Symposium with Workshop
Liefmannhaus, Goethestr. 33
Living in Posthuman Worlds

Program

2018, July 20

10.00 am — Opening: Marion Mangelsdorf
The Posthuman in Science (&) Fiction

10.30 am — Dagmar Fink: *Cyborgs in Feminist (Techno)Science and Fiction: A Posthuman Figuration?*

11.30 pm — Coffee & Lunch Break

Workshop Session I

02.00 pm — *Critical Zones – Interactive Ethnographies as Parasitic Ecologies*
Daniel Fetzner & Martin Dornberg

Installation with Discussion

05.00 pm — *Borderlands. (Re)thinking Native Spaces* with students from Medellín and Freiburg

Evening Event
Kommunales Kino, Urachstr. 40

07.00 pm — Film & Discussion
Donna Haraway:
Storytelling For Earthly Survival
by Fabrizio Terranova

2018, July 21
Liefmannhaus, Goethestr. 33

10.00 am — Opening: Marion Mangelsdorf
The Posthuman in Science (&) Fiction

Workshops Session II-III

10.15 am — *Zone of Being and Nonbeing*
Cathrin Hausch & Veronika Brunninger

01.00 pm — Lunch break

01.30 pm — *Posthuman Choreographies in a Mediaecological [Bio]diversity Lab*
Marion Mangelsdorf and students

Kommunales Kino, Urachstr. 40

Film with End Discussion

04.00 pm — Short film (Untitled) *Human Mask* (2014) by Pierre Huyghe and end discussion with all guests, who want to participate

05.00 pm — End

Installation

During the Symposium an Installation will be shown

Lecture

Cyborgs in Feminist (Techno) Science and Fiction: A Posthuman Figuration?

The idea of a cybernetic organism – in short: cyborg – a system combination of man and machine emerged in the 1960s in the context of military research. The US American biologist and philosopher of science Donna Haraway took up this militaristic 'techno humanist' figure as a figuration for her feminist manifesto (1985).

Feminist postcolonial and afro-futurist science fictions are an inspiration of Haraway's cyborg figuration and theorists for cyborgs. Having been denied the status of the human for a longtime Black and postcolonial authors have specific access to the concept of the human as well as the post-human. A reading of Octavia Butler's short story "Blood-child" (1984) will explore the notion ‚becoming with' (rather than posthumanism) in her story about humans living together with another species.

Dagmar Fink is a freelance literary critic and cultural theorist as well as a translator. Her research focuses on a critique of representation, cyborg theories, queer femininities, popular cultures (especially science fiction) and feminist technoscience studies.

Workshops

Session I: Interactive Ethnographies as Parasitic Ecologies

In contrast to the information theory of Claude Shannon, for Michel Serres confusion is dominant in every relation. The focus is not on the transmitter/receiver relationship, but on the relationship between effect and noise. In this line of thought, we use medial connections as a form of organic medial-parasitic entanglement for our artistic research, in which phenomena and knowledge are radically intertwined. See: http://deglobalize.com

Daniel Fetzner is a professor for Design and Artistic Research at Offenburg University.
Martin Dornberg, MD, Ph.D., Physician, and Philosopher is working as Lecturer for philosophy at the Center for Anthropology and Gender Studies as well as the Institute of Media Cultural Studies at Freiburg University.
Fetzner's and Dornberg's primary research interests are media ethnographic explorations, new materialism, and interactive documentary. http://www.metaspace.de

Session II: Zone of Being and Nonbeing

Place/ landscape is forgetting well as remembering. Moving through the streets of Medellín, Columbia, we did remember: it does matter where you come from.

Inspired by W.E.B. Du Bois's concept of the color line, which examines the zones of being and nonbeing, we want to walk through the streets of Freiburg with open eyes for our colonial history that still marks the public spaces where we move every day without being aware of it. These marks can at the same time not be seen as well as hurt people; it depends on which zone you move. We would like to remember ourselves in this workshop on what it means to be privileged, and ask questions about how it feels to live in the zone of being and which consequences our actions have for others and ourselves.

Veronika Brunninger is a student of the Freiburger master program Gender Studies. She is a (queer)feminist academic activist, Yoga teacher and vegan cook. She is interested in art and non-western based research.
Cathrin Hausch is a student of the Freiburger master program Gender Studies. She is a (queer)feminist philosopher, observer, and lecturer. She is interested in connecting categories by critically asking for their (historical) context. Language and 'culture' are her favorite objects/ tools/productions.

Session III: Posthuman Choreographies in a Media ecological [Bio]diversity Lab

The workshop opens up an experimental field, a 'Media-ecological [Bio]diversity Lab'. Therefore, we will discuss an interactive documentary referring to on-site experiences in a marteloscope. Marteloscopes are hectare sized forest areas, where the trees are serially numbered. Through tablets, it's possible to get data about the ecologic and the economic value of each tree.

Focusing on one tree, we will explore heterogenous perspectives concerning this nonhuman species. Thereby, we face [bio]diversity as an interdisciplinary concept of 'nature-cultures.' Asking: How can we find ways of fostering variety in flora and fauna as well as variation in human ways of living?

Marion Mangelsodorf is managing director of the Freiburger Gender Studies, and Gender in Science and Technology scholar. As a member of the research group MBody she combines ethnographical approaches with art-based research.

Concept & Layout: Marion Mangelsdorf

UNI FREIBURG

UNIVERSIDAD DE ANTIOQUIA

Hochschule Offenburg
University of Applied Sciences

kommunales KINO im alten Wiehrebahnhof

mbody
künstlerische forschung in medier somatik, tanz und philosophie e.V.

Living in Posthuman Worlds

Recently in historical, theoretical, and critical natural science research, posthumanist approaches and a so-called "New Materialism" have come into the scope of interest. Here, concepts and methods are being developed that deal with the complex interrelations of nature and culture and material(s), matter(s), and discourse.

In contrast to an anthropocentric view and hence also in comparison to an ethno- and androcentric view, they touch upon the concept of human and non-human agency, natural and technical actors, expressing a multi-species network. When dealing with the “diversity of life” in different public realms, images are essential. This iconographic issue is not only concerning questions of representation in a broader sense, where politics of images play a significant role issue elaborated by critical, feminist and postcolonial arts and cultural studies in the last decades.

To an even higher degree, it concerns our envisioning of future constellations of biodiversity and conviviality, insofar as these influence the opportunity of shaping the present. In this way, they also referred to the close interrelation of theories, concepts, and practices that can be experienced in the materiality and embodiment of knowledge.

Hence, revisions of visual cultures of (bio)-diversity as well as a transdisciplinarity-oriented artistic practice targeting this highly relevant field of actions are contributing a fundamental part to the task of sensitizing for current and future questions and problems.

Installation

Borderlands. (Re)thinking Native Spaces

With the term 'la mestiza' [hybridity] Gloria E. Anzaldúa detailed 1987 in "Borderlands. La Frontera" in prose and poems both visible and invisible "borders." Among other things influenced by Anzaldúa Donna J. Haraway's Cyborg figure encouraged the idea of hybridity for the 1990th to criticize dichotomies between nature and culture, women, and men, non-humans, and humans. Recently, in discourses about the Posthuman Rosi Braidotti (2013), Haraway (2015), and other feminist science and technology philosophers again discuss our (in)visible "borders" to question the Anthropocene.

Following these researchers students from Freiburg and Medellín/Columbia came in contact, visited geographic places in Medellín and Freiburg to (re)think native spaces, and tell each other science (and) fiction stories. Through different media, they ask: What did we experience in our exchange?

The installation combines topics of all workshops, invites to discuss these different borderlands, it's a work-in-progress questioning our posthuman world. Special guest: Nora Margarita Vargas Zuluaga, Universidad de Medellín

Film

Donna Haraway, Fabrizio Terranova//2016, 90 min.

Storytelling For Earthly Survival

Donna Haraway is a prominent scholar in the field of science and technology, a feminist, and a science-fiction enthusiast who works at building a bridge between science and fiction. She became known in the 1980s through her work on gender, identity, and technology, which broke with the prevailing trends and opened the door to a frank, serious, and playful trans-species feminism. Haraway is a gifted storyteller who paints a rebellious and hopeful universe teeming with critters and trans-species, in an era of disasters. Brussels filmmaker Fabrizio Terranova visited Donna Haraway at her home in California, living with her – almost literally, for a few weeks, and there produced a quirky film portrait. Terranova allowed Haraway to speak in her environment, using attractive staging that emphasized the playful, cerebral sensitivity of the scientist. The result is a rare, candid, intellectual portrait of a highly original thinker.

See more: http://www.editorialconcreta.org/Storytelling-for-Earthly-Survival, https://earthlysurvival.org/

Pierre Huyghe, 2014, 19 min.

(Untitled) *Human Mask*

In Pierre Huyghe’s work, the boundary between fiction and reality is blurred as he constructs an experience of the world. In masterfully, painstakingly staged settings, people and puppets behave as equals while animals and plants appear to amble on both sides of the border of the imaginary. (Untitled) Human Mask, created in 2014, takes viewers to a Japanese landscape scarred by the recent tsunami and the Fukushima nuclear disaster. There we witness a scene inspired by real-life events: in an empty, dilapidated restaurant, a monkey whose face is concealed by a traditional theater mask seems to be waiting for customers who never come. Impatiently pacing the premises, stopping to listen for the sound of someone approaching, or gazing out the window, the character trapped in that surreal setting performs a routine whose theme, according to the artist himself, is none other than the human condition.

See: https://www.guggenheim-bilbao.eus/en/exhibitions/pierre-huyghe-untitled-human-mask/

The Symposium Living in Posthuman Worlds

wants to open up a creative and collaborative workspace to think and discuss together facing the question: How do we live, and want to live nowadays, and in the future?

Special guests will be:
Julia Bee (Media and Cultural Studies, Bauhaus-University-Weimar)
Lisa Handel (Cultural Studies, University Düsseldorf)
Katja Harbi (Photography and Cultural Anthropology, Berlin/Israel, https://www.katjaharbi.com/)

Registration
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Living in Posthuman Worlds

We didn't cross the border –
the border crossed us.

Chicano/a Slogan

Symposium
with Workshops,
Films & Installation

2018 July, 20–21
Freiburg
Liefmannhaus &
Kommunales Kino