

Nieuwsbrief 283

April 2025

<i>Dissertation Defense: Noortje de Leij</i>	1
<i>Open Science Grant for Sruti Bala and Divya Nadkarni</i>	1
<i>New ASCA PhD Candidates</i>	2
<i>The Loss of the Presumed World</i>	5
<i>Phenomenology of Smell Loss in Long COVID</i>	5
<i>Cybernetic Capitalism</i>	5
<i>Social Epistemology / Jennifer Lackey</i>	6
<i>"Starting back toward life"</i>	6
<i>No Spectators at Chasm's Door</i>	6
<i>Seeing Matters: The Social and Political Lives of Images</i>	7
<i>Abolition and Democratic Confederalism</i>	7
<i>Generative AI and the automation of creative labour</i>	7
<i>Mythologizing Nature, Naturalizing Myths</i>	8
<i>ASCA Supervision Workshop</i>	8
<i>Epistemic Reparations and the Right to Be Known</i>	8
<i>Afro-Sino Tech Futures</i>	9
<i>Speculative Fictions and (Non) Modern Futures</i>	9
<i>Meme Aesthetics</i>	10
<i>Armed by Design Book Launch</i>	10
<i>ASCA Member Consultation Meeting</i>	11
<i>Symposium Kartini Room</i>	11
<i>ASCA Theory Seminar: Medical Humanities</i>	11
<i>ASCA PhD Skills: The Academic Job Market and Publishing</i>	11
<i>Art in Times of Destruction</i>	12
<i>Vibes</i>	12
<i>Play through the Grey Prism: Addressing Chromatic Leisure in Cities</i>	12
<i>Antisocial Queer Theory, 2005-2023</i>	12
<i>Pragmatics of Storytelling</i>	13
<i>Site, Imagery and Details</i>	13
<i>Climate Imaginaries: Practicing Ubuntu</i>	13
<i>Call for Abstracts Women and Cities</i>	14
<i>Call for Papers: GenAI & Creative Practices</i>	14
<i>Call for Abstracts: Journalism as a Science Watchdog</i>	14

DISSERTATION DEFENSE: NOORTJE DE LEIJ

The Terms of Critique, On Art as Critique in October Journal | Supervisors: Mia Lerm-Hayes, Sven Lütticken | 25 April 2025, 16:00 hrs, Agnietenkapel.



In 1976, Rosalind Krauss and Annette Michelson

founded *October*, a New York-based journal for art theory and criticism, allusively named after Serge Eisenstein's film *October: Ten Days that Shook the World*—about the October revolution. Aiming to reconcile late modernism's self-critical focus with socio-political concerns, the journal became a pivotal platform for reconceptualizing art as a mode of social critique. Yet despite its influence, *October's* foundational assumptions remain underexamined. Titled *The Terms of Critique*, this study interrogates the philosophical premises underlying *October's* conception of critique, focusing on two key paradigms: Krauss's poststructuralist deconstruction and Buchloh's Marxist-inspired immanent critique. By unpacking these interventions, the thesis also reveals their internal contradictions and proposes a new framework for thinking art as critique.

OPEN SCIENCE GRANT FOR SRUTI BALA AND DIVYA NADKARNI

Academic freedom and public education in India: international consultative consortium meeting of scholar-activists. Organised by [Sruti Bala](#) and [Divya Nadkarni](#) (ASCA) together with [InSAF India](#) | Dates: 18-21 April 2025

This meeting consolidates the research trajectory of the network 'International Solidarity for Academic Freedom in India' (InSAF India). It aims to develop concrete ideas for future grant applications focusing on academic freedom, involving the collaboration of scholars and civil society groups.

The meeting will address the limitations of current conceptions of Academic Freedom (AF) by examining: **How AF is a collective issue going beyond freedom of speech/expression:** How does the systematic exclusion of marginalized communities shape and delimit academic research? How can unscientific, harmful or unethical research practices that receive institutional support in an ethno-nationalist context be countered?

AF's connections to economic and sociopolitical inequalities: How do land-grabbing and extractive mining practices affect knowledge production, especially indigenous knowledge systems? How do militarization and surveillance transform educational institutions into carceral institutions?

Transnational dimensions of AF: What commonalities emerge between different global majority contexts (Bangladesh, Iran, Turkey, Palestine, Brazil), and what

are the available resources and possible structures for transnational solidarity and reparation?

The meeting seeks to strengthen an international consortium of researchers by clarifying the specific research angles and sub-topics each researcher will specialise in, the modes of inquiry, and the ways in which the research can be collaboratively undertaken. The meeting will further concretise ideas for open educational resources.

Consortium members from the USA, UK, Norway, France, Switzerland, India and the Netherlands will congregate for a 3-day meeting. While the event is not open to the public, anyone interested in the activities of this consortium may contact the organisers for further information.

The event is co-financed by a consortium grant of the Amsterdam Institute for Humanities Research and an Open Science Meeting grant of NWO.

NEW ASCA PHD CANDIDATES

Since December 2024 the following 16 PhD candidates joined our research community. Warm Welcome!

Julée Al-Bayaty, *Literary Studies: Re-Imagining Water in the Neerlandophone Space*

Supervisors: Marrigje Pajmans, 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.

Muchamad Zaenal Arifin, *Eco-Islam in Indonesia: Media, Institutions, Publics*

Supervisors: Leonie Schmidt, Jeroen de Kloet

As digital platforms increasingly shape religious and environmental discourse, Islamic eco-media has emerged alongside the growing eco-Islam movement. This research aims to provide perspectives on the

intersection of religion, media, and climate change in Indonesia by explaining how Islamic eco-media contributes to the construction of public eco-awareness regarding climate change issues. Using an ethnographic research method, four case studies are examined: *ecopasantrens*, eco-Islam organizations, Islamic women's groups, and grassroots Muslim movements. Theoretically, by employing mediatization theory, reception theory, and translation theory, this study critically assesses the public's reception of Islamic eco-media and its translation into Islamic cultural practices.

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.

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

Supervisors: 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.

Verónica Copello Duque, *Writing with Matter: Geological Approaches to 21-st century Latin American Writing*

Supervisors: Irene Villaescusa Illan, Elio Baldi, Esther Peeren
This dissertation engages with 21st-century Latin American writings that bring to the surface relations between life forms (including plants and human and non-human animals) and geological matter. The main research questions addressed are: Which aesthetic practices and narrative strategies do these texts employ? How do they contribute to the conceptualization of alternative futures and understandings of colonial pasts? In addressing these questions, the dissertation engages with the scaling of place and time as part of a geological aesthetics deployed in the works studied, the use of digital textual strategies, and the possibilities of feminist creative practices in (re)imagining futures.

Lamia Damayanti, *Eco-Islam Narratives and Discourse: Analyzing Green Islam Campaigns Across Social Media Platforms*

Supervisors: Leonie Schmidt, Patricia Pisters

This research examines how Islam in Indonesia, both through media and movements, forms environmental awareness and advocacy through social media. Although Green Islam is gaining popularity, public awareness is still limited. Media narratives influence how environmental ethics are framed in a religious context, shaping environmentally conscious citizenship. Using digital methods, this research explores affective politics and governmentality in Islamic eco-media texts, discourses, networks and visualizations. The research expands the scope beyond Green Islam to include other Islamic movements engaged in ecological issues. By analyzing advocacy campaigns, digital narratives, and proselytizing (da'wah) spread across social media, this research provides insights into the intersection of religion, media, and environmental activism in Indonesia.

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.

Lars Klute, *Cutting: A Feminine Discourse*

Supervisors: Misha Kavka, Diego Semerene

Cutting is constitutive. From the umbilical cord and circumcision to trans surgeries, body modification and auto-mutilation, cutting (re-)shapes how we understand the body and its multiple identities. While cutting normatively connotes division or destruction, Eva Hayward redirects this negative interpretation by considering cutting as a "generative enactment". The PhD project departs from this insight to reframe cuts, wounds, and scars as not merely negative marks but as sites of renewal and trans-formation. Through this lens I examine how media functions through the logic of the cut, reconfiguring what it means "to do media" and how to analyze it.

Angeliki Mousiou, *Cavafy's "lives": Biographical constructions of C. P. Cavafy and the making of his literary persona(s)*

Supervisors: Maria Boletsi, Takis Kayalis

This Ph.D. project focuses on the biographical constructions of the poet C. P. Cavafy in life-writing, literature and other media. I will draw from recent theoretical and historical approaches to biography (often quoted under the umbrella term 'biographical turn'), exploring the complex relationship between life-writing, literary criticism and the reception of Cavafy's work. By juxtaposing the evolving and often conflicting critical approaches to Cavafy's poetry with his multiple "lives", this project aims to illuminate the intertwinement of criticism and biography in the distinct case of C. P. Cavafy while also contributing to wider discussions on literary biography and the construction of the artist's public image.

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. 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.

Rifat Saleheen, *Entangled Freedoms. Modern Art and Freedom from the Global South (East Pakistan/Bangladesh)*

Supervisors: Sanjukta Sunderason, Barnita Bagchi

The independence of Bangladesh stems from a long history of struggle characterized by a series of mass mobilizations. This fight for freedom was led by a diverse group of people driven by differing political and social agendas. Despite sharing a common goal, a wide range of imaginations and interpretations of what

freedom entails emerged, expressed in different forms, particularly visualization. This thesis will explore the visualization of movements advocating for self-determination, anti-imperialism, anti-authoritarianism, and liberation, which ultimately led to the liberation war of Bangladesh and the establishment of a new nation-state. This work will try to understand how they envisioned freedom and mobilized people in East Pakistan, and later in post-independence Bangladesh (1947-1975).

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+.

Jiaying Tu, *Rethinking the Global Second-hand Clothes Trade and Consumption from Africa - Unravelling the Ghanian and Rwandan experiences with the growing visibility of "China"*

Supervisors: Tommy Tse, Jeroen de Kloet

The research project studies the cultural economy of second-hand clothing (SHC) consumption in two African countries (Ghana & Rwanda) and how their SHC markets are implicated in the global production networks led by China. Specifically, the project seeks to examine how SHC consumption unfold and evolve in the Ghanian and Rwandan contexts and their respective developments intervened by "Made in/with China", initiating discussions on the global circular economies and the sustainable development of Africa's local industries.

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.

Sabahat Zehra, *Entangled Freedoms. Modern Art and Freedom from the Global South (Pakistan, 1940s-80s)*

Supervisors: Sanjukta Sunderason, Monique Roelofs

This thesis aims to explore “freedom” and “modernity” in their varying versions from the 1950s to the 1990s in Pakistan. The main goal is to analyze the differing ways in which these colonial categories of analyses are adopted, recontextualized, and represented in visual culture and discourse across the country’s history. The thesis aims to draw connections between the power structures present in the country and tie them to colonial roots of epistemological violence. The project does this by engaging with cultural discourse and visibility/ies of nationalism, protest and dissent, globalization, universalism, and artistic practices as they tie with or converge from the ideologies of the “Islamic” “Republic” of Pakistan.

THE LOSS OF THE PRESUMED WORLD

Phenomenology of Smell Loss in Long COVID

On 2 April 2025 12 pm (CET) Pedro Pricladnitzky will give an online talk in the Long Covid Conversations series organized by Eva Meijer.

<https://longcovidconversations.mystrikingly.com/>.

The phenomenon of smell loss, or anosmia, has emerged as a significant and persistent symptom for many individuals suffering from long COVID. This condition profoundly impacts various aspects of life, including nutrition, safety, and emotional well-being. Qualitative studies (for instance, Sharetts, Moein, Khan, Doty; 2024) involving interviews with individuals experiencing long-term smell loss post-COVID-19 have highlighted several key themes, revealing the extensive effects on their daily lives. Participants have reported that the loss of smell disrupts their nutrition and appetite, complicates personal hygiene, poses safety risks, and affects their emotional health. Despite attempts at treatment with corticosteroids and olfactory

training, many have found these interventions ineffective.

This research underscores the need for greater attention to the psychological, emotional, and social implications of prolonged smell loss, which were often overlooked during the pandemic. The concept of “the loss of the presumed world” refers to the profound and often disturbing impact of losing a fundamental sense like smell. This loss can dramatically alter how we experience and understand reality, affecting not only our ability to enjoy sensory experiences but also our identity and emotional well-being (Barwich 2020; Smith 2022). Smell, often undervalued, plays a crucial role in interpreting flavors and perceiving the environment around us. When this sense is lost, familiar tastes become unrecognizable, and the pleasure derived from food and drink diminishes. Beyond the sensory impact, the loss of smell can have significant psychological effects, leading to feelings of disorientation and detachment from the familiar world. Phenomenologically, the different modalities of smell loss—such as anosmia (total loss), hyposmia (partial loss), parosmia (smell distortion), and phantosmia (smell hallucination)—highlight the complexities involved in the loss and the challenging path toward recovery. This shift affects not only sensory experiences but also our relationships and sense of self. The disruption caused by anosmia and variants reflects a break in our daily experience and our understanding of ourselves within the context of the world around us. The significance of smell extends beyond its role as a sensory experience. Often described as a “poor cousin” among the senses, it functions as a vital health sentinel and plays a crucial role in evolutionary biology and cultural constructions. The experience of losing this sense, poignantly illustrated in literary passages such as the ‘Proustian moment,’ reveals how deeply sensory stimulation is intertwined with memory and emotion. Marcel Proust’s exploration of this connection highlights the extraordinary nature of sensory experiences and underscores the profound impact of their loss. The intricate nature of smell loss due to long COVID necessitates a deeper exploration of its underlying mechanisms, potential treatments, and the emotional and psychological toll it takes. Continued research and patient-centered approaches are essential to develop effective interventions and support for those affected by this condition.

CYBERNETIC CAPITALISM

A Critical Theory of The Incommunicable

In our third session on 02 April (1500-1700, PCH 5.08) we will discuss three chapters from Jan Overwijk’s new monograph “Cybernetic Capitalism: A Critical Theory of The Incommunicable” (Fordham UP, 2025).

From perspective to narrative, database and beyond, symbolic forms organize experience and shape epistemic horizons. If Lev Manovich's key insight was to recognize the entanglement of symbolic and technical form, we may now ask how (post)digital culture and seemingly limitless data flows generate a new desire for form in critical theory and cultural production. Situated at the intersection of literary theory, media theory, and the poetics of knowledge, this reading group will explore a wide range of symbolic and literary forms and their epistemic and ideological affordances. We will ask how various new formalisms understand terms such as structure, organization/disorganization, and order/disorder, and how these concepts travel across discourses and scales. In our third session on 02 April (1500-1700, PCH 5.08) we will discuss three chapters from Jan Overwijk's new monograph *Cybernetic Capitalism: A Critical Theory of The Incommunicable* (Fordham UP, 2025). Jan is an NWO Postdoctoral Fellow at Frankfurt's Institut für Sozialforschung and assistant professor at the University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht, and he will be joining us in person to talk more about his book. Please email Michael Miller (m.f.miller@uva.nl) to register.

SOCIAL EPISTEMOLOGY / JENNIFER LACKEY

Final session of the Reading Group organized by Annemijn Kwikkers and Yorgos Karagiannopoulos on 3 April 2025, 3-5 pm.

If you want to join the reading group and receive the text and the details about the location please email Annemijn Kwikkers: a.b.kwikkers@uva.nl or Yorgos Karagiannopoulos: g.t.karagiannopoulos@uva.nl.

"STARTING BACK TOWARD LIFE"

Post-countercultural Anarchism in Toni Cade Bambara's The Salt Eaters

English Department Lecture by Dr Jo Freer organized by Michael Miller | 03 April, 17:00–18:30, PCH 1.04

Toni Cade Bambara is one of a number of writers working in the 1970s and early 80s whose work is deeply imprinted by experiences of American political counterculture. Her novel *The Salt Eaters* (1980) recounts the healing journey of the protagonist Velma Henry, who has attempted suicide following a breakdown brought on by the pressures of combining motherhood, paid work and social activism, as well as by a deep sense of the injustice of male leaders' failure to value women's contributions to the movement. Set in the fictional town of Claybourne, Georgia, the novel's experimental style captures the texture of Velma's psychological experience, as well as the ripple effect of her breakdown on the larger community. It's a work that can be seen as an expression of the Black Arts

Movement, reflecting powerfully on the failures and missed opportunities of Civil Rights and Black Power politics.

But Bambara, a "brazenly message writer," also offers solutions. In the context of what I see as a general, albeit largely unacknowledged, turning of Left politics toward social anarchism in the post-countercultural period, I argue in this paper that a reading of the experiences that trigger Velma's suicide attempt and of the successful healing process that she undergoes provides insights into how communities that work on anarchist principles offer, for Bambara, hope for social and individual wellbeing. I also suggest that the novel's unusual structure mimics the horizontal, web-like societies envisaged within social anarchism. Social anarchism, as I discuss it here, is a non-revolutionary approach to social organisation that seeks to promote maximum individual autonomy in combination with flexible, cooperative communities. Following the anarchist theorist David Graeber, I move away from conventional understandings of anarchism grounded in Western theoretical tracts, instead treating anarchism as both an everyday contemporary practice that can coexist with capitalist economies, and a transhistorical, global principle that has formed the basis of many communal societies. As such, Bambara's engagement with anarchist ideas is of a piece with her Afrocentric worldview.

Dr Jo Freer is Senior Lecturer in American and Postcolonial Literature in the Department of English and Creative Writing at the University of Exeter. She is the author of several works on the American novelist Thomas Pynchon, including the monograph *Thomas Pynchon and American Counterculture* (Cambridge UP, 2014), and is (co-)editor of essay collections including *The New Pynchon Studies: Twenty-First Century Critical Revisions* (Cambridge UP, 2019) and *Thomas Pynchon, Gender, and Sex* (Georgia UP, 2018).

NO SPECTATORS AT CHASM'S DOOR

Workshop with Absala, Koen Gijsman, Aniketh, Deniz Hakman, and Ömür Kırılı | Registration required via rsvp.nospectators@gmail.com | 3 Apr 13:00 - 16:00, West Den Haag – Basement | 5 Apr 13:00 - 16:00 West Den Haag – Basement.

The immersive experience No Spectators at Chasm's Door, centres a Palestinian folk-tale dealing with the act of bearing witness to an incident that took place inside a well. In this story, a witness can change the course of life for everyone involved.

Through the question "Who can witness?" participants go through important junctures of the tale, dealing with the question of involvement by working through theatre practice and sound. This arrangement allows for

the strangers involved to establish relations with each other and the well itself, becoming both witnesses and storytellers, and establishing the grounds for a new tale in the process. A team of sound artists, performers, and story-tellers will work to make this journey possible within the confines of time and space.

More info: <https://www.rewirefestival.nl/artist/no-spectators-at-chasms-door>

SEEING MATTERS: THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIVES OF IMAGES

Ever wondered how images shape our reality? Join us in unraveling the transformative power of visuals – from protest imagery to social media memes – in mobilizing movements, influencing debates, and reshaping perceptions. Discover why, in our visual age, seeing truly matters. 4 April 2025, 17:00 pm | Location: [SPUI25](#) | [Register at SPUI25](#)

In an age dominated by visual culture, the dual power of images, to both democratize and polarize, is more evident than ever. Drawing on her forthcoming book *Seeing Matters* (Cambridge University Press), Sarah Awad (Aalborg University, Denmark) will explore how images, from protest imagery, political campaigns, photojournalism, to social media memes, actively shape our thoughts, emotions, and actions. Rather than simply reflecting our world, images now serve as dynamic agents of change – mobilizing movements, influencing public debate, and at times deepening societal rifts. Awad's analysis challenges us to rethink the power inherent in the act of seeing.

ABOLITION AND DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERALISM

Last session of the joint seminar of the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis and the University of Rojava (Kurdistan). This seminar is organized by Leila Faghfour Azar, Safae El Khannoussi El Boudrin, Daniel Loick, Shahin Nasiri, Abdulkerim Pusat, and Oscar Talbot, in collaboration with our partners from the University of Rojava.

7 April 2025, 08:30 | Location: [Oudemanhuispoort](#), D 1.18B The [University of Rojava](#) and the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA) are pleased to announce the launch of a series of collaborative research seminars in March and April 2025. These seminars, designed in the form of hybrid sessions, aim to foster a dynamic intellectual exchange by bringing together students and scholars from Rojava and Amsterdam. The main purpose is to engage participants in a critical dialogue that bridges the theoretical frameworks of (Western) critical thought with the unique experiences and insights of the Rojava Revolution. In addition, to build a constant collaboration in the future.

The emergence of abolitionism as a pivotal framework in critical theory in recent years, particularly in the aftermath of the Black Lives Matter demonstrations, has emphasized the need to rethink state-inflicted violence.

Parallel to this, the Rojava Revolution and the profound societal transformation it upholds has introduced groundbreaking epistemic practices to reimagine safety and self-defence beyond state-centric paradigms of violence. This transformative vision is exemplified by the intellectual contributions of jinology and the establishment of community-oriented safety initiatives such as the Asayish. With the aim of envisioning a transnational exchange of knowledge that bridges activism and academia to develop insights into building less violent societies, we will organize five joint online seminars. Our seminars rely on an in-depth engagement with foundational texts from key proponents of these movements, such as the works of Abdullah Öcalan and Angela Davis. In addition to active readings and discussions, our seminars will also foster collaborative creative outputs, encompassing essays, interviews, and artistic works. These contributions will be documented and made publicly accessible through a dedicated archival platform. This seminar is organized by Leila Faghfour Azar, Safae El Khannoussi El Boudrin, Daniel Loick, Shahin Nasiri, Abdulkerim Pusat, and Oscar Talbot, in collaboration with our partners from the University of Rojava.

GENERATIVE AI AND THE AUTOMATION OF CREATIVE LABOUR

April 8, 2025 (15:00-17:00) | Location: Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), Oude Turfmarkt 145-147, Amsterdam | Speakers: Isadora Campregher Paiva and Dimitris Tzionas | Organizers: Claudio Celis Bueno and Nanne van Noord

This seminar is part of the series 'Interdisciplinary Perspectives on AI & Culture' organized by Claudio Celis Bueno and Nanne van Noord. 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 Isadora Campregher Paiva and Dimitris Tzionas will discuss the effects of so-called generative AI for creative labour. Using the case studies of 3D scene analysis and reconstruction, and the writers' and actors' strikes in Hollywood, these talks will delve into the technical, cultural, and political implications of AI-powered tools. They will examine questions such as: how can these systems understand, formalize, and model increasingly complex cases of expressive and interacting humans? And how can we navigate the complexities of creative labour in the age of AI?

Registration required (limited spaces): <https://ias.uva.nl/content/events/2025/04/large-language-models-as-interlocutors-generative-ai-and-the-automation-of-creative-labour.html>

MYTHOLOGIZING NATURE, NATURALIZING MYTHS

The Cosmology of Caste, Law and the Indus River

Decolonial Futures Masterclass Series, featuring Ahmed Memon (Cardiff University) | 10 April 2025, 13:00 -15:00 | Roeterseiland Campus Law Faculty, Building A | room A1.05 | decolonialfutures@uva.nl

What happens when we consider myths as stories of social relations, cosmology, and ‘natural truths’ in our research?

Join our scholar in residence **Ahmed Memon** for an engaging masterclass that explores this question. Memon takes myth-making not only as a colonial euro-modern practice, but also as a tool of power to universalize, assimilate, and transform social relations, material reality, and ‘truths’.

Focusing on the mythology about the Indus River in Pakistan, Memon explores how nature itself is shaped by human ideas and how these ideas reinforce racial and caste hierarchies in South Asia. He questions how academic research — whether in law, social sciences, or the humanities — creates and reinforces myths by treating certain ideas as ‘objective truths’.

What if we question academic research practice as a form of ‘myth-making’ where law, social sciences, and humanities are made distinct and separate from ‘truths’ about what is ‘natural’, and what is not?

As he unpacks the myths surrounding the Indus, Memon will explore how people interact with these stories and how they, in turn, are shaped by them. He will invite participants to think critically about cosmological ‘truths’ like *nature, material vs. non-material, human, Western, non-Western, and decolonial*.

Following the masterclass, participants are invited for a small, informal *borrel*.

Ahmed Memon is an interdisciplinary scholar interested in the intersections of international law, global governance, history and decolonial theory and practice. Currently he is writing his manuscript *Assemblages of Coloniality: Violence in the making of Global Legal Order* where he re-describes global governance as an assemblage of coloniality. He is inspired by how sociology, and political geography in the traditions of Indigenous, Black radical, anti-caste and anti-colonial community practice interrupt, negotiate and negate orthodox Eurocentric vocabularies of legal thought. He also engages in grounded practices on decolonizing the university through student-staff partnerships, specifically with the aim of developing anti-racist and anti-sexist approaches and tools for teaching pedagogy, research, and writing about law within academic practice.

ASCA SUPERVISION WORKSHOP

ASCA invites all current and prospective PhD supervisors to a workshop on PhD supervision. If you would like to attend the workshop, please send an email to asca-fgw@uva.nl. | 10 April 2025, 15:00 -17:00, University Library, Belle van Zuylenzaal

We will address how to become involved in PhD supervision, discuss common problems and share best practices. Specific issues that will be addressed include how to respond to requests for PhD supervision; how to effectively organize co-supervision; the different challenges of supervising funded versus non-funded PhD candidates and individual PhD candidates versus PhD candidates in a large research project; how to prepare PhD candidates for the (academic) job market; and how to support PhD candidates struggling with illness or mental health problems.

EPISTEMIC REPARATIONS AND THE RIGHT TO BE KNOWN

Spinoza Lecture I by Jennifer Lackey

The first of two lectures by the current Spinoza Chair holder, Jennifer Lackey, the Wayne and Elizabeth Jones Professor of Philosophy at Northwestern University. 10 April 2025, 18:00 -21:30 | [Aula - Oude Lutherse kerk](#)

This lecture provides the first discussion in the literature of the epistemic significance of the phenomenon of “being known” and the relationship it has to reparations that are distinctively epistemic. Drawing on a framework provided by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, it is argued that victims of gross violations and injustices not only have the *right to know* what happened, as the UN maintains, but they also have a right that is altogether absent from these discussions—the *right to be known*. The case is then made for expanding the standard conception of reparations beyond the legal/political, psychological, and moral to include those that are distinctively epistemic, as we are members of an epistemic community in addition to a legal/political and moral community; we are not just agents in a political and moral sense, but also an epistemic one; we have epistemic duties distinct from our legal and moral obligations; and we can be wronged not only legally/politically, psychologically, and morally, but also epistemically. An account is then provided of epistemic reparations as intentionally reparative actions, which take the form of epistemic goods given to those who have been epistemically wronged by parties who acknowledge these wrongs and whose reparative actions are intended to redress them. This account captures both the right to know and the right to be known possessed by survivors of gross violations and injustices.

Programme

18.00 hrs | Open to public

18.30 hrs | Welcome/opening words

18.45 hrs | Start of lecture followed by discussion with audience

20.00 hrs | Reception

21.15 hrs | End

[Register for one or both lectures](#)



Jennifer Lackey

Jennifer Lackey is the Wayne and Elizabeth Jones Professor of Philosophy and Professor of Law (courtesy) at Northwestern University, Founding Director of the Northwestern Prison Education Program, and Senior Research Associate at the African Centre for Epistemology and Philosophy of Science at the University of Johannesburg.

Lackey's research is primarily in social epistemology. She is the author of over 60 articles and three books, including her recent *Criminal Testimonial Injustice*, which won the 2024 North American Society for Social Philosophy Book Award. She is also the editor of five volumes and editor-in-chief of two journals, *Philosophical Studies* and *Episteme*. Lackey is the winner of the 2024 Humanitas Award, 2023 Horace Mann Medal, and the Lebowitz Prize for Philosophical Achievement and Contribution. She was elected President of the American Philosophical Association's Central Division from 2021–2022 and has received grants and fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

AFRO-SINO TECH FUTURES

Global Africa (Putting Africa, China and interactions within the 'multiple South(s)' into focus). Organizers: Fairuzah Atchulo (UvA) and Dr. Johanna von Pezold (UvA). This reading group is an initiative of the ERC project China Africa Fashion Power (<https://www.chinaafricafashionpower.org/>)
11 April 2025, 15:00-16:30 | Room 0.16, BG1 Turfdraggsterpad 9, Amsterdam | For enquires: f.m.m.atchulo@uva.nl and j.e.vonpezold@uva.nl.

The Global Africa reading group aims to facilitate critical discussions and dialogues on topics pertaining to 'Africa' and the Global South as a whole. In this, it strives to create a scholarly community that

encompasses and accommodates the multitude of studies of and from Africa, and an avenue for keeping abreast with the academic developments pertaining to our theorised notion of 'multiple Souths'. Combining aspects of a reading group and a seminar, Global Africa aspires to bring together esteemed international guest speakers with the *China Africa Fashion Power* project team, other African studies, humanities, and social sciences scholars based at Dutch universities, as well as interested PhD and Master students.

About the ERC project *China Africa Fashion Power*

Fashion is a significant economic force globally and one of the most poignant indicators of cross-cultural exchange. Thus, the *China Africa Fashion Power* project uses everyday fashion (clothes, textiles, accessories, hair) as the lens to investigate how China's global power is manifested, negotiated, and resisted in people's daily life in Africa (Kenya and Mozambique). This will be studied by critically examining Africa-China networks of everyday fashion production, trade, retail and consumption, using a multi-disciplinary, multi-method, multi-sited, and multi-scalar approach. Thereby, the five-year-project aims to theorise how everyday fashion is created, circulated, valued, and consumed in and through Global Souths Value Chains connecting Guangdong, Nairobi, and Maputo.

Time schedule: The Global Africa seminar will be held from 3:00-4:30pm on Fridays, 14th February 2025, 28th March 2025, 11th April 2025, and 20th June 2025.

Attendance: Online Attendance via Zoom will be possible for most sessions. Drinks and snacks will be served.

SPECULATIVE FICTIONS AND (NON) MODERN FUTURES

Third session of the reading group organised by Elio Baldi, Verónica Copello-Duque and Irene Villaescusa Illán. To sign up and receive readings please email Irene Villaescusa Illán: i.villaescusaillan@uva.nl | 16 April 2025, 15:00-17:00, PCH room 442

We assume that all fiction is, indeed, a form of speculation therefore, in this reading group, we are particularly interested in the politics of such speculation and the forms that it can take. The umbrella term speculative fiction includes science fiction, utopian/dystopian fiction, feminist fiction and numerous other genres and writing modes. We think of speculative fiction as a mode of creating which not only focuses on science, technology and futurism but one that is also experimental, unfamiliar, posthuman.

We propose to engage with the concept of modernity and of the future through speculation. Human beings try to adapt to (anthropogenic) "slow violence" by

adopting all kinds of future scenarios driven by dominant ideas on modernity, informed, mostly, by advances in science and technology which generally display AI generated/controlled worlds, climate apocalypses and geoengineering in an increasingly technocratic Global North. But forms do speculative fictions about the future that are liberatory, decolonial and sustainable take? What about past and peripheral imaginations of the future? What imaginations of the future envision less 'futuristic' futures for both (human) animals and the planet?

Since 'modernity', 'human beings' and 'environment' are dynamic and plural notions, they need to be investigated critically, especially in a context in which neoliberal capitalism and techno-utopianism combine to create mostly conservative futuristic solutions that reproduce Western, patriarchal and anthropocentric worldviews.

These worldviews (re)produce an essentially monolithic idea of the future through linear notions of time and progress and extractivist and expansionist conceptions of space (conceptions that are more and more projected in another space to be conquered and claimed for nation states and megacorporations, such as the outer space and the deep seas). We want to study how speculative fictions from literature, film and other art forms employ a strategy of indirection to think through visions of the future that interrogate constructed identities and the gendered, racialized, and speciesist elements of our contemporary world.

In these seminar sessions we are also interested in diversifying our library by reading fiction works across languages and critical theory. In these seminars we would also like to explore the boundaries and porosities of (non) European texts and Western epistemologies in relation to transnational languages and transcultural texts.

This seminar is open to academics, MA students, PhD candidates and postdocs with an interest in deepening knowledge on speculative fiction as it relates to contemporary issues and in the theoretical frameworks that help us rethink that relationship. If you are interested in joining, please send us an email beforehand.

MEME AESTHETICS

Word and Image Research Group with Mia You | Date: Wednesday 16 April, 16:00–17:30 | Room: UvA, BG2 0.02 (ground floor). Word-Image Group is organized by Christa-Maria Lerm Hayes, Emilie Sitzia and Louis Hartnoll.

"The meme has become the message," announced *The Guardian* in the lead up to the 2024 U.S. election. While the results of that election could be said to reveal the tragic consequences of when history has become farce, as well as the total aestheticization of politics today —

what Walter Benjamin defined as "the logical outcome of fascism" — we might also do well to consider how both the power and the poorness of the meme challenge us to erase, rethink, and claim affordances for aesthetics that can push beyond the limited frames of the current political imagination.

In this session of the Word and Image group, Mia You (English Language and Culture, Utrecht University; Critical Studies, Sandberg Institute) will present the special issue on "Meme Aesthetics" she recently co-edited with Stephen Best and Damon Ross Young for *Representations*. The special issue brings together scholars of literature, art history and media studies to interrogate the pitfalls and potentialities of meme aesthetics and, subsequently, meme politics. Participants are invited to read Paloma Duong's "practical criticism" of a meme, "Seizing the Memes of Extraction," from the special issue for discussion: <https://online.ucpress.edu/representations/article/168/1/88/203762/Seizing-the-Memes-of-Extraction-A-Latin-American> We will then engage in a collective attempt at close reading (and therefore a discussion around *what goes into "close reading"*) a meme.

All articles in the special issue are currently open access: <https://online.ucpress.edu/representations/issue/168/1>

ARMED BY DESIGN BOOK LAUNCH

16 April 2025, 19:00 – 20:30 | *Framer Framed* | Speakers: Lani Hanna, Sanjukta Sunderason, Canan Marasligil | Moderated by: Mikki Stelder | Contact info organizers (for registration for the event): m.l.stelder@uva.nl.

Armed by Design: Posters and Publications of Cuba's Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America (OSPAAAL), edited by Interference Archive (Lani Hanna, Jen Hoyer, Josh MacPhee, Vero Ordaz, Sarah Seidman, Common Notions, 2025), is a full-color, multilingual publication on the graphic and intellectual legacy of the OSPAAAL. OSPAAAL emerged out of the 1966 Tricontinental Conference in Havana — a meeting of national liberation movements and leftist political parties predominantly from the Global South. Operating out of Havana, OSPAAAL designed hundreds of posters, magazines, and books between the 1960s and 1980s. Until 2019, OSPAAAL remained a political organizing combating US imperialism and supporting liberation movements worldwide through anti-imperialist design practices. *Armed By Design* brings together artists and thinkers from around the world whose work has been impacted by the legacy of OSPAAAL. These contributions reflect on impacts of OSPAAAL's work on regional movements, including in the Arab world and Korea, design iconography, the evolution of

tricontinentalism, our present-day relationship to OSPAAAL posters as a commodity, and authorship and reproduction.

For this book launch, *Armed by Design's* co-editor Lani Hanna will engage in conversation with Sanjukta Sunderason (Associate Professor, University of Amsterdam) and Canan Marasligil (translator, artist, writer) on topics such as anticolonial design, translation as political praxis, social movement archiving, and the relationship between the book and the exhibition *Past Disquiet* currently on view at Framer Framed. The event is moderated by Mikki Stelder.

ASCA MEMBER CONSULTATION MEETING

On April 17th from 11:00-13:00 hours in OMHP room C0.17, we will have an ASCA member consultation meeting.

At the request of the dean, the College of Humanities, the Graduate School, and the Research Institute (AIHR) are currently working on a sustainable plan for the future of our faculty. For AIHR, of which ASCA is a part, this means that we are discussing strategies for our faculty research organization, against the background of more limited resources. All research schools are asked to give input about possible scenarios.

On April 17th from 11:00-13:00 hours in OMHP room C0.17, we will have an ASCA member consultation meeting. During the first half hour, Julia Noordegraaf and Nanske Wiltholt will be present to discuss the current situation and possible scenarios. During the remaining one-and-a-half hours, we will discuss among ASCA members. We greatly appreciate your input.

In addition, at the faculty level, two [walk-in sessions](#) will be held on Monday 14 April and Tuesday 15 April, where employees can ask questions about the future plans of all institutes and the cuts in general, to which you are also welcome.

SYMPOSIUM KARTINI ROOM

Kartini was an influential Indonesian advocate for women's rights and education – but why has her name become such a powerful symbol? | 22 April 2025, 13:00 -16:00 | Location [Bushuis/Oost-Indisch Huis](#), Kartini Room | [Register](#)

At the end of 2024, a vote was held to choose a new name for the 'VOC-zaal', and 'Kartini Room' was voted as the favourite option. Kartini was an influential Indonesian advocate for women's rights and education – but why has her name become such an important symbol? During this symposium, moderated by [Lara Nuberg](#), we will explore Kartini's life and work, reflect on the considerations behind the renaming, and address the future use and redesign of the room.

Programme

13:00 – 13:10: Artistic opening by Farida Nabibaks and Lara Renfrum, from [Reframing HERstory](#)

13:10 – 13:15: Welcome by Marieke de Goede

13:15 – 13:20: Opening by moderator Lara Nuberg

13:20 – 14:00: Round table discussion with five UvA researchers

14:00 – 14:15: When silence speaks: presentation on the redevelopment of the space, interns Exhibition Making

14:15 – 14:30: Break

14:30 – 14:40: Musical intermezzo

14:40 – 15:10: *Making Choices: The Kartini Room as a Mirror of the Postcolonial Turn*. Lecture by Hanco Jürgens

15:10 – 15:25: Literary intermezzo by Suze Zijlstra

15:25 – 15:40: Reflection on the name change by Guno Jones, professor of the Anton de Kom Chair

15:40 – 15:50: Round up: how do we continue?

We will learn about the historical figure of Kartini and her cultural legacy through a round table discussion with five UvA researchers: Yara Voss, Najwa Abdullah, Lamia Damayanti, Sanjukta Sunderason, and MARRIGJE PAIJMANS

ASCA THEORY SEMINAR: MEDICAL HUMANITIES

ASCA Theory Seminar on New and Not So New Humanities organized by Esther Peeren and Jaap Kooijman. Contact: Eloe Kingma at asca-fgw@uva.nl. 23 April, 2025, 15.00 – 18.00 hrs., OMHP, room C 1.17.

This session will be organized by Samuel Ludmilla and Tanne Nijmeijer

Readings are:

Atkinson, Sarah, et al. "'The Medical' and 'Health' in a Critical Medical Humanities." *Journal of Medical Humanities* 36 (2015): 71-81.

De Schauwer, E., et al. «Animating Disability Differently: Mobilizing a Heterotopian Imagination.» *Qualitative Inquiry* 23.4 (2017): 276-286.

Wright, Shain. "Biohacking Queer and Trans Fertility: Using Social Media to Form Communities of Knowledge." *Journal of Medical Humanities* 44.2 (2023): 187-205.

ASCA PHD SKILLS: THE ACADEMIC JOB MARKET AND PUBLISHING

Chaired by Jaap Kooijman, Carolyn Birdsall and with a contribution by Nadica Denic | 24 April 2025, 15:00-17:00 hrs., University Library, Belle van Zuylenzaal.

Where should (and shouldn't) I publish my research? How long does it take for a publication to come out? How do I write a book proposal? How do I get an academic job or postdoc position in the Netherlands or abroad? The annual ASCA PhD skills seminar is designed to supplement the training offered by the Graduate School of Humanities by providing answers to these questions and more, specifically tailored to ASCA PhD candidates. To register, please, send an email to asca-fgw@uva.nl.

ART IN TIMES OF DESTRUCTION

*Symposium on Thursday 24 April 2025, 10:00–17:00
If I Can't Dance, WG-Plein 881, 1054 SM, Amsterdam*

Organized by Louis Hartnoll, Mia Lerm-Hayes, and Noortje de Leij, I. Borger and I. Kaczyńska

In the face of rising fascisms, political suppression, war, and systemic colonial violence this symposium asks how aggregate crises condition post-war and contemporary art, its institutions, and its infrastructure. How might art, art history, and art theory, as inherently embedded and implicated 'social' practices, respond to this increasingly proliferating destruction and immiseration? What conceptual, historical, tactical, or strategic tools might we have at our disposal for understanding and evaluating our contemporary conjuncture? And what might an account of these shifting historical and material conditions enable us to think or rethink anew? What, in effect, are we to do with the mess we are in? With contributions addressing, among other things, art after the defeat of the cultural turn, managerial and material aesthetics, Palestinian histories, fascist and post-fascist art histories, this one-day symposium, organised in the context of *If I Can't Dance*, gathers international art historians and theorists as well as local artists and institutional actors to begin to broach these concerns. The day will end with a roundtable to which participating students are expected to contribute. In due course, a full programme will be circulated among registered students.

Speakers include:

Elise Archias (University of Illinois, Chicago)

Sabeth Buchmann (Akademie der bildenden Künste, Wien)

Larne Abse Gogarty (University College London)

Louis Hartnoll (Universiteit van Amsterdam)

Blake Stimson (University of Illinois, Chicago)

VIBES

Terminally Online presents Vibes, a symposium on New Media and Digital Culture organized by Daniel de Zeeuw. | 25 April, 15:00 hrs., University of Amsterdam – VOX-POP. Binnengasthuisstraat 9, Amsterdam. With Idil Galip (UvA media studies) and, Daniël de Zeeuw (Registration: [VIA THIS LINK](#))

Vibes are everywhere on social media; together with "moods" and "energies", vibes offer a new way of navigating platforms based on personalized-yet-shared 'aesthetic feelings' meticulously curated for affective stickiness by machine learning algorithms whose vectors are equally intangible-yet-catchy. We have arguably entered the age of mood-regulating media. As such vibes speak to the "affective" and "sonic" turns in media and cultural studies that offer new conceptual and methodological inroads to the non-conscious and non-representational dimensions of online sociality,

culture and politics. During this symposium we will explore these connections and how as researchers we can vibe-with new ambient media forms like ASMR, Femcel Pinterest moodboards, and Spotify mood playlists. This is the second symposium organized by the Terminally Online initiative with (r)MA students from media studies.

The program includes a keynote "The Vibes are Immaculate" by Ludmila Lupinacci, Lecturer in Digital Media, School of Media and Communication, University of Leeds, and during the break a Mood-tuning media exhibition.

PLAY THROUGH THE GREY PRISM: ADDRESSING CHROMATIC LEISURE IN CITIES

ASCA Cities Project on Friday 25 April 2025, 3-5 pm with Paul O'Connor (University of Exeter | Location: room 0.16 (E-lab), BG1 Media Studies, Turfdraagsterpad 9, Amsterdam. Co-organized by Carolyn Birdsall, Linda Kopitz and Alex Gekker.

In this session of the 2024–2025 [ASCA Cities seminar](#) on 'Playable Cities', Paul O'Connor (University of Exeter) will give a guest lecture on "Play through the Grey Prism: Addressing Chromatic Leisure in Cities" followed by an open discussion.

Preparatory reading

Giamarino, Christopher. 2025. "City of Courts: Excavating the Future in West Los Angeles." *Leisure Studies*, February, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02614367.2025.2455595>.

Karas, Abigail. 2025. "'Grey Is All That Is Depressing and Dull': The Chromatic Landscapes of Rooftop Exploration in St Petersburg and the 'Grey Spaces' of Leisure in the Capitalocene." *Leisure Studies*, March, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02614367.2025.2481572>.

Groves, Julian et al. "Colourful Play in Hong Kong's Rainbow Estate". *Mediapolis – A Journal of Cities and Culture*. [Forthcoming, Draft Paper]

The readings can also be accessed via this [link](#).

For registration, please contact Linda Kopitz (l.kopitz@uva.nl). For further information, see: <https://www.cities.humanities.uva.nl/news/asca-cities-seminar-session-play-through-the-grey-prism-25-april/>

ANTISOCIAL QUEER THEORY, 2005-2023

ASCA Reading Group convened by Murat Aydemir | 25 April 2025, 15:00 -17:00 hrs.

Antisocial queer theory claims that sexuality, at its core, disrupts or negates forms of identity, relationality, and sociality. In this reading group and tutorial, we'll trace the development of the theory from its early formulation following a 2005 MLA Annual Convention panel to the 2023 *Postmodern Culture* special issue on "The Afterlives of the Antisocial" (edited by Austin Svedjan and John Paul Ricco). We'll read contributions

by Tim Dean, Lee Edelman, Jack Halberstam, José Esteban Muñoz, Robyn Wiegman, Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Leo Bersani, and others. Issues we'll address may include the relation of sexuality to other aspects of identity and control, such as race, class, and gender; the tension between an essentially negative sexuality and sexuality functioning as apparatus for constituting human subjects; and the historical bearing of the Aids crisis, progressive neoliberalism, homonationalism, and the rise of the far right.

Practical info: all meetings are on Zoom, every last Friday of the month starting February and ending in June (i.e., 28/2, 28/3, 25/4, 30/5, 27/6) from 15:00-17:00 hrs. Students participating in the reading group as a tutorial can earn 6 EC. If you're interested, please sign up through m.aydemir@uva.nl.

PRAGMATICS OF STORYTELLING

Cosmologies reading group organised by: E. Biolchini, J. Leeuwenkamp, and H.H. Kuipers. Our next session will take place on the 25th of April from 15:00-18:00 at UT (University Theatre) 1.01A.

Thinking in cosmology proposes an interesting alternative to the all too human thought of our modern era, its insistence on a separation of Nature and Culture, and thus its removal from the world – thought, Deleuze and Guattari once asserted, crosses the universe in an instant. In this workgroup we explore the numerous possibilities the cosmological might open up to and how it moves in the works of some of the most important thinkers today: from the work on non-modern cosmologies and ontologies in the so called “ontological turn,” spearheaded by figures such as Eduardo Viveiros de Castro, Phillippe Descola, and Eduardo Kohn; to the process philosophical works of Alfred North Whitehead which again flourishes in the cosmopolitics of Isabelle Stengers and in ways Bruno Latour; to works problematizing the modern perspective from specific ecologies, mental, social, or environmental, such as in the works of María Lugones, Marisol de la Cadena, and Donna Haraway; to its possible deployment in relation to technics in Yuk Hui's cosmotechnics. What is the relevance of such cosmological thinking for the Humanities?

Organised by: E. Biolchini, J. Leeuwenkamp, and H.H. Kuipers

Our next session will be on pragmatics of storytelling and will take place on the 25th of April from 15:00-18:00 at UT (University Theatre) 1.01A.

Readings:

Blaser, Mario. “Ontological Conflicts and the Stories of Peoples in Spite of Europe: Toward a Conversation on Political Ontology.” *Current Anthropology* 54, no. 5 (2013): 547–68.

Haraway, Donna. “7. Camille Stories. Children of Compost,” in *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2016.

Savransky, Martin. “5. Pragmatism in the Wake,” in *Around the Day in Eighty Worlds: Politics of the Pluriverse*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2021.

To participate send an email to: h.h.kuipers@uva.nl.

SITE, IMAGERY AND DETAILS

The Artistic Practice of Wineke Gartz and its Documentation

UvA/ASCA Research Group 'Moving Images: Preservation, Curation, Exhibition' invites you for: a presentation and discussion by Wineke Gartz and Haitian Ma about documenting art installations as choreographies of images moving between body, mind and spirit, encompassing video, photography, drawing, painting, text, sound, collage, objects, and architecture. April 25, 13.30-16.00 hrs., REC C.203, Nieuwe Achtergracht 166 – to be confirmed. Entrance = free; reservation required: f.j.j.w.paalman@uva.nl

In the next presentation of the UvA/ASCA Research Group 'Moving Images: Preservation, Curation, Exhibition', Amsterdam-based artist Wineke Gartz (Eindhoven, NL, 1968) will be in conversation with researcher Haitian Ma (Television and Cross-media Culture, Department of Media Studies) on their year-long collaboration in documenting Gartz's artistic practice and living archive. Working with a broad range of media forms from video, photography, drawing, painting, text, sound, collage, to objects and architecture, Gartz's site-specific installations explore the relations between the body, mind and spirit through choreographing images that shift within multi-dimensional spaces. In the presentation, Gartz will reflect on key works from her oeuvre of site-specific installations and the development of her highly performative and organic artistic practice over the past thirty years. She will then be joined by Ma to discuss speculative approaches of conserving her works, with the focus on details in guiding documentation. The presentation will lead to a workshop discussion with the audience on how to build, maintain, and activate Gartz's growing archive of past works, working material and artist documentation.

CLIMATE IMAGINARIES: PRACTICING UBUNTU

Seminar 2 in the Climate Imaginairies Seminar Series organized by Laura Cull | 30 April, 5-7pm | Guest speaker: Wakanyi Hoffman | ASCA Respondent: John Taukave | Location: t.b.a. | [Climate Imaginairies](#)

[Wakanyi Hoffman](#) is a storyteller, author, keynote speaker specialized in Ubuntu philosophy, a scholar of indigenous knowledge, and narrative weaver of wisdom in AI. Wakanyi is the leader of the [African folktales project](#). She is currently an academic fellow

at [The New Institute](https://www.wakanyihoffman.com/) in Hamburg as part of the program on '[Conceptions of Human Flourishing](https://www.wakanyihoffman.com/).' <https://www.wakanyihoffman.com/>

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS WOMEN AND CITIES

Issue #5: Women and cities Deadline: 27th of April 2025, 23:59 PM CET

Women occupy a central place in shaping cities, whether it is as artists or architects, as activists or politicians, as organizers or engineers. Although women have been essential in creating urban landscapes, as well as communities and meanings, the stories told about cities through street names, statues, and in the history books, often (solely) focus on male protagonists. Edition #5 of the *Amsterdam Museum Journal (AMJournal)*, titled *Women and Cities*, focuses women's relationships with urban environments (*published open access in December 2025*). Specifically, this edition explores the diverse ways in which women influence cities and, in turn, how cities shape their lives. We invite contributors to consider questions such as: How have women shaped the spaces we inhabit today? How do they influence the communities we are part of? How have they carved out their own spaces? How have they asserted themselves socially, politically, and economically? What does their work tell us about urban life? How can we retrieve the voices of unheard women? How have women engaged with the city artistically?

Over the past decades, it has been the Amsterdam Museum's mission to show women's perspectives on the city. With projects such as *Women of New West* (2019), *Women of Noord* (2023) and *Women of Zuidoost* (2024), the museum worked in close collaboration with local women collectives to add their voices to the broader story of Amsterdam. For the project *Women of Amsterdam – an ode* (2025), in celebration of Amsterdam's 750th birthday, we have invited the public to submit an ode for a woman that has influenced or influences Amsterdam. These odes become part of our museum collection, whereby we diversify the way the story of the city can be told. Although these projects contribute to a more balanced perspective on the city of Amsterdam, many stories remain untold.

For edition #5, *AMJournal* invites scholars from *all disciplines* to investigate the variety of ways in which women influence(d) cities *anywhere*. To encourage quantitative and qualitative research contributions, we welcome both empirical papers and essays. From studies on women in art to historical research on various streams of feminism; and from research papers on female bodies and healthcare to essays on women and scientific discoveries, all research on the impact of women on cities, and vice versa, is welcome. Furthermore, we welcome contributions from scholars

in all stages of their research careers – including *junior scholars, ambitious students, and freelance researchers*.

Submit your abstracts before Sunday 27th of April, 2025, 23:59 PM CET journal@amsterdammuseum.nl.

CALL FOR PAPERS: GENAI & CREATIVE PRACTICES

Conference on | 17 & 18 December 2025, University of Amsterdam | Organizers: Thomas Poell, Tobias Blanke, Monika Kackovic, Somendra Narayan, Nanne van Noord The deadline for submitting proposals is 26 May 2025. Find the Call for Papers on the RDT website, [here](#).

We would like to invite you to submit proposals to the GenAI & Creative Practices conference, which will take place at the University of Amsterdam on 17 & 18 December 2025.

In the light of the rapid development of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI), the conference aims to gather together scholars, researchers, and practitioners from around the world to discuss and rethink:

- Creative Practices
- Values and Creative Work
- Scalable Responsible GenAI
- The Future of Creative Work
- The Political Economy of GenAI and Transformation of the Cultural Sector
- Governance and Regulation of GenAI

We very much look forward to your proposals!

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: JOURNALISM AS A SCIENCE WATCHDOG

Theories, Practices, and Implications

Special Issue Editors: Alice Fleerackers (ASCA) and An Nguyen (Bournemouth University) | Submission of Abstracts: 1-15 October 2025 | Submission of Full Papers: 15-28 February 2026 | Publication of the Issue July/December 2026.

Investigative science journalism plays an increasingly vital role in shaping the science–society relationship. Science fraud and misconduct—such as hype, plagiarism, data manipulation, conflicts of interest, and other ethical breaches—are becoming more common, due to the infiltration of vested commercial and political interests, personal motives, work pressures, and other issues that compromise the integrity of the scholarly record. The number of publication retractions has skyrocketed in recent years. Journalists, as key brokers of research knowledge, can help raise awareness of these problematic aspects of science and ensure public audiences have the information needed to make decisions and form opinions based on trustworthy evidence. But the enactment of this watchdog role among science journalists remains the exception rather than the norm, and scholarly research into it is a rarity.

This thematic issue invites scholars to consider theories, practices, and implications of *watchdog science*

journalism—broadly understood here as journalism that investigates, exposes, and warns society of the misuses and abuses of science methods, processes, outcomes, and authority by those practicing, funding, and/or using science in the public domain (e.g., scientists, government, businesses). It welcomes contributions on the pros and cons, theoretical or practical, of investigative science journalism and how it might impact public understanding, attitudes, and actions regarding science events and issues. Potential topics include, but are not limited to, issues around the following broad questions:

- How is watchdog science journalism distinguished from the more commonly promoted practice of “critical science journalism”?
- How do journalists conceptualize their role as science watchdogs, and to what extent is this role performed?
- What motivates journalists to act, or not to act, as watchdogs of science and its stakeholders?
- What techniques and strategies do journalists employ to shed light on the dark sides of science?
- What factors facilitate or hinder science journalists’ ability to perform a watchdog role?
- How does the science establishment (e.g., scientists and their institutions, science policy makers) respond to watchdog science journalism?
- How do publics perceive, receive, and approve/disapprove of watchdog science journalism?
- How have the above conceptions, performances, or impacts of the science watchdog role evolved in history?
- How do the above compare across geographic, cultural, or institutional contexts?
- What potential conceptual frameworks can be used to study journalism as a science watchdog?