

Terms of Media

Conference, 17.–19.06.2015, Leuphana University of Lüneburg

Initiated by Götz Bachmann, Timon Beyes, and Wendy Chun

“Media determine our situation”, Friedrich Kittler infamously wrote in his introduction to Gramophone, Film, Typewriter. Although this dictum is certainly extreme – and media archaeology has been critiqued for being overly dramatic and focused on technological developments – it propels us to keep thinking about media as setting the terms for which we live, socialize, communicate, organize, do scholarship etc. After all, as Kittler continued in his opening statement almost 30 years ago, our situation, “in spite or because” of media, “deserves a description.” What, then, are the terms – the limits, the conditions, the periods, the relations, the phrases – of media? And, what is the relationship between these terms and determination?

This project, which entails two international conferences, to take place at Brown University and at Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany, and a series of publications based on these conferences, seeks to repose and update this fundamental question of media theory. Does our situation indicate a new term, understood as temporal shifts of mediatic conditioning, which deserves a re-description? How and on what terms are media changing, reflecting changes in media itself? What are the terms of conditions that we negotiate as subjects of media? How do the terms of media theory relate to such conditions? What are the terms of conditions of media theory itself?

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Program

– June 17, 2015	
07:00 pm	KEYNOTE Igor Vamos The Yes Men <i>Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute</i> Reception Launch of meson press
– June 18, 2015	
10:00–11:30	FABRICATIONS Ian Bogost <i>Georgia Institute of Technology</i> Fox Harrell <i>MIT</i>

	<p>Moderator: Mathias Fuchs <i>Centre for Digital Cultures</i></p>
11:45–01:15	<p>SUBJECTS Wendy Chun <i>Brown University</i> Florian Cramer <i>Willem de Kooning Academy/Hogeschool Rotterdam</i> Moderator: Clemens Apprich <i>Centre for Digital Cultures</i></p>
2:30–04:00	<p>ATMOSPHERES Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos <i>University of Westminster</i> Stefan Rieger <i>Ruhr University Bochum</i> Moderator: Christane Heibach</p>
04:15–05:45	<p>FLESH Inge Baxmann <i>University of Leipzig</i> Mark Hansen <i>Duke University</i> Moderator: Erich Hörl <i>Centre for Digital Cultures</i></p>
– June 19, 2015	
10:00–11:30	<p>PHYSICS Peter Galison <i>Harvard University</i> Christina Vagt <i>Humboldt University Berlin</i> Moderator: Paul Feigelfeld <i>Centre for Digital Cultures</i></p>
11:45–01:15	<p>MARKETS Philip Mirowski <i>University of Notre Dame</i> Jens Schröter <i>Universität Bonn</i> Moderator: Armin Beverungen <i>Centre for Digital Cultures</i></p>

2:30-04:00	POLITICS Melissa Gregg <i>Intel</i> Hito Steyerl <i>Berlin University of the Arts</i> Moderator: Andrew Lison <i>Brown University</i>
04:15-05:45	COLOR Marc Glöde <i>ETH Zürich</i> Carolyn Kane <i>Brown University</i> Moderator: Boris Traue <i>Centre for Digital Cultures</i>
06:00-07:00	SUMMARY ROUNDTABLE Andreas Broeckmann <i>Centre for Digital Cultures</i> Nishant Shah <i>Centre for Digital Cultures</i> Ellen Rooney <i>Brown University</i> Paul Feigelfeld
During the conference: Multi-Channel Video Installation by Nina Wakeford and Robert Rapoport	