



INTEGRATED MEDIA::ART AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND PRACTICE:: SYLLABUS SPRING 2021

Time: Mondays 7-9P

Room: Zoom

Faculty: Tom Leeser

The Research & Practice Seminar is required of all MFA 1 Integrated Media and Art and Technology students. This class introduces the student to an array of studio and technical practices and research strategies through discussions and visiting artist presentation. This class will meet weekly with lectures by IM faculty, alumni, visiting artists, and class discussions of concepts, processes, technologies and critical issues that arise in the development of the student's body of work and creative practice. This semester we will be focusing on data, surveillance and speculation.

The requirements of the class will be to attend the lectures and presentations, complete a series of assigned readings and submit a written project proposal defined as the *Impossible (Futures) Project*. We will look at speculative tendencies for future forecasting, pataphysics (or "pata-facts") and science fiction to arrive at our imaginary project. The project's format will be based on the format for the LACMA Art and Technology grant application.

Assigned Readings:

Sun-Ha Hong Technologies of Speculation

<https://sunhahong.wordpress.com>

Ursula LeGuin: Left Hand of Darkness: Introduction

<https://www.penguin.com/ajax/books/excerpt/9780441007318>

Anthony Dunne, Fiona Raby : Speculative Everything

<https://readings.design/PDF/speculative-everything.pdf>

Reference:

Yuk Hui: On the Existence of Digital Objects: A Review

<https://www.theoryculturesociety.org/blog/review-yuk-hui-on-the-existence-of-digital-objects>

Alfred Jarry:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Jarry

<https://www.patakosmos.com/database-open-access/king-ubu-alfred-jarry.pdf>

Bertolt Brecht: The Radio as an Apparatus of Communication

<http://www.medienkunstnetz.de/source-text/8/>

Hito Steyerl: Too Much World: Is the Internet Dead

<http://www.e-flux.com/journal/49/60004/too-much-world-is-the-internet-dead/>

Shoshana Zuboff: You Are Now Remotely Controlled

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/24/opinion/surveillance-capitalism.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/29/opinion/sunday/facebook-surveillance-society-technology.html>

I'm a Plantoid

<http://okhaos.com/plantoids/>

Aaron Benanav: Automation and the Future of Work

<https://newleftreview.org/issues/11119/articles/aaron-benanav-automation-and-the-future-of-work-1>

Aria Dean: Notes on Blacceleration

<https://www.e-flux.com/journal/87/169402/notes-on-blacceleration/>

Rammellzee: Iconic Treatise Gothic Futurism

<https://post.thing.net/node/3086>

Michael Ned Holte: Urban Legends: Norman M. Klein's Tales of the Floating Class

<http://michaelnedholte.com/2019/05/urban-legends-on-norman-m-klein/>

Karen Barad: Posthumanist Performativity: Toward an Understanding of How Matter Comes to Matter

https://www.uio.no/studier/emner/sv/sai/SOSANT4400/v14/pensumliste/barad_posthumanist-performativity.pdf

Look and Listen:

Anthony Dunne, Fiona Raby Lecture:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHHISnmX4UA>

Bifo Beradi "After the Future"

<https://vimeo.com/25367464>

Stephanie Dinkins: Conversations with Bina48

<https://www.stephaniedinkins.com/conversations-with-bina48.html>

Intra-action

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v0SnstJoEec>

Imagining our Social Media Future

<https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/otm/segments/imagining-our-social-media-future-on-the-media>

MOCA: Thomas Saraceno

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJmGhxfoUwg>

MOCA: Anika Yi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhCelmJwZZw>

Tamiko Thiel : Maintaining Composer
<https://unthinking.photography/articles/maintaining-composure-an-interview-with-tamiko-thiel>

The Long Now
<https://longnow.org/clock/>

John Cage: Slow As Possible
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54041568>

Institute of the Cosmos
<https://www.cosmos.art>

Symbiotica
<https://www.symbiotica.uwa.edu.au>

This syllabus is subject to change based on current circumstances we are experiencing in the world and the dynamic flow of the class.

SCHEDULE:

2/01 Introduction to Research and Practice, Speculation and Surveillance
Tom Leeser

2/08 Lecture/Discussion: Speculation, Surveillance and the Impossible:
Tom Leeser

2/15 NO CLASS

2/22 Class Discussion... or a surprise guest. Stay tuned.

3/01 Dan Bustillo: Visiting Lecturer

3/08 Performance and Lecture: Stephanie Cheng Smith

3/15 Kai Liang: Visiting Artist

3/16 Weidi Zhang: Visiting Artist

3/29 NO CLASS

4/05 Scott Benzel: Visiting Artist

4/12 Norman Klein: Visiting Lecturer

4/19 Tom Jennings: Visiting Artist

4/26 Sujan Chitraker: Visiting Artist

5/03 Wrap up

IMPOSSIBLE PROJECT PROPOSAL (Speculative Everything and the Future Imaginary)

Speculative fiction is a broad umbrella category of narrative referring to any fictional story that includes elements, settings and characters whose features are created out of human imagination and speculation rather than based on attested reality and everyday life. That encompasses the genres of science fiction, fantasy, science fantasy, horror, alternative history, and magic realism

Pataphysics is an absurdist, pseudo-scientific literary trope invented by French writer Alfred Jarry (1873–1907), that enigmatically resists being pinned down by a simple definition. One attempt at a definition might be to say that 'pataphysics is a branch of philosophy or science that examines imaginary phenomena that exist in a world beyond metaphysics; it is the science of imaginary solutions.

Future Forecasting: Our global culture is complex and diverse. Future forecasts can never take predict the future but they can provoke a conversation. We often look at cultural systems through a particular condition of contingency. For example, we might look at the future of networking through the perspective of aesthetics, language, popular culture and human knowledge creation leading us to consider a future based on a more decentered and unstable Internet.

Note: The format of this proposal follows the LACMA Art + Technology Lab 2020 Request for Proposals (with some alterations)

See: http://www.lacma.org/sites/default/files/techlab/2019-12/RFP_2020.pdf

Please submit your Integrated Media/ATEK proposal as a single PDF

Number the pages of the proposal and include your name and the project name in the footer on each page of the document.

Please include up to five images, schematics, renderings, etc. that represent the idea for your project.

The PDF needs to include the following:

*Name of Project:

*List three words that describe your proposal

*One-sentence description of the work

*Full description of the proposed project (1000-word)

*Please include a respond to the question and provocation: "Future-Why?"
<http://viralnet.net/projects/futurewhy.html> (500-word maximum)

*Please describe how the proposed project is impossible (100-word maximum)

*In what ways does your project inspire and or provoke a future for interdisciplinarity, technology and culture? (500-word maximum)

Submit your proposals by the end of the semester.

We will share each proposal in our fall 2021 semester class: IIMC-670-01R: IM Project Development.

Requirements:

Consistent Attendance

Participation in class discussion, assignments and readings

Grading will be based on three course requirements:

- 1) Participation in the class discussions and visiting artist presentations
- 2) The quality of your responses to the visiting artist lectures
- 3) Completion of the "Impossible Project" proposal

Things to Consider:

- Grading: CalArts assigns High Pass (HP), Pass (P), Low Pass (LP) and No Credit/Fail (NC) grades.
- Attendance: While some absences are unavoidable, if something comes up that requires you to miss class, please notify me ahead of time. 3 absences are permitted.
- Plagiarism is the misrepresentation and theft of authorship. In your academic work, keep in mind that use of other people's ideas and/or quotations (from the Internet, books, films, television, newspapers, articles, the work of other students, works of art, media, etc.) without giving proper credit to the author/artist will result in bad karma. So, don't do it.
- Students who have documented disabilities or special needs and who want to request accommodations should first contact the Student Affairs office. The Dean of Students will meet with students and communicate with their faculty about appropriate classroom accommodations.

- This class is designed to embrace diversity and difference in forming an open and safe working collective. Respect for each other and each other's ideas are critical to this goal. Any acts of intolerance or harassment in any form will be met with an appropriate institutional response.