

Energetic Transfers: Technics, Ethics, and Production

eikones - Center for the Theory and History of the Image

Universität Basel

Energetic Transfers investigates twentieth-century modernity and technics with particular attention to the relationship between labor, ethics, and the physical sciences. This symposium explores how conceptions of energetic transfer—the displacement of subject and object positions with respect to an electromotive force—might be productive for experimental thinking in aesthetics, philosophy, and radical politics. It seeks to excavate the longstanding affective, political, or intersubjective nature of energetic transfers that the modern sciences have rendered nearly invisible, and that are routinely subject to capitalist capture. Exploring a broad spectrum of biopolitical relations and subjectivities as well as the sensorium of the nervous system, the symposium investigates which scientific, theoretical, and speculative ideas in energy politics, theories, and technics have been discontinued and which persist. It also explores which energetic transfers evade scientific and aesthetic representation and how they might relate to the work of philosophers, activists, artists, and filmmakers.

Organized by Prof. Dr. Alena Williams in collaboration with the NOMIS Foundation and the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and in partnership with Museum Tinguely Basel

Thursday, 22 October

18:30–21:00 Symposium, Part 1
Energetic Transfers: Technics, Ethics, and Production
Evening Program
Museum Tinguely
Paul Sacher-Anlage 2, 4002 Basel

18:30 Opening Remarks

The Body Electric: Poetics and Politics

18:45 [Film Screening and Conversation](#)
Night for Day
Emily Wardill in conversation with Prof. Dr. Markus Klammer,
Schaulager Professor for Art Theory, Universität Basel

British artist and filmmaker Emily Wardill's *Night for Day* (2020) is a video installation anchored by two sets of interviews. The first features Isabel do Carmo, an endocrinologist who co-founded the anti-fascist Revolutionary Brigades in Portugal; and second is with two young men who are in the midst of establishing a machine-learning startup company for recognizing moving images in 2019. *Night for Day* was a commission

for a solo show at Secession, Vienna and won the European Media Art Festival Award in 2021.

20:00 **Curator's Walkthrough**
Labouring Bodies exhibition
Dr. Sandra Beate Reimann
Curator, Museum Tinguely

Labouring Bodies explores the relationship between the body, labour and technology from a feminist perspective. With its focus on working with machines, the technologisation of production and reproduction, and women's contribution to technological progress, the show invites us to rethink our notions of the body, labour and care.

Friday, 23 October

13:30–18:00 **Symposium, Part 2**
Energetic Transfers: Technics, Ethics, and Production
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Universität Basel
Rheinsprung 11, 4051 Basel

13:30 **Introduction**
Prof. Dr. Alena Williams
Professor for Theory and Mediation of Contemporary Art
Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

Matters of Energy and Resistance

14:00 **Entropy and the Chronopolitics of Modernity**
Prof. Dr. Ana Teixeira Pinto
Professor for Art History and Digital Cultures
Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig

14:30 **Marronage, Labour, and Reproductive Energy:
Expanding the Age of Revolutions**
Prof. Dr. Mary Grace Albanese
Assistant Professor in Postcolonial and English
Trinity College Dublin

15:00 *Coffee Break*

15:15 The Tellurian Lubricant: From Measurement to Metaphor
Dr. Thomas Max Turnbull
Department on Knowledge Systems and Collective Life
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin

15:45 Discussion

Atomic Activism, Labor and Enervation in Eastern Europe

16:15 Chronopolitics of Post-Socialist Radiation
Aleksei Borisov
Doctoral Candidate
Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

16:45 Reenacting Revolution
Dr. Ana Adamović
Postdoctoral Researcher
Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

17:15 Discussion

17:30 Mini Break

Energetic Subjects

18:00 Evening Lecture: Aesthetic Conation in the Milieu of
Anti-Fascist Psychiatry
in Saint-Alban
Prof. Dr. Isabell Lorey
Professor of Queer Studies
Academy of Media Arts Cologne

19:00 Aperó