Transdisciplinary Video Theory

Gutenberg Research College

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Project duration: 24 months
Oct 2017 - Sept 2019

Transdisciplinary Video Theory Reader

Video is a ubiquitous medium today. But until now video theory has not yet been established in terms of an academic discipline (in comparison to the more canonized photo, film and television theories). The two-year research project funded by the Gutenberg Research College (GRC) at the University Mainz, Germany will result in the publication of an extended reader on video theory.

- The projected transdisciplinary theory reader will give a summary of 50 years of theoretical and artistic reflections on the topic. It will include a collection of circa 45 annotated source texts by scholars as well as practitioners in the field of video starting from 1965. Many of the selected documents are not easily accessible and will thus be made available to a wider public.
- The source texts are accompanied by scholarly introductions and a timeline. In addition to the source texts circa 10 new contributions will serve as a historical contextualization and will moreover provide a perspective on contemporary developments in video culture.
- The reader will cover about ten different thematic sections from various disciplinary perspectives. A special focus will be the interrelation of theory and practice as well as the artistic experimentation with video. Artistic research in the field of video will be addressed as a practice-based, but nonetheless theoretical investigation of the medium.
- The projected compendium is developed as basis for further research and teaching. Workshops and screenings hosted by the Mainz Academy of Arts will serve as a testing ground for this research.
- The thematic range and the scope of languages included will be extended by expertise from colleagues at the JGU.

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