute to the common good as welfare states have continuously delegated public service responsibilities to citizens. This shift has spurred citizen-led projects that transform urban spaces for community use, offering collaborative environments for living, working, and socialising. The ethnographic study in Amsterdam, Berlin, and Vienna, explores the role of citizen professionals (CPs)—civic actors who organise self-initiated projects, taking an intermediary role with public and private stakeholders to create autonomous spaces in their respective neighbourhoods. Unlike traditional urban movements, CPs seek “mutually agreed autonomy” through collaboration, promoting non-profit, shared ownership models that challenge capitalist norms and align with the concept of urban commons.

Longing for Autonomy explores the importance of autonomous urban spaces for living, working, and socialising, and the evolving role of citizens in providing these (semi) public services. It demonstrates how these concerned citizens define their quest for autonomy while collaborating with governmental actors and institutions and asks to what degree these initiatives can inspire others to assume responsibility for public resources and create similar spaces for communal use.

Grants

ASCA members were awarded over 3 million Euros for their research initiatives.

Calvin Duggan	NWO Lerarenbeurs	
Stefania Milan	ERC Advanced	2,500,000.00
Richard Rogers	Ministry of BZ	179,817.00
Bilyana Manolova	NWO PhD Humanities	214,647.00
Marc Tuters	Open Competitie XS	49,706.00
meLê Yamomo	NWA	350,000 KIM
Carolyn Birdsall	NWO Impact Explorer	30,000.00
Total		2,974,170.00
		350,000.00 KIM

Calvin Duggan (Esther Peeren, ASCA): NWO Promotiebeurs voor Leraren

Literary Tourism at the Peripheries: A Relational Analysis of the Hay Festival in Rural Wales and in the 'Global South'

Dit project onderzoekt hedendaags literair toerisme door middel van een diepgaande relationele analyse van verschillende internationale edities van het Hay Festival of Literature. Het volgt het traject van het Festival van landelijk Wales naar het 'mondiale Zuiden' en beschouwt toerisme en literatuur als verwante circulatiemodi waardoor plaatsen en mensen betekenis vinden. Door interviews, archiefonderzoek en primaire bronnen bevraagt dit project middels posthumanistisch relationeel denken de verstrengelde relaties tussen de plaatsen en mensen die het Festival vormen. Op deze manier streeft dit project ernaar om latente ongelijkheden en koloniale logica die literatuur en toerisme blijven doordringen, bloot te leggen.

Stefania Milan (ASCA): ERC Advanced

Governance by data infrastructure in the post-pandemic democracy – DATAGOV

Facial recognition cameras, digital identity systems, and health dashboards have become a staple of daily life. By generating data aimed at monitoring or decision-making, these "regulatory data infrastructures" take up functions that were once performed by humans inside state entities and public administrations. Regulatory data infrastructures are at the core of a new mode of governance normalized in the post-pandemic society, termed "governance by data infrastructure". With the pandemic and generative AI accelerating the

digital transition of society, regulatory data infrastructures are creeping further into public and private space—at high societal costs. DATAGOV explores the dynamics of governance by data infrastructure in the post-pandemic democracy in the European Union and non-Western countries (Brazil, India, and South Africa). It focuses on three consumer technologies disciplining the social—biometrics, digital identity and health technology—as living laboratories to explore how regulatory data infrastructures become agents of governance. Contributing to critical data studies, the project deploys qualitative and participatory methods to examine how governance by data infrastructure transforms three key areas of concern to the modern state: citizenship, state sovereignty, and inequality. (EUR 2.500.000,-

Rogers, Richard (ASCA): Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken

Content Moderation: A Cross-Platform Analysis

The proposal is to conduct an empirical, cross-platform analysis of content moderation on very large online platforms and search engines. We propose to assess the extent as well as the types of moderation for multiple platforms. One starting point in assessing a platform's (or search engine's) moderation is to detail (and test it against) its own policies, which in all cases takes as the point of departure legally liable content types and extends to discussions of borderline content. Another point of departure are the content categories in the Digital Services Act, which should overlap substantially with those of the company policies but in practice may not. Empirically, one may examine the same content across multiple platforms, inquiring into contrasts in moderation practices that contravene company and/or legislative policy.

EUR 179.817

Manolova, Bilyana (ASCA/Boris Noordenbos): Promoties in de Geesteswetenschappen

Hoe word je postsocialistisch? Levensverhalen in Oost-Europa na 1989

Na de ineenstorting van het socialisme moesten de inwoners van het voormalige Oostblok hun individuele en collectieve zelfbeeld opnieuw uitvinden. Dit onderzoek stelt dat levensverhalen een cruciale rol speelden bij dat proces. Aan de hand van een corpus van autobiografische werken van na 1989 in verschillende media (tekst, film en beeldende kunst) uit Bulgarije, Rusland en Oekraïne wordt onderzocht hoe mensen de post-socialistische identiteitsverandering ervoeren en documenteerden. Het project formuleert een nieuwe, relationele benadering van post-socialistische subjectiviteit en draagt bij aan een beter begrip van Oost-Europese identiteitspolitiek.

EUR 214.647

Tuters, Marc (ASCA): Open Competitie XS

Coalitions of Distrust: Conspiricization via Hashtag Hijacking

Het project onderzoekt nieuwe methoden om de verspreiding van 'issue conspiricization' in online discussies op te sporen. Het past visuele netwerkanalyse en natuurlijke taalverwerking toe op een uitgebreide longitudinale Twitter dataset (10 miljoen), om 'hashtag hijacking' te onderzoeken als een mechanisme voor de verspreiding van desinformatie – een tot nu toe over het hoofd gezien fenomeen.

EUR 49.706

Yamomo, meLê (ASCA): NWA Research into Collections with a Colonial Context

Restituting, Reconnecting, Reimagining Sound Heritage (Re:Sound)

[Hoofdaanvrager: Dr. S. Margana (Gadjah Mada University)]

Re:Sound renegotiates Eurocentric understandings of “heritage” and heritage curation through research into colonial sound collections from Indonesia located in the Netherlands. Re:Sound treats these recorded sounds as historical sources, and improves the access for source community stakeholders through Indonesian PhD research, non-academic Indonesian Visiting Fellowships, consortium workshops, and summer schools.

350.000 KIM

Birdsall, Carolyn (AHM/ASCA): NWO Impact Explorer

'AV-DATA: Developing A Toolkit for AV-Collection Histories to Enrich Data and Public Value'

The TRACE project (2019-2024) has shown how audiovisual (AV) collections in Europe today are still marked by the historical impact of conflict. More recently, unexpected developments (e.g. pandemic, war in Europe) sparked a strong interest in AV-archival material and their stories, thereby presenting new impact opportunities. How can AV archives in Europe today best increase awareness of the historical impact of conflict on their collections? The Impact Explorer project team (a researcher and archive professionals) will together explore how to better integrate AV-collection histories in institutional documentation and leverage these insights to yield more public value and audience engagement.

30.000 EUR

New PhD Candidates

Oscar Man, *Noisy Commons: Identity, Community, and Locality in Hong Kong Indie Pop*

Supervisors: Jeroen de Kloet, Leonie Schmidt

The project highlights and problematizes the connection between music and politics through the emerging genre of indie pop in Hong Kong. Through interviews, participant observations, and object analysis, the project locates the local community which adopts resilient cultural practices and form close ties with others in the post-movement era of Hong Kong, where political freedom is tightening rapidly. It also argues that platformization offers a new possible ground for non-confrontational political expressions and actions through culture while enabling a new form of community which is heterophonic in nature.

Andy Zhu, *Queer Cruising, Trans-Border Networking: Queer Cinema Culture in Mainland China and Hong Kong*

Supervisors: Jeroen de Kloet, Tommy Tse

The research studies queer cinema culture in the 2020s in Mainland China and Hong Kong. I use “Queer Cruising” as a central concept to analyze the resilient practice wielded by queer filmmakers, independent cultural and NGO practitioners across the two localities of Mainland China and Hong Kong. Combining textual analysis and empirical research, the project looks at the cases of queer cinema representation, venues of queer film festivals in Hong Kong, Guangdong, and Southwestern China, the screening and events of indie spaces, and the politics of platformisation in queer (micro) cinema on social media.

Faye Xu, *The Art of Liminality: Resilience of Socially Engaged Art in Mainland China and Hong Kong*

Supervisors: Jeroen de Kloet, Esther Peeren

This project studies the resilience of socially engaged art in urban and rural areas of mainland China and Hong Kong. By situating socially engaged art within the historical and socio-political context of this region, the project reconceptualizes it as a liminal practice and looks into cases that are not necessarily recognized by the institution of contemporary art. Through ethnographic research of diverse cases, this project explores tactics that make critical artistic practices resilient and explore how these practices mobilize and connect people across different geographies, generations, professions, and classes to foster dissensus and criticality amidst heightened authoritarianism.

Chenyang Zhang, *Searching for Accessibility and Inclusivity: An Archaeology of Film Cataloging Infrastructures from Cards to Databases*

Supervisors: Giovanna Fossati, Christian Olesen

Despite the technological boom of Big Data and AI, film heritage institutions still grapple with the sheer volume of data and the emergence of new media and data forms that require to be processed within their catalogs. This research unveils the transition of film cataloging infrastructures, from card catalogs to digital databases, across diverse cultural contexts. Employing a media archaeological approach, the project investigates the invisible yet essential role of cataloging systems and practices in preserving global cinematic heritage.

Sara Messelaar Hammerschmidt, *Anthropomorphic AI and Chatbots*

Richard Rogers and Natalia Sanchez Querubin

This project investigates how generative AI fabricates bodies and embodied subjects in a popular landscape that is increasingly networked and synthetic. It explores the (intellectual) history of embodiment and digital media, and examines empirically how generative AI media transforms or challenges digital media's influence on the evolving experience of embodiment. The research focuses on how AI fabricates and enables fabrication of bodies and people by investigating how practices and ecosystems around AI media democratize image synthesis and synthetic representation. It will ask how this challenges existing systems of knowing and ordering in ways that may shift the experience of biopower and agency.

May Abbas, *Feminism in popular culture, where art thou? A study of the representation of women in Egyptian television series*

Supervisors: Jaap Kooijman, Maaike Voorhoeve, Joke Hermes

This study aims to provide an understanding of the current depiction of women in Egyptian popular culture through tracing the doing and undoing of feminist ideology in television series. This should assist in understanding how the representation of women works and where it stems from. The study will contribute academically through utilising a multidisciplinary approach, adding to the discussion on “high” versus “mass” culture exploring the validity of *cultural capital* in the construction and reception of cultural expression in relation to women representation, and utilising interviews to create a connection between cultural ideology and social practice..

Teresa del Sole, *Reconceptualizing pornography: empirical and philosophical perspectives for liberation*

Mari Mikkola, Selin Gerlek

This project analyses the content and aesthetics of contemporary pornographies from an empirically informed philosophical perspective. Over the last decades, the broader social implications of the frequent exposition to mainstream pornography have been criticized as harmful, from legal, philosophical and psychological perspectives alike. But how can pornography be reconceptualized? This project answers this question and evaluates the philosophical and empirical consequences of a feminist-oriented development of pornographic contents. It uses an innovative mixed methodology of philosophical argumentation and empirical analysis, aesthetics, and several case studies, to enhance pornography's liberatory potential, in continuity with the latest philosophical analysis on the topic.

Hannah Kochs, *Making the Invisible Visible in the GenAI Supply Chain: Ethics of Human Red-Teaming*

Paula Helm, Tobias Blanke

This research aims to shed light on human involvement in AI production by investigating the intricacies of human labor practices in red teaming. In doing so, it helps to demystify the socio-technical notion of AI as a magical, autonomous system that is beyond human control. It seeks to uncover a crucial part of the socio-technical supply chain of GenAI in order to identify ethical challenges and derive practice-informed interventions to mitigate ethico-political risks in the long term.

Basma Hamdy, *Radical Design Archives: alternative approaches to archiving and digitizing graphic design history in the ARAB region.*

Supervisors: Annet Dekker, Chiara de Cesari

Radical Design Archives examines the role of digital and virtual archival collections in the preservation and reinterpretation of Arab graphic design history-making. The project focuses on four collections that center on Arab visual culture and utilize the internet to facilitate access and increase visibility.

Natalia Giraldo, *Literary Geographies in the Sierra Nevada de Gonawindúa, Colombia*

Supervisors: Irene Villaescusa Ilan, Rolando Vazquez Melken

How are *literary geography* and *natural narratives* capable of providing a critical decolonizing basis of the Western European paradigm? How do these *philosophies, epistemologies and other literary practices* provide elements of

overcoming the environmental and civilizational crisis applied in processes of self-education such as *Pluriversities* and *Territorial Pedagogy*?

Ting Xu, *Hope You 'Tube' Well: Imagine E-emotional Regulation Via Educational Videos on Therapy*

Supervisors: Aylin Kuryel, Karina van Dalen-Oskam

The project leverages the YouTube Data API to collect multicultural videos on therapy in English, Dutch, and Mandarin during the COVID-19 pandemic. It aims to explore how adults aged 18-35 can learn to manage negative emotions through "tubing" - actively searching for therapy content on YouTube out of curiosity and interest in learning. It further contrasts TED Talks's professional insights with Cinema Therapy's artistic perspectives to bridge psychological and cultural interpretations. The approach remains interdisciplinary, combining computational and qualitative methods, concepts from affect science, affect theory, emotional regulation, film, and metaphor studies. With various intellectual ideas and online therapeutic objects, the study hopes to highlight how certain usage of YouTube has the educational potential to enhance users' emotional well-being. Different public interventions are organized to see if YouTube may look inviting as an informal learning platform for those who wish to gain therapeutic knowledge and tools remotely, thus beyond the age limit.

Bilyana Manolova, *Becoming Post-Socialist: Life Writing and the Post-socialist Subject*

Esther Peeren, Boris Noordenbos

The ongoing Russo-Ukrainian war has brought global attention to the legacies of Soviet power that permeate this present. But who are the subjects that inhabit it? This project addresses this question through the lens of life writing. It studies a transnational corpus of post-1989 life narratives from Bulgaria, Russia, and Ukraine to examine how life writers narrativize their post-socialist subjectivities. It introduces a new approach to studying post-socialist subject-formation, grounded in feminist theories of relational selfhood and performative autobiographical acts.

Priyank Gothwal, *Time and Colonialism: abstraction as the mode of temporality.*

Esther Peeren, Achia Anzi

Following Annibal Quijano's (1989, 1992) and Walter D. Mignolo's (2007) thesis regarding the complicity between modernity and colonality, this research examines the modern organisation of time in relation to European colonialism. Although widely known as a spatial phenomenon, colonialism was predicated

on control and mastery over temporality. Employing a decolonial perspective, my research inquires how the experience of time was transformed in the wake of colonialism and how the modern order of time served and continues to serve imperial ambitions.

My research will investigate colonial devices and practices that were developed and introduced in India to organise time. I will analyse the influence of four significant timekeeping devices—the clock, calendar, radio, and railways' timetable—on the day-to-day lives of Indian society under British rule from the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries. My research will also include my own art practice, through which I will further the critical investigation of the modern organisation of time and imagine decolonial conceptions that undermine it.

Calvin Duggan, *Literary Tourism at the Peripheries: A Relational Analysis of the Hay Festival in Rural Wales and in the 'Global South'*

Supervisors: Esther Peeren, Niall Martin

This project investigates contemporary literary tourism through an in-depth relational analysis of different international editions of the *Hay Festival*. Tracing the literary festival's trajectory from rural Wales to locales in the 'Global South'—namely, Colombia and Abu Dhabi—this project interrogates the impact of this transposition and the ongoing colonial legacies of contemporary literary, cultural and tourism practices. Conceiving of tourism and literature as related modes of circulation through which places and people find meaning, the project combines ethnography, archival research and the close analysis of primary sources (including literature, TV, film and promotional materials), alongside posthumanist relational thinking, to interrogate the entangled relations between the various places and people that make up the Festival.

Bogna Bochińska, *Meanders of memory: The media archaeological study of environmental remembrance and transnationality along the river Oder*

Supervisors: Patricia Pisters, Leonie Schmidt

This project proposes to understand the complexities of human and non-human relationships through the environment of the Oder River basin as a place of encounters and migrations of objects, peoples, and cultures across both time and space. Within the context of West Polish territories post World War 2, where the Oder River is a significant border-forming geographical entity, this research project examines ways in which the ecologies of the river embody the fluidity of borders and flows of migration and become a vital site for transnational memory making. I aim to follow the stream of the river and

conduct a media-archaeological research of the Oder-oriented cultural texts and artifacts from the 20th and 21st Centuries, reflective of the complexity of the Oder-bound communities founded on displacement. This particular case study is an attempt to present a wider possibility for a river-oriented practice of researching border environments and transnationality.

Xinyi Zheng, *Cosmic Meridian: An aesthetics of qi in contemporary Chinese cinema*

Supervisors: Patricia Pisters, Jeroen de Kloet

The elemental turn in media studies has expanded the concept of media into a broader interdisciplinary concept through a consideration of elemental *mediation*, in the face of a haunting futurism of the ecological crisis and automation of the Anthropocene. However, while the current philosophy of elements has been mainly approached through the lens of the classic Greek elements (fire, water, earth, air), Chinese and Asian philosophical traditions of the elements have been rarely researched in relation to media and hence this contemporary field of the discipline.

This project endeavors to complement current elemental media studies with Chinese conception of *qi* 氣, a richer concept that allows us to pick up multiple elements (thoughts, facts, phenomena, feelings) and multiple dimensions (corporeal, spiritual and cosmic) in contemporary Chinese cinema. On the one hand, this project will propose a philosophy of *qi* by combining Western and Eastern philosophy in understanding our relation to nature and technology, hence contributing to a less Eurocentric elemental mediation. On the other hand, this project will bring in four case studies to explore how contemporary Chinese cinema renders an aesthetic of *qi sensible* through the alterity in percepts and affects.

Alex Zakkas, *Critical Assessment of Technologies for Remote Examination in Higher Education*

Supervisors: Geert Lovink, Christian Detweiler

Responding to the current attention on educational technologies within the field of Critical Studies in Higher Education, this research project turns a critical gaze on technologies used for remote examination. These technologies are approached as sites of contestation within wider socio-technical assemblages that are reinfrastructuring educational institutions. This is important because understanding the transformations taking place will help anticipate their effects on future educational practice. The project combines perspectives from digital humanities with critical

technical practice and pedagogy to develop new theoretical frameworks and methods for analysing current practices and to propose alternatives. It involves tracing the historical developments that have led to the development and adoption of certain technologies, case studies in educational settings that raise critical concerns from the perspective of those most affected, and interventions in digital design education that explore alternatives through critical & speculative design. It aims to contribute to the development and evaluation of new examination models.

Nick Psomas, *Towards a Dialectical Imagination for the Nomos of the Planet: A Juridico-Aesthetic Construction of the Coming Community in the Planetary Epoch*

Supervisors: Stefan Niklas, Yolande Jansen

The aim of the PhD project is to theorise the conditions of possibility for the representation of the planet, in the double sense of an aesthetic non-object and a juridico-political construct. Contrary to the closed and colonial totality of the Anthropocene discourse, I seek to advance a dialectical notion of *planetary wholeness* predicated on a non-violent mode of relation to the planet's fundamental spatio-temporal alterity. In turn, this aesthetic conception of the planet as an open totality finds its political expression in an an-archic democratic community yet-to-arrive. Finally, I argue that such planetary utopianism is not an infinitely deferred ideal, but a constant reiteration of concrete historical possibilities.

Emma Ricketts, *Science fiction as an aesthetic-speculative medium of the planetary perspective*

Supervisors: Stefan Niklas, Barnita Bagchi

This research project sets out to demonstrate how Speculative Fiction (SF) can serve as an aesthetic-speculative medium to a planetary perspective. A planetary perspective as explained by Dipesh Chakrabarty is understood as a shift away from anthropocentric 'global' perspectives towards an approach which sees human history and natural history as intertwined rather than separate.¹ This project sets out to demonstrate the different ways in which SF can function as a medium for speculative political thought, and can help foster democratic ways of coexisting in times of climate collapse and planetary crises. It will do so by performing a critical discourse analysis of selected works of SF that deal with themes related to climate change, either directly or indirectly. Through analysing themes and devices commonly associated with SF such as

space/time travel, alternative chronologies, cross-species empathy, de-familiarisation and world-building. This research sets out to show how these elements contribute towards creating a planetary perspective.

John Taukave, *Hanua t  e   e mua: The 6Pac+ and Oceanic narrative epistemology at the International Maritime Organization.*

Supervisors: Mikki Stelder, Laura Cull

The recognized efforts of Small Island Developing states (SIDs) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) through Pacific leadership under the 6Pac+ coalition have pushed for high ambition on global shipping to act on their climate targets. They have pushed for much change in a short period of time with a rootedness in Oceanic identity, cultural practice in Storyliving and narratives inspired by the works of Pacific scholars. Developing these frameworks of knowledge and integrating them into the heart of the 6pac+ work has been critical to their success. This research acknowledges the 6Pac+ and further enhances their work outreach to the grassroots communities. It is also indicative of how the narrative and role of a Just and Equitable transition in maritime shipping is a future fought for our communities when seriously considering the submissions and interventions made and the realities faced by the 6Pac+.

Jul  e Al-Bayat  , *Literary Studies: Re-Imagining Water in the Neerlandophone Space*

Supervisors: Marrigje Paijmans, Gaston Franssen

Being confronted with water crises such as river and coastal flooding, Dutch people have persistently responded by developing a water management system to regulate water in the Dutch delta as well as in deltas in colonial. Neerlandophone spaces. However, this age-old Dutch narrative of a battle against the water' alienates humans from water, prevents the possibilities of living with water in sustainable ways, and ignores marginalized stories of living and becoming with water. What is more, this narrative assumes a distinction between land and water, which is otherwise increasingly blurred by climate change, sea-level rise and flooding. In this PhD project. I aim to reimagine water in Neerlandophone deltas (in the Netherlands, Jakarta, Indonesia, Paramaribo, Suriname, and Recife, Brazil) by focusing on how to learn to 'live-with' water. Taking an ecocritical. decolonial and neo-materialist approach, I will research contemporary literature, performance. arts, rituals and oral stories that explore alternative engagements with water in contemporary climate crises.

**Samuel Ludmila Dyrborg, *(Trans)sexualities and Psychoanalysis*
Supervisors: Marija Cetinic, Diego Semerene, Misha Kavka**

This thesis will move across different modes and moods of writing-conceptualisation: I will use Lauren Berlant's notion of revisceralisation as a prism to write together three lines of questioning attending at different scales and contexts to how (anti)normativities and political change are conceptualised within contemporary debates in trans and queer studies. Revisceralisation: a "reconditioning [of] what pass as instincts, triggers, gut feelings, true feelings, presumptive ties, the whole default world of emotional and affective expectation." (Berlant 2022, 106) I think with this as both bodily and textual genre mediations. A presumption: I begin with coagulation and stuckness, rather than breakage and fugitivity – I am interested in tracing ambivalences and contradictions. In one part I will elaborate questions of the role of the 'trans' body, attachment to normativity and formal experimentation in (among other) texts by Andrea Long Chu, Paul B. Preciado, and Gry Dalgas, to build conceptualisations of the promises of formal experimentation. In another part, I will make an 'autotheoretical' exploration of the 'lack' of subversive potentialities in my case of queer anorexia through writing on the concrete sexual negativity and the slightly 'embarrassing' 'lack' of bodily confidences for queer sexual 'experimentation', which raises questions of what to do with queer forms of life that both indexes queer utopian potentialities and a seeming lack of queer political potentiality? These two parts are suffused by the third axis of the project, in which I primarily will explore the less 'canonical' parts of Berlant's writings, its psychoanalytical underpinnings, and elaborating their formally experimental collaborative writing-thinking.

Laura Casasnovas de Vroomen, *Perspectives on the Digital Human's Struggle for Authenticity*

Suprvisors: Beate Roessler, Marjolein Lanzing

The proposed PhD aims to critically examine the concept of philosophical authenticity in the context of the digital age. Specifically, the guiding research question is: In which ways is the philosophical notion of authenticity transformed in the digitized society? I intend to conduct a normative investigation, defending authenticity as an ideal worth striving for in contemporary social life and considering the negative effects of its possible transformation. In order to do so, I will analyze authenticity theories from various philosophical traditions to discuss and define the concept. This theoretical part will then serve as a lens through which different facets of the digital human's life will be assessed.

Maarten Arnoldus, *A Vehicle for Self-Limitation: The Cultural and Societal Impact of Electric Vehicles on Climate Mitigation Discourses*

Supervisors: Esther Peeren, Peter van Dam

This research project investigates the cultural and societal meanings surrounding electric vehicles (EVs), examining their role in shaping climate change mitigation strategies, particularly within the Netherlands. The study critiques the popular view of EVs as purely technological solutions, highlighting how they are embedded in broader societal narratives about freedom, progress, and environmental responsibility. Using the Dutch government's "Mobility Vision 2050" and historical projects like the Witkar as a backdrop, this research explores how EVs are positioned within both global and local sustainability discourses. By integrating Consumer Culture Theory (CCT), material semiotics, and envirotechnical approaches, the project analyzes EVs as cultural artifacts that influence and are influenced by evolving ecological imaginaries and social expectations.

Loren Verreyen, *Distant Listening: Fictionality in True Crime Podcasts*

Supervisors: Gaston Franssen, Thomas Smits, Mike Kestemont

This project investigates the fact/fiction dichotomy in English-language true crime podcasts. By applying computational methods from distant listening to an extensive dataset of true crime podcasts, I will assess whether true crime makes heavier use of fictionality-signalling devices than other non-fiction genres, despite its focus on factuality. Through a comparative approach, the project aims to verify the hypothesis that the poetic cues of true crime podcasts are able to enhance a sense of drama and suspense in their narratives by using techniques commonly associated with fiction.

New Staff Members

New ASCA Member: Timo Koren



My name is Timo Koren and I am now an Assistant Professor in Cultural Economy in the Cultural Studies department. My research interests lie at the intersection of Cultural Studies and Urban Studies. These last six years my research has mainly focused on the night-time economy. My PhD, obtained at the University of Southampton in 2021, focused on cultural production in Amsterdam-based nightclubs. Through this angle, I aimed to understand how nightclub's production practices not only inscribe racialised, gendered, and classed meanings onto genres, but also continuously rework these meanings. I am interested in how urban musical economies function as nodes in the global flows of music genres and musical knowledge, and how these economies are impacted by urban dynamics such as regulation, gentrification, and urban regeneration.

New ASCA Member: Laura Cull Ó Maoilearca

Professor by special appointment in Performance Philosophy



Laura Cull Ó Maoilearca (Photo: Kirsten van

Santen)

Laura Cull Ó Maoilearca has been appointed professor by special appointment in Performance Philosophy at the Faculty of Humanities. The chair, which was established in collaboration with the Academy of Theatre and Dance of the

Amsterdam University of the Arts, is located at the intersection of performing arts, philosophy, posthumanism, and artistic research.

The establishment of this new chair provides a strong impetus to the development of [performance philosophy](#) as relatively young field which foregrounds the dual question of how performance thinks and how thinking is performed – paying particular attention to the often unequal value given to different ways of knowing.

The professor by special appointment will focus on three themes: *performance philosophy*, the human/non-human relationship and social justice – with the aim to strengthen in the first place opportunities for knowledge exchange between students, teachers and other researchers of University of Amsterdam and the Academy of Theatre and Dance (ATD), Amsterdam University of the Arts. Besides that, partners like the [Climate Imaginaries](#) coalition, the Amsterdam Research Institute of the Arts and Sciences (ARIAS) and the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA) will be invited.

New ASCA Member: Fan Xiao



Fan Xiao is a postdoctoral researcher at the ERC-funded project RESCUE (Resilient Cultures – Music, Art, and Cinema in Mainland China and Hong Kong). In this project, she looks into how artistic institutes maneuver the changing social, cultural, and (geo)political environment in the region to negotiate for cultural resilience in different ways of expression. Recently graduated from Hong Kong Baptist University with a PhD degree, her research takes a broader feminist approach to examine Chinese popular culture. She had studied subcultural communities in relation to platform labor, alternative gender discourses, and socially supportive learning. In her thesis, titled *Consumerist Feminism in China: Women and Beauty Culture in E-commerce Live-Streaming*, she examines the beauty culture among young, urban Chinese women with their increasingly frequent use of e-commerce live-streaming.

New ASCA Member: Nawal Mustafa



Mr. Dr. Nawal Mustafa is an interdisciplinary researcher and educator whose work explores the intersections of colonialism, slavery, law, and the regulation of intimacy. She is an Assistant Professor in Black Studies, Critical Race Studies, and Indigenous Studies within the Cultural Studies department at the University of Amsterdam. Additionally, she serves as a strategic legal advisor at PILP, a human rights law firm and NGO based in Amsterdam.

Nawal completed her PhD at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, focusing on migration and the historical regulation of interracialised intimacy in the UK following World War II. After her PhD, she worked as a postdoctoral researcher examining the legal history of slavery within the Dutch empire. Her professional experience includes significant roles at Amnesty International, Humanity in Action, and Critical Mass. In 2018, she co-founded S.P.E.A.K, a platform that supports Muslim women in their efforts to combat racism, Islamophobia, and sexism

New ASCA Member: Rhys Jones



Dr Rhys Steven Jones is an Assistant Professor in Media and Culture at the University of Amsterdam (r.s.jones@uva.nl). His first monograph, *Processes of Abjection*, is under contract with Amsterdam University Press and re-examines the critical paradigm of abjection and its application in media studies from a Marxian perspective. His current research project aims to historicize and address the intersections between the racializing logics of late-nineteenth-century and twentieth-century biological taxonomies and taxonomic approaches to analysis within film and media studies. His research interests include: theories of social reproduction, gender, and racialisation; reality television; speculative fiction and film; genre theory; philosophies of disgust; queer theory; and literary and cinematic representations of waste.

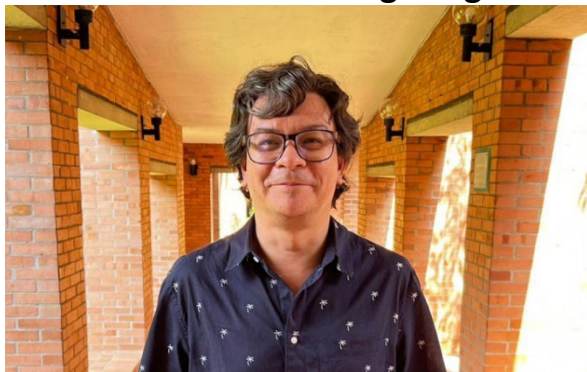
New ASCA Member: Jakko Kemper



Jakko Kemper is Assistant Professor in Digital Aesthetics and Platform Vernaculars at the department of Media Studies (University of Amsterdam). He is the author of the book *Frictionlessness* (Bloomsbury, 2024), co-editor of the volume *Imperfections* (Bloomsbury, 2021) and has published work in, among other journals, *Theory, Culture & Society*, *Media Theory and Information, Communication & Society*.

Currently, his research focuses on the environmental implications of generative AI and on the representation of nature within digital cultures.

New ASCA Member: Diego Cagüañas Rozo



I am Assistant Professor in Cultural and Ecological Theory at the Department of Arts and Culture. I hold a PhD in Anthropology and Historical Studies from the New School for Social Research and a MA in Philosophy and Cultural Analysis from the University of Amsterdam. In 2015 I was awarded the Stanley Diamond Memorial Award in the Social Sciences for my dissertation on landslides, violence and ecopolitical cosmologies in Southwest Colombia. I have been a fellow of the National Science Foundation and the Ibero-American Institute in Berlin. Among my research interests are the political ecology of extractive economies and pollution, community-based memory work amid political violence and peace processes, and Latin American 20th century intellectual history.

Publications

Carine Alders

Peer-reviewed

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Lucia Bainotti

Peer-reviewed

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Sruti Bala

Peer reviewed

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Elio Baldi

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Gulzaar Barn

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Davide Beraldo

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Carolyn Birdsall

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Sarah Budasz

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Jana Cattien

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Claudio Celis Bueno

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Sudeep Dasgupta

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Joost de Bloois

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Chiara de Cesari

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Mathias De Groof

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Annet Dekker

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Jeroen de Kloet

Peer-reviewed

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Christine Delhay

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Nadica Denić

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Mark Deuze

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Daniel de Zeeuw

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