

Nieuwsbrief 241

May 2021

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DISSERTATION DEFENSE: SELÇUK BALAMIR

Unsustaining the Commodity-Machine: Commoning Practices in Postcapitalist Design | 4 May 2021, Agnietenkapel, 15.00 hrs. | supervisors: Joost de Bloois, Jeroen de Kloet

How to disentangle design from capital? To what extent might commoning practices disrupt the *Commodity-Machine*? How do we prefigure a resilient and regenerative economy? Is there a postcapitalist blueprint for the rapid and just eco-social transition ahead?

This thesis surveys the ways in which design practices can contribute to a postcapitalist transition. I study several contemporary product design projects that develop everyday tools, building systems, and fabrication machinery. Together, they encapsulate peer production, open-sourcing, and the maker movement. These trends constitute a coherent methodology of commoning, which manifests itself in three ways: *shared creation* (designing in common), *shared governance* (managing designs in common), and *shared*

access (holding the means of production in common). I describe how this shared valorisation of labour, knowledge, and artefacts radically alters the political economy of design practices.

OCEANS AS ARCHIVES SYMPOSIUM

University of British Columbia | Unceded xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Territory | 6-7 May, 2021

The Oceans as Archives symposium contributes to the growing field of critical ocean studies, while intervening in the erasures and occlusions performed in scripting the field as a new critical terrain of inquiry. This two-day virtual interdisciplinary workshop brings together scholars, poets, artists, and activists to share and discuss new work that centers the ocean as a source of knowledge and a method for thinking and writing about the historical and persistent violence of settler colonialism and capitalism, and anti-colonial resistance. The symposium provides a space for sharing ideas and theories anchored in the longstanding critical traditions of Black (diaspora) studies, Pacific Islander studies, Critical Indigenous studies, Caribbean philosophy, postcolonial theory, and decolonial and anticolonial critique.

Panels explore island and ocean-centered conceptualizations of place and power, disrupting continent-dominant and Eurocentric metageographies. Participants experiment with blue humanities approaches analyzing the anthropocene, interrogating environmental degradation along coastlines connected by imperial networks. Mobilities emerges as one of the symposium's central themes. We consider new research on historical and novel systems and technologies developed by states and corporations to police and prevent transoceanic travel, particularly those journeys undertaken by refugees. Moreover, we shed light on strategies that people fleeing violence have embraced in their search for safer sea crossings, and examine collective struggles against moves to dispossess and exploit indigenous polities.

A special ceremony to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the 1621 Dutch East India Company genocide of the Indigenous population of the Banda Islands will be an important part of the ceremony. This event addresses the relationship between Indigenous histories and resilience across oceans, from the Banda Islands to Turtle Island and Coast Salish Territories.

Organizers: Mikki Stelder (University of British Columbia/ASCA), Renisa Mawani (University of

British Columbia), Kristie Flannery (Australian Catholic University)

Register [here](#):

Website: www.oceansasarchives.org

RESPONSIBLE AI, MACHINE ETHICS, AND LOGIC

PEPTalk 6 on 6 May 2021, 12:00 hrs. | To participate, please register via pept@uva.nl and you will receive the Zoom link by email.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is advancing at a rapid pace. Its limitless applications are already an integral part of our daily experiences, (maybe not so) silently structuring our lives and society in crucial domains such as education, healthcare, surveillance, transportation, journalism, and law. As we place more and more safety-critical and consequential social decisions in the hands of artificial systems, we must ensure that these systems behave ethically, and that decisions and actions are taken responsibly. It is therefore increasingly urgent to understand the conceptual underpinnings of the notion of responsibility in AI, and to develop rigorous tools to design artificial systems that behave *responsibly* and *ethically*. But, what does it even mean for an artificial system to behave responsibly? Can and should we design machines with moral reasoning capacities? In *ensuring* responsible and ethical AI, should scalable and efficient, yet opaque, sub-symbolic approaches be replaced by transparent, explainable, yet brittle, symbolic, logic-based techniques?

On 6 May 2021, we will discuss these questions in our PEPT panel with Jan Broersen and Marija Slavkovic, emphasizing the role that can be played by the social sciences, humanities, and AI research in an interdisciplinary approach to the issues outlined above. The conversation will be moderated by Aybüke Özgün.

Jan Broersen is a Professor of Logical Methods in Artificial Intelligence at the Department of Philosophy, Utrecht University. He is the principal investigator of the NWO funded research project Empowering Human Intentions through Artificial Intelligence. His main interests are responsible AI, knowledge representation and reasoning, and logic theories of agency.

Marija Slavkovic is an Associate Professor in Artificial Intelligence at the Department of Information Science and Media Studies at the University of Bergen. She is a vice-chair of the Norwegian AI Association and co-leader of the project User Modeling, Personalization and Engagement at the Research Centre for Responsible Media Technology and Innovation. Her research interests include machine ethics, logic reasoning in social networks, computational social choice, and judgement aggregation.

Aybüke Özgün is an Assistant Professor of Responsible and Ethical AI at the University of Amsterdam and the Institute for Logic, Language, and Computation. She completed a joint PhD degree in Logic and Computer

Science at the University of Amsterdam and the University of Lorraine.

PRACTICES OF SOUNDING HISTORY

Presentation by Pamela Jordan in the ASCA Aurality Seminar | Tuesday 11 May, 16.30-18.00, online
Registration link:

<https://eur-nl.zoom.us/j/61911732087>

One of the primary challenges facing conservation of an historic place, be it recent or ancient, is identifying the site's full constitutive context(s) through time and what meanings they once held. Fields concerned with human-shaped environments have experienced a sensory turn — including experiential archaeology, soundscape studies, phenomenology in architectural design, and intangible heritage. This human-centered perspective has opened up considerations of context to sensory experience beyond the physical integrity of structures. Such work faces many challenges; envisioning a building's historic appearance often is much easier than imaging how it sounded. Yet concluding that practice or ancient experience of place is inaccessible because a site is in ruins would be premature, an inference largely based on visual cues, on the perceived absence of evidence.

This talk will discuss how sound can be employed to research past built environments and what new understandings can be revealed towards improved conservation practices. Ongoing research at the Berlin Wall Memorial in Berlin, Germany and the ancient sanctuary to Zeus on Mount Lykaion, Greece will show how the intangible layer of the site can bring forward a new reading of the past architectural and cultural context of the site, rendering original practices and experience researchable by focusing on the site's sonic interface. Embedded in this standpoint is the necessary expansion of what constitutes historic artifact: instead of discreet architectural remains in neutral scenery, the site can be considered a built landscape in totality, with buildings, natural features, and inhabitants creating a full-sensory built environment that is capable of reflecting past conditions. Relational analysis of the contemporary soundscape can reveal fully intact sonic dynamics while the physical setting is largely changed.

Rooted in architectural practice, the research methodologies that will be presented meld heritage conservation, architectural design, experiential archaeology, acoustics, and soundscape analysis. There is no single strategy for researching past sonic environments; each site demands a new combination of research tools and sources, from archives to architectural assessments to binaural field recordings. Both case studies make evident the defining role of sound to place and reveal that the full historic context cannot be grasped without considering its inherent sonic dimension to trace the possible meanings behind historic experience.

Pamela Jordan is a licensed architect (USA, LEED AP) who uses sound-based methodologies to analyse and recontextualize historic built environments, including ancient sanctuaries, places of worship, military installations, infrastructural ruins, and cultural landscapes. Her work is grounded in independent research, institutional affiliations and collaborations based in architecture, acoustics, heritage, art, and psychoacoustics. The results of her research have featured in academic, peer-reviewed publications, applied research studies, and contemporary art spaces and exhibitions. She is the guest-editor of "Sounding Heritage", issue 9.2 of *Change Over Time* (2021, University of Pennsylvania Press). Her research has been supported by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (DE), the HEAD Genuit Foundation (DE), the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NL), and the Society of Architectural Historians (USA). Pamela holds master's degrees in architecture and historic preservation from the University of Pennsylvania and is an NWO-funded doctoral candidate at the University of Amsterdam's Centre for Ancient Studies and Archaeology.

AFFECTIVE PRIVILEGE & PARADOXES OF REPRODUCTION, GRAMMARS OF POWER

12 May 2021 | Daniel Loick (University of Amsterdam) & Penelope L. Deutscher (Northwestern University) present in the Philosophy and Public Affairs Colloquium | Title Daniel Loick's paper: Affective Privilege | Title Penelope Deutscher's paper: Paradoxes of Reproduction, Grammars of Power Daniel and Penelope will comment on each other's papers. Contact: Henri Wijsbek: H.W.J.M.Wijsbek@uva.nl

REPURPOSING PORN

Ines Ouedraogo is the next guest in the ASCA Film in Context serie organized by Karen Sztajnberg | 14 May 2021, 4 pm.

Porn-terrorism, Pornpreneurism and Pandemic-porn. Online platforms have enabled a myriad of variations on an old mediatic trope: pornography. A case study of Maria Basura's performance art, which intersects decolonial and porn-terrorist practices, will be our starting point into the everlasting draw of prurience in odd places.

Inès Ouedraogo teaches Latin American & Caribbean literature at Suffolk University and a seminar on Love and Eroticism at Emerson College and holds a PhD in Hispanic Cultures and Literatures as well as two graduate certificates in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies and African Studies from Boston University. Her dissertation *Devouring the Patriarchy: Anthropornophagy and Pleasure Politics in Brazilian Pop Porn Festival* is a close reading of a film selection that disrupts hegemonic patriarchal discourses by "cannibalizing" oppressive norms and creating new sexual possibilities.

[More information and registration](#)

GEO-ANARCHIES

New Political Ecologies Seminar. May 21th, 11-13hrs .

We are happy to invite you to as masterclass by

Giovanbattista Tusa, Nova University of Lisbon

The masterclass will focus on the possibility of rethinking the figure of "earth" in contemporary philosophy and in the current debate on the Anthropocene. While the necessity for a geo-philosophy had clearly emerged at the end of the twentieth century, a sort of geo-poetics that had romanticised the wandering planet had at the same time rendered it an untouchable and defenceless resource that can only be protected. Since "earth" has been reduced to an exhaustible resource, an endangered planet condemned to its own ending, another continent seems to have emerged—"Earth" as a dark, impenetrable and indestructible reserve that could offer an ultimate refuge to metaphysical thought. The masterclass seeks ways to liberate the earth from being the ground for a petrified foundation of the Western metaphysics and tries to return it to its multitudinous and chaotic dimension, in which alliances, contaminations and totally unexpected contacts arise, which force philosophy to throw itself *à corps perdu* into collaborations and coexistences that are impossible to anticipate or calculate.

Reading:

Tusa, Giovanbattista (2020). "De-Limitations. Of Other Earths". *Stasis* Vol. 9 N. 1: 166-183. PDF available online: <http://stasisjournal.net/index.php/journal/article/view/166>

Giovanbattista Tusa (<https://giovannitusa.org>) is a philosopher and video artist. His latest works and projects include *The End: A Conversation* (with Alain Badiou) and *Planetary Conversations* (<https://www.planetaryconversations.com>) with a.o. Jean-Luc Nancy, Reza Negarestani, Slavoj Žižek.

All welcome! Research Master students can participate for credits. For registration and more information, please contact Joost de Bloois & Jeff Diamanti: j.g.c.debloois@uva.nl, j.diamanti@uva.nl

IMAGINING EARTH OTHERWISE

Guest Lecture by Simon Ferdinand (University of Amsterdam) in the (Post)Pandemic Urbanism Seminar organized by Carolyn Birdsall | ASCA Cities Project | 21 May 2021, 3 pm.

Simon Ferdinand is a lecturer in literary and cultural analysis at the University of Amsterdam. He is author of *Mapping Beyond Measure: Art, Cartography, and the Space of Global Modernity* (2020) and the coeditor of *Other Globes: Past and Peripheral Imaginations of Globalization* (2020). Starting in 2021, Ferdinand has a new, NWO-funded research project that uses an innovative GeoHumanities approach to show how past representations of Earth from different cultures provide alternative ways of tackling global environmental change today.

Preparatory reading:

- Ferdinand, Simon. "Worlds Apart: Prehistories of the Overview Effect." *Kunstlicht* 41.2/3 (2020): 19–24. *Special issue: 'On Maps'*, edited by Anna Sejbæk Torp-Pedersen.
- Wenzel, Jennifer. "Planet vs. Globe." *English Language Notes* 52.1 (2014): 19–30.
- Lazier, Benjamin. "Earthrise; or, the globalization of the world picture." *The American Historical Review* 116.3 (2011): 602–630.

'NOT WITH THE MASTER'S TOOLS, NOR DENYING THE VIOLENT TOOLS THAT CLAIM NEUTRALITY'

Masterclass by Ariella Aïsha Azoulay organized by Linda Xheza and Stacey Voster | 26 May 2021, 5 – 7 pm.

Ariella Aïsha Azoulay's most recent book *Potential History: Unlearning Imperialism* (2019) contends that institutions such as archives, museums and universities rely on imperial modes of thinking. In this masterclass, we will think with and through Azoulay's idea of unlearning in relation to human rights and photography. For Azoulay, the constituent violence under which these concepts and tools were formed cannot be exchanged for other concepts or tools. Instead, we need to unlearn imperial modes of thinking in order to cohabit in a world with others rather than against others. Azoulay's proposal for co-citizenship and the "right not to be a perpetrator" will be central to our discussion.

Ariella Aïsha Azoulay is a Professor of Modern Culture and Media in the Department of Comparative Literature at Brown University. She is also an art curator and filmmaker. For more information, see here: <https://news.brown.edu/new-faculty/humanities/ariella-azoulay>

In the masterclass we will focus on *Potential History: Unlearning Imperialism* (2019) as well as Azoulay's earlier essay "The Family of Man": A Visual Universal Declaration of Human Rights (2013). **If you wish to attend, please email e.xheza@uva.nl and s.l.vorster@uva.nl to register and obtain readings in advance.**

ASCA THEORY SEMINAR ON NEW MATERIALISM

6th and final session of the ASCA Theory Seminar on Urgent Matter | 27 May 2021, 4 – 6 pm.

The session will be organized by Matthew Rana, Suzanne Biewinga, Chen Zhou, and Bianka Scharmann. Participants are asked to read selections from Anna Tsing, *The Mushroom at the End of the World* and Karen Barad, *Meeting the Universe Halfway*.

PERFORMANCE PHILOSOPHY AND ANIMALS: TOWARDS A RADICAL EQUALITY

Presentation by Laura Cull Ó Maoilearca (Amsterdam University of the Arts, NL) in the *Performance and Politics Series* organized by Sruti Bala and Elize Mazadiego | Respondent: Jeff Diamanti (Environmental Humanities, University of Amsterdam) | Contact: e.m.mazadiego@uva.nl | 27 May 2021, 4 – 6 pm.



Sheep Pig Goat (2020) by *Fevered Sleep* with Laura Cull Ó Maoilearca. Photo by Malachy Luckie

Can art allow humans to occupy the worlds of non-human animals? How can performance contribute to addressing anthropocentrism, speciesism and the violence toward animal bodies such perspectives enable? Laura Cull Ó Maoilearca will address the importance and challenges of including animals in how we think about the relation between politics and performance according to an intersectional approach that considers how animal oppression connects with other forms of structural violence and inequality.

Laura Cull Ó Maoilearca is Lector, Head of DAS Graduate School and Head of Research at the Academy of Theatre and Dance, Amsterdam University of the Arts in the Netherlands. Her current research project is the AHRC-funded Leadership Fellowship, *Performance Philosophy & Animals: Towards a Radical Equality* (2019–2022). Her recent books include: *The Routledge Companion to Performance Philosophy* (Routledge, 2020) and *Encounters in Performance Philosophy* (Palgrave, 2014), both co-edited with Alice Lagaay. She is a founding core convener of the international research network, *Performance Philosophy*, joint series editor of the *Performance Philosophy book series* with Rowman & Littlefield, and an editor of the open access *Performance Philosophy journal*. Laura originally trained as an artist at the Slade School of Art in London and presented performances internationally including Tanzquartier Wien (2015); ICA London (2008); Serpentine Gallery, London (2008, with the artists' collective, SpRoUt); and TATE Britain (2003).

MEMORY WORK IN PROTEST MOVEMENTS: THE CASE OF THE GREEK 1960S

A talk by Dr. Emilia Salvanou (Marilena Laskaridis Visiting Research Fellow in Modern Greek Studies at the University of Amsterdam) | Organized by Maria Boletsi, University of Amsterdam, and the NGNS (Dutch Society for Modern Greek Studies) | 28 May 2021, 15:30 – 16:30 hrs.

Protest movements of the 1960s are usually investigated in relation to their political, cultural and social aspects, with special attention to their generational characteristics. Nevertheless, although these student and youth movements were orientated towards the future, the past served as a distinct field of reference, upon which memory work was painstakingly

undertaken. This work was a vital part of the protest. It was necessary in order to overcome the burden of the mainstream narratives regarding the recent past and to create a receptive space for the agents and the ideas of the protest movements. In this talk, I will focus on the Greek case, especially in the early 1960s, and explore how memory culture and youth culture became entangled in a way that eventually reshaped the field of political contestation, popularized the claims and shaped the historical culture that prevailed in the decades that followed.

Emilia Salvanou is a historian of modern and contemporary history. She studied History at the University of Athens (1993), obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Aegean (2006), and completed her post-doctoral thesis at the University of Athens (2012). She has participated in various research projects with national and European funding and has lectured on Greek History (University of Thessaloniki), European History, and Public History (Hellenic Open University). Her latest affiliation was to Utrecht University, as a post-doc fellow in the research program "Remembering Activism: The cultural memory of protest in Europe." She is the author of two monographs: *The shaping of refugee memory. The past as history and as practice* (in Greek, Athens: Nefeli 2018) and *How we learn about the past: History education, public history and historical culture* (in Greek, Athens: Asini 2021, forthcoming), and has published extensively in journals and edited volumes on topics of contemporary history, migration and refugeehood, memory, public history and historical culture.

CFP: SLAVERY IN THE CULTURAL IMAGINATION
Voices of Dissent in the Neerlandophone Space, 17th-21st Century

Call for Papers deadline 15 June 2021 | Conference 28-29 October 2021 | Organized by Marringes Paijmans, Saskia Pieterse and Karwan Fatah Black. | Confirmed keynotes : Hasana Sharp (McGill University) and Marlene Daut (University of Virginia)

The Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA), Amsterdam School of Historical Studies (ASH), and Institute for Cultural Inquiry (ICON) are co-convening a two-day conference on the cultural imagination of slavery. The conference will be held on Thursday 28 and Friday 29 October 2021 at the universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht. We warmly invite contributions to this conference. If you are interested in participating, please send a title, an abstract of 250-300 words, and a short bio (under 100 words) to m.g.paijmans@uva.nl by 15 June 2021. We are currently approaching a publisher for the publication of an edited volume based on conference proceedings. If you would be interested to participate in this volume, please, indicate this in your response.

The conference offers an educational programme of 2 ECTS for student members of OSL, NICA and Huizinga

Institute. The registration for this programme opens in September.

Slavery in the Cultural Imagination

Four hundred years of colonial history and involvement in slavery and indenture have left palpable traces in the emotions and imagination of the Dutch (Wekker 2016, Hoving 2012). Yet 'Dutch exceptionalism' and the ubiquitous myth of the Netherlands being a 'colour blind' country, has heavily glossed over these traces (Mathijssen 2019). The lack of awareness about the role of the Netherlands in slave trade and the anti-black and orientalist cultural production that accompanied it, stems from a complex merger of political, economic and cultural interests that prohibit the prospering of a critical understanding of Dutch racism and its history. This conference acts on the urgent need for knowledge of the Dutch colonial past and its current impact by bridging the compartmentalisation of the study of the Dutch colonial past (Stoler 1995; Snelders 2018). In doing so, it strives to move beyond 'Dutch exceptionalism', without ignoring the specific Dutch context.

We wish to facilitate an international, interdisciplinary exchange of both visual and textual narratives of the lives and afterlives of slavery and indenture. The scope of the conference encompasses the long historical period from the early modernity to the present-day. Therefore, we warmly invite both scholars working on the early-modern colonial period, scholars working in the domains of postcolonial and decolonial criticism, and all the intersections between these disciplines.

The conference involves Dutch colonialism and its world-wide heritage. This includes all research conducted in the entire 'Neerlandophone' space – i.e. the complex linguistic space spanning across former Dutch colonies (De Mull and Boehmer 2012). We warmly welcome research that focuses on written and oral sources in vernacular languages (such as, but not limited to, Sranantongo, Papiamentu, Malay etc.), and we encourage proposals from a transnational, comparative perspective.

We especially wish to bring voices of dissent in (post)colonial discourse to the fore: marginalised voices, slavery narratives, (post)colonial interpretations of canonical literary texts touching on colonial history, and decolonial revolutionary poetry. We want to focus on narrativity, as we believe that attention to the layered and polyphonic qualities of narratives can reveal silent and disruptive voices in colonial discourse, as well as collective emotions and imaginations that have not been recorded in most historical sources. We are moreover interested in aesthetic, poetical and storytelling practices, including art, film, performance, philosophy, and other forms of knowledge production that were formed both in the metropolis and by enslaved and indentured peoples.

Indicative topics include:

- How can literary, artistic, philosophical, etc. sources inform us about slavery? How do economic and

cultural production intertwine in the context of slavery? Are representations and imaginations of slavery expressed in specific styles or genres? What are the differences and crossovers between slavery narratives in the entire Neerlandophone space?

- What have been the effects of language politics by colonial institutions? What is the meaning of silence in the representations and imaginations of slavery?
- Whose imagination is involved in the 'cultural imagination of slavery'? How is whiteness involved in the imagination of slavery?
- How do race and gender intersect in representations and imaginations of slavery? How is sexual slavery represented and imagined? What was the role of women in abolitionism?
- What characterises neo- or post-slavery narratives in the Neerlandophone space? Which practices and ideas contribute to a decolonisation of the history of slavery in the Neerlandophone space?
- Which international theories and methodologies are helpful in studying the representations and imaginations of slavery in the Neerlandophone space? How should theories be adjusted to suit this specific context?

ASCA PHD POSITION IN POST-SOCIALIST CULTURES OF SUSPICION: **DONBAS**.

Part of Boris Noordenbos's ERC project *Conspiracy Theories and the Socialist Past* | Deadline June 8, 2021.

This PhD project focuses on cultural imaginations of the current war in the Donbas region. The violent conflict presents the latest and most protracted chapter in a sequence of recent confrontations between Russia and Ukraine, and it is currently an 'information war' as much as it is an ongoing military one. Over the past seven years, opinion makers and political leaders have often resorted to historical narratives and analogies to fuel contemporary suspicion regarding 'villainous' enemies. In cultural imaginations of the war, too, discourses of memory and suspicion frequently intersect. When engaging with 'Donbas', Russian and Ukrainian (documentary) films, (non-fiction) literature and commemorative practices often tap into competing cultural memories of World War II, the Cold War, and the socialist experience more broadly.

<https://www.uva.nl/shared-content/uva/en/vacancies/2021/04/21-304-phd-researcher-post-socialist-cultures-of-suspicion-donbas.html?origin=RrhWo%2FMXSgW7Uzvhwnl%2B%2Fg>

ASCA PHD POSITION IN POST-SOCIALIST CULTURES OF SUSPICION: **SMOLENSK**

Part of Boris Noordenbos's ERC project *Conspiracy Theories and the Socialist Past* | Deadline June 8, 2021.

This PhD project focuses on 'Smolensk'. It examines conspiracy culture regarding the 2010 crash of the Tupolev-Tu-154M aircraft near Smolensk (Russia) in which president Lech Kaczyński died, along with his

wife and more than 90 members of the Polish political and military elite. In public imagination, the tragedy immediately acquired historical proportions, primarily because the officials were on their way to a joint Polish-Russian commemoration ceremony marking the seventieth anniversary of the Katyń massacre in which Soviet NKVD officers executed more than 20,000 Polish civilians and servicemen. Over the past decade, the 2010 catastrophe has spurred an exceptionally rich, memory-infused culture of conspiracy, which has affected Poland's political landscape and international relations.

PHD SCHOLARSHIP IN CLIMATE & SOCIETY (DUBLIN)

The School of Theology, Philosophy and Music and School of Communications is offering a fully funded, four year fees + stipend scholarship in the Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences at Dublin City University. The project will be supervised by Dr [Fiachra O'Brolcháin](#), Dr [Padraig Murphy](#) and Prof [Pat Brereton](#). This is one of four interdisciplinary PhD Scholarships being offered in the Faculty from 2021. Note that candidates may apply for **one** scholarship only.

The scale of the environmental crisis requires urgent action. This is accepted by scientists and environmental philosophers. The latter have developed moral and political frameworks designed to ensure society can adapt and avoid a climate catastrophe. Nonetheless, despite the warnings of scientists and the moral and political cases made by philosophers, little has been achieved.

To a significant degree, this is a communications problem. Amongst the myriad ways of addressing this communications problem is to utilise new techniques in "context design", specifically "nudging" and "framing." This is of great interest to policy makers, who "have begun to investigate how framing shapes (or could shape) people's relationship to environmental issues and how nudging shapes (or could shape) choices that have environmental significance" (Hall, 2016).

Whilst both nudging and framing are in the most part unavoidable, they raise profound philosophical dilemmas relating to liberty and autonomy, paternalism, and substantive questions of the good (MacGregor, 2016). Nonetheless the great potential of nudging and framing to promote environmental goals should not be ignored.

The ethical concerns with nudging and framing (e.g., it is paternalistic, it focuses on change "from below," and it limits individual liberty) need to be addressed. Indeed, in theory, nudging could be used to undermine individual autonomy (a person's capacity to make decisions for themselves). However, these ethical concerns are premised on the liberal regard for the freedom of individuals, and it is this very regard for individual freedom that has created the climate crisis threatening the foundations of human civilisation and

the continuing existence of the diversity of life on the planet. From an ecocentric ethical perspective (which would place less importance on individual autonomy) then, nudging people to change their behaviour so as to preserve the conditions necessary for flourishing life on earth is not only justified but is most likely required. Whilst this challenge to individual liberty appears radical, changes resulting from climate change will likely result in tragic choice dilemmas for future generations. Using big data to nudge people into changing behaviour may represent the least-worst option.

This project will explore these ethical dilemmas and contribute to the philosophical discussion. Alongside this it will critically engage with eco-literacy and eco-media studies to investigate the ethical values being promulgated socially. The ethical proposals arising from the research will be explored with publics via environmental stakeholder and public panels and focus groups. The data will reveal not only how publics respond to radical new philosophies, but will suggest whether nudging can be effective and, if so, how publics might best be nudged into changing behaviour.

Read more at: <https://www.dcu.ie/humanities-and-social-sciences/phd-scholarships>

The strict closing date for applications is: 5:00pm (UTC +1) on May 17th, 2021.

CFP: DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Platform PDI-SSH is pleased to inform that the second Call for Proposals 'Digital Infrastructure in Social Sciences and Humanities' is now open for applications. The Call for Proposals and all guidelines can be found [here](#). The closing date for submitting proposals is **30 June 2021, 23:59 CE(S)T**. The award decision will be announced before 15 November 2021.

Platform Digital Infrastructure PDI-SSH organises an information event for potential applicants to offer more information on the PDI-SSH grant and the procedure, and to facilitate the alignment between proposed infrastructures and existing ones. The (online) event will take place on 11 May 2021, 16.00-17.15. More information and the registration form can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions regarding this email or the Call for Proposals, please do not hesitate to contact me: Platform PDI-SH <info@pdi-ssh.nl>