



Dubrovnik

June 12-16, 2017

Inter-University Centre - symposium

Lazareti - literary evenings & concerts

Kino Visia - screenings

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Introduction

Structure is the seventh installment of **Conjecture** – an ongoing series of events on 21st Century philosophy, aesthetics, and politics coordinated and moderated by Nathan Brown and Petar Milat, since 2009 held at MaMa (Zagreb) and in 2017 for the first time in Dubrovnik.

Structure is a pervasive quality of the physical world and of our cognitive relation to it. Yet while the concept of form has been central to the philosophical tradition since Plato, it was only in the twentieth century that the concept of structure was systematically determined and deployed, tracing a meteoric rise across the firmament of the human sciences before fading once more, or so they say, into the night of indetermination. This five-day symposium will be devoted to the fate of “structure” – as concept and construction – in the twenty-first century. Approaches to our topic will range across philosophy, psychoanalysis, art, science, literature, and cinema, asking what it means to think and to physically determine or investigate the constitution of “structure” today, while drawing upon theoretical resources past and present.

Structure also includes an art programme by prominent artists, open to public.

Schedule

June 12, Monday

IUC

- 10:00-11:30 Nathan Brown: *Where's Number Four? The Place of Structure in Plato's Timaeus*
- 12:00-13:30 Amanda Holmes: *Where There's No No to be Found - Negativity and the Un-conscious*
- 17:00-18:30 Aaron Schuster: *Impossible Professions, and How to Defend Them*

Lazareti

- 20:00 Ece Temelkuran: *literary evening, moderated by Miljenka Buljević*

June 13, Tuesday

IUC

- 10:00-11:30 Pearl Brilmyer: *Amorphous Matter, Colorless Forms - Hardy and the Ends of the Novel*
- 12:00-13:30 Ante Jerić: *The Sound of One Hand Clapping*
- 17:00-18:30 Omri Moses: *Structuring the Mind - How Narratives Reorganize Our Material Engagements*

Lazareti

- 20:00 Andrej Nikolaidis & Vladimir Tasić: *literary evening, moderated by Miljenka Buljević*

Kino Visia

- 20:00 Heinz Emigholz: *Bickels [Socialism]*

June 14, Wednesday

IUC

- 10:00-11:30 Joshua Harold Wiebe: *Denial-of-Access - The Black Screen as Cinematic Limit*

- 12:00-13:30 Evan Calder Williams: *Prowling Forms*
- 17:00-18:30 Victoria Brooks: *Production Stilled*

Kino Visia

- 20:00 Ana Hušman: *Best of*
- 21:45 Heinz Emigholz: *2+2=22 [The Alphabet]*

June 15, Thursday

IUC

- 10:00-11:30 Vladimir Tasić: *TBA*
- 12:00-13:30 Robin Graham: *Enlightenment, 1728, 1784, and Romanticism, 1817 - Periodization, Deixis, Indexicality*
- 18:00-19:30 Ada Smallbegovic: *Some Disordered Exterior Geometries - Bioaesthetics of Zoopoetic Collaboration Within Material-Discursive Folds*

Lazareti

- 14:00-22:00 Alex Mendizabal: *concert-installation*

June 16, Friday

IUC

- 10:00-11:30 Leonardo Kovačević: *Equivalency and Equality - Politics after Structuralism*
- 12:00-13:30 Alexi Kukuljevic: *That Troubling Thing*
- 18:00-19:30 final discussion

Lazareti

- 14:00-22:00 Alex Mendizabal: *concert-installation*

Symposium

- **Nathan BROWN** is Associate Professor of English and Canada Research Chair in Poetics at Concordia University, Montréal, where he directs the Centre for Expanded Poetics. He is the author of *The Limits of Fabrication: Materials Science, Materialist Poetics and coeditor, with Petar Milat, of Poiesis.*
- **Amanda HOLMES** is a Doctoral student in the Philosophy Department at Villanova University and a 2017-2018 Fulbright Scholar in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Her work is situated at the intersection of phenomenology and psychoanalysis. She lives in Berlin, Germany where she is writing her dissertation, titled “The Structure of Anxiety and the Status of the Object: Kant, Heidegger, Lacan.”
- **Aaron SCHUSTER** is a philosopher and writer, based in Amsterdam. He is a visiting professor at the University of Chicago, and the author of *The Trouble With Pleasure: Deleuze and Psychoanalysis* (MIT Press, 2016).
- **S. Pearl BRILMYER**'s work lies at the intersection of the history of philosophy, science, and literature. Her current project, *The Intimate Pulse of Reality: Late Victorian Realism and the Science of Character*, concerns the philosophical implications of the disarticulation of character from plot at the end of the nineteenth century. Pearl has previously taught at the University of Oregon, New York University, Pratt Institute, and the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research, and has held fellowships from the Institute for Cultural Inquiry (ICI) Berlin, the DAAD, and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. She has recently published in *PMLA* and *Representations*, and is currently editing a special issue of *GLQ: Gay and Lesbian Quarterly* entitled “The Ontology of the Couple” with Filippo Trentin and Zairong Xiang.
- **Ante JERIC** is a PhD student in philosophy at the Postgraduate School ZRC SAZU in Ljubljana. He is associate at Multimedia Institute, working on the Institute's theory programme and its publishing activities. His main field of interest is continental philosophy and its connections with psychoanalysis, literature and film. He has authored a book *With Malabou: profiles of contemporary thought* (2016).
- **Omri MOSES** is Associate Professor of English at Concordia University in Montréal, where he teaches courses on literary and visual modernism as well as the scientific humanities. His book *Out of Character: Modernism, Vitalism, Psychic Life* came out in 2014 from Stanford University Press. He is working on a new book project, tentatively called *The Open Mind*, which examines theories of extended cognition to understand better how we read fiction and poetry, while also turning to literature to test these new neurobiological theories. While classical neuroscience has encouraged a view of the mind as a physiological and computational process going on deep “inside” the brain, *The Open Mind* turns to new postcognitivist models to assert a more embodied and culturally embedded view of mental life.
- **Joshua Harold WIEBE** is an experimental filmmaker and undergraduate student at Concordia University in Montréal.
- **Evan Calder WILLIAMS** is a writer, theorist, and filmmaker. He received a Ph.D. in Literature from the University of California, Santa Cruz and was a Fulbright Fellow in Italy for his research on cinema, industry, and revolt. He is the author of *Combined and Uneven Apocalypse and Roman Letters*, and, forthcoming in summer 2017, *Shard Cinema* and a new translation, with David Fernbach, of Mario Mieli's *Towards a Gay Communism*. He is part of the editorial collective of *Viewpoint Magazine* and is a founding member, with Lucy Raven and Victoria Brooks, of *Thirteen Black Cats*, a research and production collective for moving images. He was an artist-in-residence at *ISSUE Project Room* and currently teaches theory at the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College.
- **Victoria BROOKS** is a curator and producer based in upstate New York. She is curator of time-based visual art at *EMPAC / Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center* at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, chair of the *Contemporary Curatorial Workshop* at the Williams Graduate Program in the History of Art, and makes films with the research and production collective *Thirteen Black Cats*. She has commissioned and produced major new works in the expanded field of moving image and performance for art institutions, cinemas, festivals, television and radio worldwide with artists such as Tarek Atoui, Charles Atlas, Rashaun Mitchell and Silas Riener, Martine Syms, Wu Tsang, Rosa Barba, Ephraim Asili, Laure Prouvost, A.K. Burns, Boudry/Lorenz, and Patricia L Boyd among others.
- **Robin GRAHAM** is a PhD student in English at Concordia University. His work is focused around how theories of indexicality intersect various fields, including literary theory, media history, and the organization of information.
- **Ada SMAILBEGOVIC** is an Assistant Professor of English at Brown University. She has a degree in biology from the University of British Columbia and a PhD in Poetry and Poetics from NYU. Her writing explores relations between poetics, non-human forms of materiality, and histories of description. She is a co-founder of *The Organism for Poetic Research*. Critical and poetic work includes *Avowal of What Is Here* (JackPine Press 2009), *Of the Dense and Rare* (Triple Canopy 2013), “Some Disordered Interior Geometries” (Reanimation Library; *The Volta* 2015), “Cloud Writing” (*Art in the Anthropocene* 2015), and an article on animal architecture and the affective ethology of Monk Parakeets (Angelaki 2015). She is currently at work on a critical-theoretical book *Poetics of Liveliness: Natural Histories of Soft Matter* in 20th and 21st Century Poetry and a poetry chapbook *The Forest / or (On Waiting)* is forthcoming this spring from Doublecross Press.
- **Leonardo KOVAČEVIĆ** is a philosopher and translator based in Zagreb.
- **Alexi KUKULJEVIC** is an artist and Lecturer in Art Theory at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. His book, *Liquidation World: On the Art of Living Absently*, is forthcoming in the Fall 2017 with MIT Press. He has upcoming solo-exhibition at *Å+Gallery* in Berlin in November, 2017.

Art Programme

Ece TEMELKURAN is one of the Turkey's best-known novelists and political commentators. She has lived in several countries such as Lebanon and Tunisia to write her novels. Her investigative journalism books broach subjects that are highly controversial in Turkey, such as the Kurdish and Armenian issues and freedom of expression. She was a visiting fellow at the University of Oxford Saint Anthony's College, and has recently given the "Freedom Lecture" as a guest of Amnesty International and Prince Claus Foundation.

Her books in English include *Deep Mountain: Across the Turkish-Armenian Divide* (2010), *Book of the Edge* (2010), *Turkey: The Insane and the Melancholy* (2016) and the forthcoming *Women who Blow on Knots* (2018).

web: <http://www.ecetemelkuran.com/en/>

Andrej NIKOLAIDIS is a writer, born in 1974 to a mixed Montenegrin-Greek family and raised in Sarajevo, Bosnia. In 1992, following the breakout of ethnic strife in the country that soon erupted into an all-out war, Nikolaidis' family moved to Ulcinj, his father's hometown in Montenegro. Nikolaidis initially became known for his political views and public feuds, appearing on local television and in newspapers with his razor-sharp political commentaries. He writes regular columns for various regional newspapers and portals, and has recently written a number of articles for *The Guardian*. Selected bibliography: *Mimesis* (novel); *The Son* (novel); *The Coming* (novel); *Homo Sucker: The Poetic of Apocalypse* (cultural theory); *The Hungarian Sentence - A Trauerspiel*. Since Andrej has won the European Prize for Literature in 2011, his books have been widely translated. His English translations include *The Coming* (2012) and *The Son* (2013).

Vladimir TASIĆ is Professor of Mathematics at University of New Brunswick (Canada), with a special research interest in the question how mathematics relates to contemporary philosophy. Vladimir's book *Mathematics and The Roots of Postmodern Thought* has been translated in several languages. In recent years he has been studying the role of mathematics in the work of Alain Badiou, and a small part of that study on Badiou appeared recently in English as *Mathematics and Revolutionary Theory*.

As a writer of fiction, Tasić is among the most important Serbian contemporary writers and has won most prestigious awards for his novels.

web: <http://www.math.unb.ca/~vtasic/index.html>

Alex MENDIZABAL (Basque Country). Musician, researcher, sound artist. He has written music for orchestra, chamber ensembles, carousel instrumentalists, for stones, paper, choir, for geological movements, for yourself and scores of less than a second. In 1996 he decided, with difficulty, not to write any more and is interested in instruments building, sound spatialization, etc. He founded various music-formations and he has worked with prominent experimental film directors (Ken Jacobs, Bruce McClure,). and made blind films for years. In 2001 he

started, with Chris Blazen, the long process of Curva Chiusa (sound sources in motion). Alex will perform one of his renowned durational battimenti, using balloons and whistles to invoke psychoacoustic phenomena.

For 25 years **Heinz EMIGHOLZ** has dedicated himself to an ambitious series of movies that focus on the work of visionary 20th century architects, including Louis Sullivan, Adolf Loos, Rudolph Schindler and Bruce Goff. Emigholz defines a minimalist language that by cinematographic means renders the unique architectural environments created by these luminary architects, and offers a montage of carefully chosen architectural details that lead the viewer through a given building and towards a new appreciation of the light and space crucial to these architects' vision. **2+2=22 [The Alphabet]** and **Bickels [Socialism]** are part of his new series of films, "Streetscapes", premiered at Berlinale 2017.

- **2+2=22 [The Alphabet]** documents the genesis and the recording of the album "ABC" by the German band Kreidler in the recording studio in Tbilisi, Georgia. The basic structure of the film are shots alternating between the musical recordings and the city and notebook insertions. The film is a "reply" to Godard's **One Plus One** inasmuch as the main part of each film consists of the documentation of the work of a contemporary music group. The simplified, political-pop-ideological macramé of **One Plus One** makes way for an objectifying city portrait in **2+2=22 [The Alphabet]**.
- **Bickels [Socialism]** tours 22 buildings in Israel designed by Samuel Bickels, most of which for kibbutzim. Emigholz deals with sediments of the 20th century – Bickels' buildings of culture, education, communal dining-halls are the heart of an idea, the heart of an interaction, social and cultural. This is not an architecture of the "big vision", utopic or dystopic, but of the peripheral culture, minor culture, the periphery of the movement of modernism – displacement and immigration brought these seeds of social architecture.

web: www.pym.de

For one of the most significant and awarded contemporary Croatian multimedia artist and filmmaker **Ana HUŠMAN**, socially constructed interactions are a constant source of fascination and creative inspiration, and film is the perfect media to examine these scripted behaviors. As a student at the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb, she studied visual communications under Ivan Ladislav Galeta, a pioneer of video art in Croatia, and her works are often a synthesis of the subjects and devices that most interest her: the incorporation of voice, the visualization of cultural clichés and everyday behaviors, the filmic possibilities presented by dialogue and scripts, and – perhaps – even an opportunity for animation. Ana teaches at the Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb.

At Kino Visia we screen Ana's 3 recent films, in her presence:

- **Postcards** [2013 / 23']
- **Almost nothing** [2016 / 15']
- **I love you, Ines** [2017 / 14']

web: www.anahusman.net

Conjecture

2009 : **21st Century Materialism** [<http://materialism.mi2.hr>]

keynote-speakers: Božovič, Harman, Hallward, Hägglund

2011 : **To Have Done With Life - Vitalism and Antivitalism in Contemporary Philosophy** [<http://donewithlife.mi2.hr>]

keynote-speakers: Brassier, Hägglund, Johnston, Malabou

2012 : **The Art of The Concept** [<http://artofconcept.mi2.hr>]

keynote-speakers: Chion, García-Düttmann, Calder Williams, Hägglund

2013 : **Modernity, The Bitter End** [<http://modernity.mi2.hr>]

keynote-speakers: Hallward, Brown, Kukuljevic, Brooks & Calder Williams

2014 : **Sophistry - The Powers of the False** [<http://sophistry.mi2.hr>]

keynote-speakers: Cassin, Brassier, Toscano, García-Düttmann

2015 : **Poiesis** [<http://poiesis.mi2.hr>]

keynote-speakers: Arsić, Schestag, Wills, Rasula

ORGANIZERS

Multimedia Institute – MaMa (Zagreb)
Centre for Expanded Poetics –
Concordia University (Montréal)
Kulturtreger – Booksa (Zagreb)

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