

PARTICIPANTS

Jandra Böttger (FU Berlin)
Volha Davydzik (Leuphana University Lüneburg)
Alan Diaz (Leuphana University Lüneburg)
Laura Hille (Leuphana University Lüneburg)
Bahar Noorizadeh (London)
Liza Mattutat (Leuphana University Lüneburg)
Katia Schwerzmann (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
Richard Seymour (London)
Donovan Stewart (Leuphana University Lüneburg)
Lukas Stolz (Leuphana University Lüneburg)
Julian Volz (Leuphana University Lüneburg)
Günseli Yalcinkaya (London)

ORGANISATION

Liza Mattutat, Lukas Stolz

COORDINATION

Catharina Berents Kemp

MODERATION

Liza Mattutat, Lukas Stolz, Finn-Lauritz Schmidt

HOSTED BY THE DFG RESEARCH TRAINING GROUP "CULTURES OF CRITIQUE" AND THE CENTER FOR CRITICAL STUDIES (CCS)

JAN 24 – 25, 2024

VENUE

JAN 24, 2024, 6 PM – 8 PM,
Panel discussion, Kunstraum (Campus Hall 25)

JAN 25, 2024, 10 AM – 5:45 PM
Workshop, Central building (C 40.153)

Leuphana University Lüneburg
Universitätsallee 1
21335 Lüneburg

Registration for the Workshop (**Jan 25, 2024**):
kdk@leuphana.de by **January 7, 2024** is requested.



CENTER FOR CRITICAL
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ALIENATING PRESENTS, RECOVERING FUTURES

ON 'FUTURES INDUSTRIES' AND THE POLITICAL IMAGINATION

JAN 24 – 25, 2024

LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY LÜNEBURG

A WORKSHOP HOSTED BY THE DFG RESEARCH TRAINING GROUP "CULTURES OF CRITIQUE" AND THE CENTER FOR CRITICAL STUDIES (CCS). ORGANISED BY LIZA MATTUTAT AND LUKAS STOLZ.

ALIENATING PRESENTS, RECOVERING FUTURES

ON 'FUTURES INDUSTRIES' AND THE POLITICAL IMAGINATION

Talking about the future is not so easy today. It risks depoliticisation from two opposing sides. Our political imagination oscillates between feelings of hopelessness and fatalism on the one hand, and hollow stories of cruel optimism on the other. Both doom via irreversible climate catastrophe or AI and salvation via technology and green capitalism seem to be waiting just around the corner. All the while, the idea of progress lingers around like a ghost, clearly no longer alive, it refuses to disappear.

To avoid both nostalgia and futile calls for utopias, the workshop *Alienating Presents, Recovering Futures* addresses questions of future(lessness) and the political imagination from a materialist perspective: How are today's 'futures industries' shaping our imaginative worlds? Which hegemonic projects compete for our imaginaries of the future and who benefits from them? What are the terms, concepts, and images that could help us alienate ourselves from the present in order to recover (past) futures? In short: how can we move from the return of history to the return of the end of capitalism?

The workshop will explore these questions in two formats: For a panel discussion on Wednesday evening, we have invited artist, writer and filmmaker **Bahar Noorizadeh** (London), media philosopher **Katia Schwerzmann** (Ruhr-Universität Bochum), writer and member of the *Salvage* collective **Richard Seymour** (London) and *Dazed* editor, critic and expert in youth and internet culture **Günseli Yalcinkaya** (London) to share their perspectives on the workings of 'futures industries'.

WEDNESDAY, JAN 24	KUNSTRAUM, CAMPUS HALL 25
6 – 8 PM	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION with</p> <p>Bahar Noorizadeh, artist, writer and filmmaker, London</p> <p>Katia Schwerzmann, media philosopher, Ruhr-Universität Bochum</p> <p>Richard Seymour, author and publicist, London</p> <p>Günseli Yalcinkaya, writer, researcher and critic, London</p>

For Thursday's workshop, we have asked colleagues from Leuphana and FU Berlin to present related parts of their research in short working papers. The panelists will participate in the workshop and comment on the papers.

The workshop is a cooperation between the DFG Research Training Group "Cultures of Critique" and the Center for Critical Studies (CCS).

THURSDAY, JAN 25	CENTRAL BUILDING, C40.153
10 – 10.15 AM	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION Liza Mattutat and Lukas Stolz
10.15 – 11.00 AM	BETWEEN DOOM AND OFFICIAL OPTIMISM: EXPLORING THE IMAGINATIVE IMPASSE Lukas Stolz
11.00 – 11.45 PM	LOVING YESTERDAY, OR: A GERMAN WAY OF LOVING. FEELING POLITICS IN 1960s WEST-GERMANY Jandra Böttger
COFFEE BREAK	
12.00 – 12.45 PM	ON "MODERN TECHNOLOGY AND THE CULMINATION OF WESTERN NIHILISM": QUESTIONS OF ACCESS Donovan Stewart
12.45 – 1.30 PM	DISTORTIONS OF THE PRESENT. MATERIALIST PERSPECTIVES ON SCIENCE FICTION Liza Mattutat
LUNCH BREAK	
2.30 – 3.15 PM	THE END OF FUTURE(S) IN SILICON VALLEY Laura Hille
3.15 PM – 4 PM	THE ALIENATED FUTURE OF LONGTERMISM Alan Diaz
COFFEE BREAK	
4.15 – 5 PM	TBA Volha Davydzik
5 – 5.45 PM	RE-DISCOVERING INTERNATIONALISTS PASTS: THE CONSTELLATIONAL ACTUALI- SATION OF ANTICOLONIALISM IN THE ARTISTIC WORK OF BOUCHRA KHALILI Julian Volz
DINNER	