

International Conference

# Any|One Day the Future Has Died. Impossible Possibilities of Artificial Intelligence

In this conference, we aim to understand whether it is possible to embrace Artificial Intelligence despite its controversial application and employment in today's digitized society. By looking at the limits and at times inaccessible promises of this technology, this conference explores the impossible possibilities of AI that go beyond the understanding and blunt imitation of pure cognition. It aims at continuing and opening up discussions that explore AI as an embodied experience, as a sensual, magical, mysterious, poetic technology, a technology of futures, while keeping in mind that this technology does not only reveal the inequality and injustice embedded in digital and social codes; it is also an experimental attempt, a lab, that is enthusiastic about discovering and envisioning the possibilities of a decolonial, queer-feminist, capitalist-critical and ecologically networked society.

Organized by Katrin Köppert,  
Nelly Yaa Pinkrah, Francesca Schmidt,  
Pinar Tuzcu

In cooperation with  
Academy of Transcultural Exchange (AtA),  
DFG-Research Network "Gender, Media  
and Affect", netzforma\ e.V.

The project is realized with the support  
of the Support Office, the Institute  
for Theory and the Rectorate of HGB  
Leipzig as well as Wikimedia Deutschland.

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October 27—29, 2022

HGB

netzforma\ e.V.  
Netzwerk für Kunst und Medien

DFG  
Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft

Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig

Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig

Graphic design: Anja Kaiser

International Conference

## **Any | One Day the Future Has Died. Impossible Possibilities of Artificial Intelligence**

Date: October 27-29, 2022

Conference venue: Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst Leipzig (HGB Leipzig)

Conference language: English

Registration: [any\\_one@hgb-leipzig.de](mailto:any_one@hgb-leipzig.de) (for capacity reasons, please indicate whether you would like to attend the conference in presence or online and please do not forget to register for the on site workshops indicating which one you would like to attend)

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| realized with support of Wikimedia Germany and Support Office HGB Leipzig

| curation of the exhibition by Bob Jones

| graphic designs by Anja Kaiser

### Conceptual thoughts

In the age of Artificial Intelligence, on any given day, at some point most definitely, the Future has died.

The Future, with capital F, seems to be perfectly synchronized, in line and aligned with the global mode of technological production. In this kind of Future in a hyper networked and digitized society, we witness new modes of extraction, monopolizations, surveillance; new types of environmental harm and damages as well as new codes of discriminations and exclusions which bring more climate change-induced provincialization, more competition and individualism. Not only does this model of Future not provide enough space for the many(-folded), its pretension lies in the misreading of the concept itself. Because in contrast to its usual connotation, the Future does not necessarily and always indicate *a tomorrow* or *far away*. But, as Michelle M. Wright and Rasheedah Phillips brilliantly show in their works, it is about a radical re-thinking of time and experiencing of temporalities that gives way to a broader and better understanding of stories, past and present, of today's, of tomorrow's, of in-betweens (Fred Moten).

*futures* – without capital F and in their plural form – always also happen now.

In this conference, we aim to understand whether it is possible to embrace Artificial Intelligence despite its controversial application and employment in today's digitized society. By looking at the limits and at times inaccessible promises of this technology, this conference explores the impossible possibilities of AI that go beyond the understanding and blunt imitation of pure cognition. It aims at continuing and opening up discussions with the prominent experts in this field to explore AI as an alternative to mainstream understanding of Future, and rethink it as an embodied experience, as a sensual, magical, mysterious, poetic technology, a technology of *futures* while keeping in mind that this technology does not only reveal the inequality and injustice embedded in the digital and social codes; it is also an experimental attempt, a lab, that is enthusiastic about discovering the possibilities of a decolonial, queer-feminist, capitalist-critical and ecologically networked society.

For this, however, we need to declare the death or the end of the Future in the first place.

With the *Impossible Possibilities* we think AI with Kara Keeling. We are concerned with the presence of AI, with what goes beyond its expression and produces a surplus that cannot be seen or understood, but is nevertheless present: «Whatever escapes recognition, whatever escapes meaning and valuation, exists as an impossible possibility within our shared reality, however one describes that reality, and therefore threatens to unsettle, if not destroy, the common sense on which that reality relies for its coherence.» (2019: 83). What is impossible to recognize is the possibility of AI. For what defies re-cognition exists in a world that is real but not fed into the normative discourse of AI as predictive computation. With this conference, we turn our attention to paradox as a condition of existence that has the potential to shake the common sense of AI.

*Impossible Possibilities* does not stand for exposing the binary in the conundrum but stands for an invitation for exploring such a paradox productively.

Thus, we are not so much interested in trying to define or examine AI through the lens of each diametrically opposed concept (McHardy et al. 2022: 17). Instead, the juxtaposition points to what runs counter to certain assumptions in unexpected ways. Precisely because what is possible cannot be known. AI, in our understanding, operates in the realm of the unexpected and unbelievable, too. We want to discuss AI against the fixations as either dystopian or utopian. To this end, we are organizing scientific-artistic panels and educational-political workshops whose goal is to dwell in paradox.

That is, to stay with the impossibilities and interrogate them as possibilities without depending and relying on an accelerated Future we always urgently have to react to. However, for, as Indigenous scholar Kyle Whyte writes, the discourse of urgency is antithetical to the marginalized (2019). It takes slow science (Stengers 2018) and education policy, each in its own way, to address the power of the technological not (only) in its media upheavals but long continuities. For the Future, for some, has died every day, in the slowness of repetitive definitions, for example, of AI as the story of postmodernity. Therefore, what is needed is a «recursive conception of media that itself defines the conditions of possibility for communicative action, for politics, and for culture» (Sharma 2022: 126), in slowness and with the capacity to endure paradox.

While taking (back) our time.

Inasmuch as sciences, art, and political education are increasingly converging, science is more and more structured according to daily political trends, art hardly exists anymore without waves of scandalization, and educational policy seems to be synchronized with cultural education, it is the concern of the conference to bring the three fields closely together in order to practice slowness and contradiction together. The premise is to recognize that the place of discussion of AI does not reside in any of the fields alone. AI knowledge goes beyond academia, but it is also used and produced in exhibitions, cultural projects, and coding workshops. In this sense, the conference embraces all these fields and claims to be an interdisciplinary gathering. Not only because the conference takes place at an art university, but because part of the conference are practical workshops in the field of political education. The hands-on perspective is more than just the *Maker Space*. It is about bricolage, sampling, applying and coding alternative ways of imagining, understanding and making *futures* through technology in the best sense of a virtuality that is accessible for racialized and/or queer and/or trans\* people and trans\*feminists and/or disabled people and/or people from marginalized social backgrounds.

Program

**Ongoing**

	<p><b>How to Dwell in Paradox</b> Exhibition</p> <p>With Buse Çetin and Sarah Diedro Jordão, Fabian Hampel, Su Yu Hsin, Francis Hunger, Petja Ivanova and Neema Githere, Bob Jones Marie-Luise Meister, Clemens von Wedemeyer</p> <p>Curated by Bob Jones</p>
	<p><b>Please Keep Crashing</b> Workshop Documentation</p> <p>With students of Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig (HGB)</p> <p>Organized by the Academy for Transcultural Exchange (AtA) Facilitated by Anja Kaiser and Melina Weissenborn</p>

**Thursday, Oct 27, 2022**

<b>3-4 pm</b>		<b>Registration and Arrival</b>
<b>4-4.30</b>	<b>Festsaal</b>	<b>The Future Has Died</b> Greeting words by Thomas Locher, president of HGB Leipzig  Conference opening with Katrin Köppert, Nelly Y. Pinkrah, Francesca Schmidt, and Pinar Tuzcu  Exhibition opening by Bob Jones
<b>4.30-5</b>	<b>Festsaal</b>	<b>Towards a TransQueer OS</b> Keynote  Kara Keeling
<b>5-5.30</b>		<b>Break</b>
<b>5.30-6.45</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>A Tune In</b> Workshop with "Varia" (amy pickles, Aggeliki Diakrousi, and Cristina Cochior)
<b>6.45-7</b>		<b>Break</b>
<b>7-8.30</b>	<b>Festsaal</b>	<b>Digital Archives and Marginalized Knowledges</b> Conversation  Kelly Foster (Whose Knowledge) and Ute Kalender Moderation: Francesca Schmidt
<b>8.30</b>		<b>Drinks &amp; Dinner</b> Self-funded

**Friday, Oct 28, 2022**

<b>10-12 am</b>	<b>Festsaal</b>	<b>AI – Between Apocalypse, Lethargy, and Wonder</b> Panel  Syed Mustafa Ali and Tung Hui-Hu Moderation: Maya Indira Ganesh
<b>12-1.30</b>		<b>Break</b>
<b>1.30-3.30</b>	<b>Festsaal</b>	<b>DeColoniality of AI</b> Panel  Danielle Coleman, Luiza Prado de O. Martins, and Joana Varon Moderation: Pinar Tuzcu
<b>3.30-4</b>		<b>Break</b>

<b>4-6</b>	<b>Festsaal</b>	<b>Decolonial Weavings, Vernacular Algorithms</b> Panel  Filipa César, Radhika Gajjala, and Tegan Bristow Moderation: Nelly Y. Pinkrah
<b>6-7</b>		<b>Break</b>
<b>7-8.30</b>	<b>Festsaal</b>	<b>Ecologies of Dreaming Beyond AI</b> Conversation and presentation  Petja Ivanova, Buse Çetin, and Sarah Diedro Jordão Moderation: Bob Jones
<b>8.30</b>	<b>Lichthof</b>	<b>Technopoetics of Sound</b> Listening session for Any   One Day  Performing arts class / Isabel Lewis with artistic assistance by Lissy Willberg

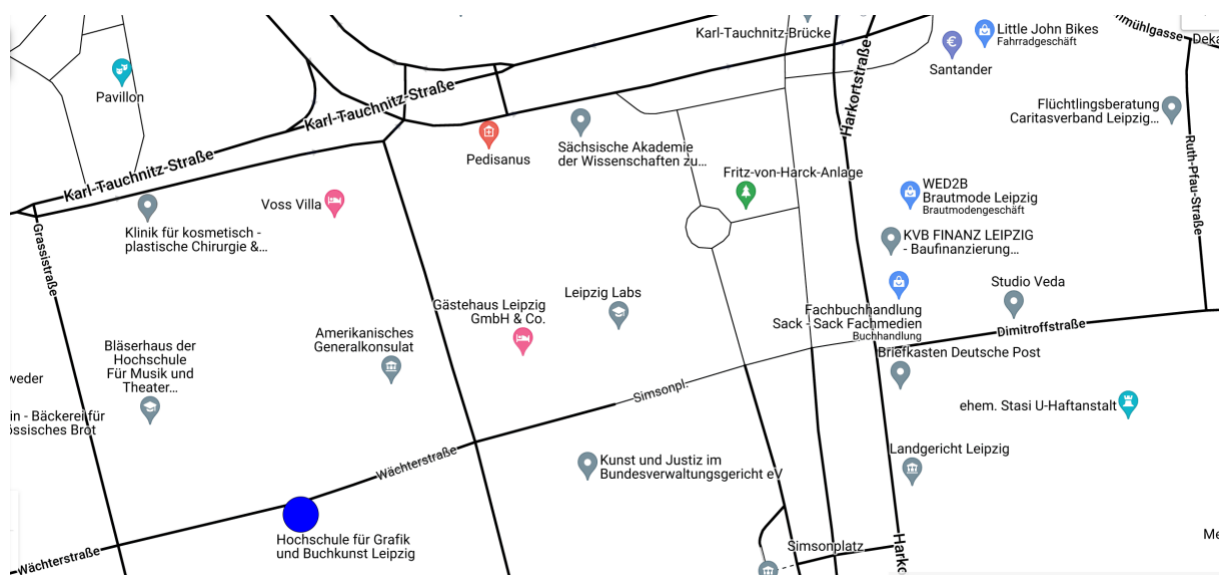
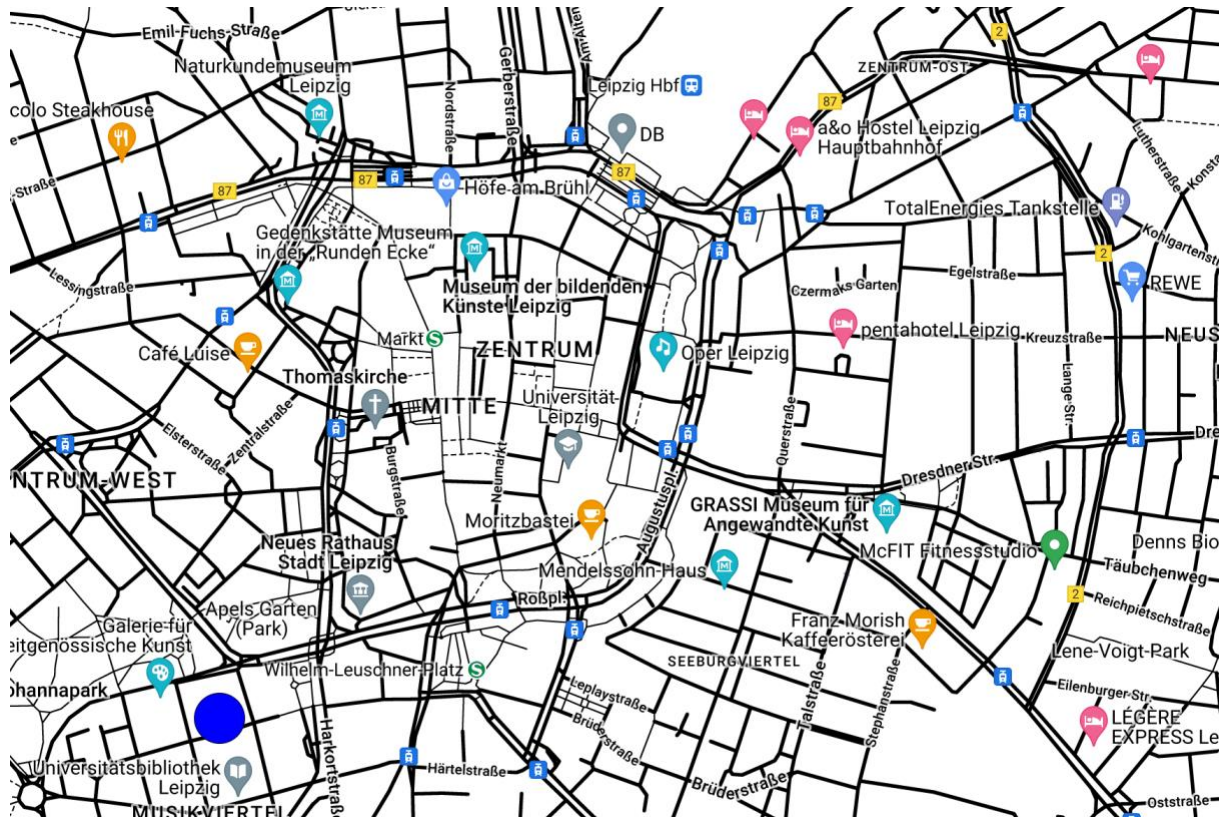
**Saturday, Oct 29, 2022**

<b>10-12</b>	<b>Festsaal</b>	<b>Entangled Media Philosophies of Technology</b> Panel  Ashleigh Cassemere-Stanfield, Paul Feigelfeld, and Francis Hunger Moderation: Lotte Warnsholdt
<b>12-1.30</b>		<b>Break</b>
<b>1.30-3.30</b>	<b>2.41</b>	<b>Predicting Backwards: Generating Histories</b> Workshop with "MELT" (Ren Loren Britton and Iz Paehr)
<b>3.30-4</b>		<b>Break</b>
<b>4-6</b>	<b>Festsaal</b>	<b>Sedimented Temporalities of Geodigital Landscapes</b> Panel  Jara Rocha and Femke Snelting (The Underground Division), and Orit Halpern Moderation: Katrin Köppert
<b>6-7</b>		<b>Chill-Out</b>



## Directions

Location: Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst Leipzig, Wächterstraße 11, 04107 Leipzig  
Accessible with Tram 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, Bus 89



## Accessibility

Barrier-free access to the HGB main building and the HGB Gallery is possible via Grassstraße via the inner courtyard. In the courtyard you can find an elevator which is accessible from there at ground level. The HGB Gallery is partially accessible. There is an elevator to almost all levels of HGB, equipped with a broad doorway. The barrier-free toilet is located in the basement of the HGB Leipzig. Please take the elevator to the basement (Press key "K") and pass the glass door. You are now in a long corridor, turn left and immediately right again into the outgoing corridor. The toilet is located behind the second door on the right-hand side.

The conference will be held in English.

Except for the workshops, the conference will be accessible via Webex. The provision of subtitling is being clarified.

Gender-neutral restrooms will be designated.

## Covid 19

We strongly ask everyone to wear masks. The masks can be taken off when speaking. We also ask that you do a self-test before attending the conference. We will provide some tests at the registration desk.

## Accommodation

Groners Leipzig  
Katharinenstraße 13, Mitte  
25,-/night

a&o Hostel Leipzig  
Brandenburgerstraße 2  
25,-/night  
(next to a&o Kunsthalle showing HGB Meisterschüler\*innen-exhibition until 29<sup>th</sup> October)

Meininger Hotel Leipzig Central Station  
Brühl 69, Mitte  
64,-/night

Appartement Central Leipzig  
Pfaffendorfer Straße 4-10, Mitte  
79,-/night

Limehome Leipzig am Brühl  
Brühl 60, Mitte  
104,-/night