

# disseminations

## Media Cultural Practices for the Digital Age

### International Symposium

Friday, 9 December 2016 // 13:00 h - 19:00 h  
Saturday, 10 December 2016 // 10.00 h - 18:00 h

Museum Schloss Fechenbach, Dieburg, Großer Saal

The symposium takes place within the frame of the exhibition „Bin gleich wieder da!“  
*Unterwegs in virtuellen Welten* (8 Dec 2016 – 8 Jan 2017 in Museum Schloss Fechenbach). A  
catalogue is available.

[www.bgwd.international-media-culture.eu](http://www.bgwd.international-media-culture.eu)

#### Introduction to the Symposium

The term *culture* derives from the Latin word *colere*: to nurse, to farm, to reclaim. From the concept's origins in agriculture it was then transferred to the human ambition to foster and develop intellectual goods. In any case, *culture* is strongly connected with *lived activity*: with practiced literacy and education. In view of the exploding variety of media productions, and a steadily increasing usage of media in daily life, the need of media aesthetic education gains more and more significance.

The term *dissemination* relates to sowing, spreading, and sharing. Coined by French philosopher Jacques Derrida, it was associated with *endless spreading and potential emergence of meaning* (1972). The symposium will subject the term to further transformations, testing and applying it in regard to prospective media specific cultural concepts. Within this frame, internationally renowned experts will discuss their theoretical and practical approaches to the topics of media culture and media aesthetic education.

What's the significance of raising the question of *culture* in the age of digital media? Which kind of *phenotypes* will such *media culture* take on and which methods will it use to sustain? Is it possible, by focusing on media cultural topics and practices, to achieve some deeper understanding on how to change or improve the media's quality and enrich our lives?

These and other questions will be discussed, inspired by horizons opened up by e.g. Neil Postman, R. Murray Schafer, and Jutta Wermke: The symposium's experts stem from media and cultural studies and/or engineering sciences who are at the same time practitioners like Leah Barclay (Australia), Mark Lipton (Canada), Raitis Smits (Latvia), Stephen Kovats (South-Sudan/Germany), Dalila Honorato (Greece), Jörg Stelkens, Max Kullmann, Daniil Vishnya (Germany) and the world famous ornithologist Walter Tilgner.

Friday, 9 Dec. 2016:

**13:00 h Doors Open**

**13:30 h Greeting & Introduction**

**Dr. Werner Thomas, Mayor of Dieburg**  
**Prof. Dr. Arnd Steinmetz, Vicepresident for Research and  
Infrastructure, Hochschule Darmstadt**  
**Prof. Sabine Breitsameter, Conference Chair**

**14:15 h KEYNOTE Leah Barclay (Australia, Brisbane)**

ACOUSTIC ECOLOGY IN ACTION

*Climate Change, Cultural Change and Media Aesthetic Education*

Dr Leah Barclay is an Australian sound artist, composer and researcher working at the intersection of art, science and technology. She specializes acoustic ecology and is currently the director of Biosphere Soundscapes and a research fellow at Griffith University, Brisbane.

**15:15 h Axel Cremer (Hessisches Ministerium für Soziales und Integration)**

IST DOCH EHRENSACHE?!

*Navigationshilfe für Haupt- und Ehrenamt zur Flüchtlingsarbeit*

As head of the Department of Integration and Social Issues in the ministry, Mr Axel Cremer will inaugurate the audiovisual series *Ist doch Ehrensache?!*. The production is aiming at fulltime officials involved in refugee work. It is supposed to support their work's necessary balancing with the needs of volunteer collaborators. On behalf of LAGFA (the Hessian agency for networking volunteer work) and the Hessian Ministry of Social Affairs, students of Darmstadt UAS developed a comic webseries. Its first episodes will be inaugurated on the occasion of the international symposium.

**16:10 h Students from the Master's program *International Media Cultural Work*  
DISSEMINATIONS**

*Media installation and gardening*

During a workshop with the Latvian curator and artist Raitis Smits the students developed an interactive media installation dealing with plants, gardening and communication. The students will introduce the installation by a performance in the museum.

**17:00 h Dalila Honoratu (Greece, Korfu)**

AUDIOVISUAL ARTS IN GREECE

*Creating meaning between media, science and society*

Dalila Honorato PhD is Assistant Professor in Aesthetics and Visual Semiotics at Ionian University, Corfu, Greece. She is head of the conference *Taboo-Transgression-Transcendence in Art & Science*.

**17:20 h Stephen Kovats (South-Sudan/ Germany, Berlin)**

NO CULTURE WITHOUT MEDIA, NO MEDIA WITHOUT CULTURE

*Cooling down McLuhan's notion of media today*

Kovats is former director of *transmediale*. festival for art and digital culture, working in post-conflict development, head and founder of r0g\_agency for open culture & critical transformation.

**18:00 h Orte der Stille / Places of Silence (Church of the former Capucine**

**Monastery, Dieburg)**

*Akustische Hologramme und Klangplastiken in 3D-Audio/Sonic holograms and sound sculptures in 3D-Audio (sound art even*

Saturday, 10 Dec. 2016:

**9:30 h Doors Open**

**10:00 h Daniil Vishnya (Germany, Berlin)**

WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AS A MEDIA ARTIST

*Stories of a media artist working in the social sector with kids and young adults with limited cultural access*

Daniil Vishnya M.A. is a freelance artist. Since eight years he has been giving numerous workshops to young people and created music, film and stage performance projects.

**10:20 h Klaus Schüller (Germany, Darmstadt)**

TRAINSTATION

*Concepts and workshops on media-aesthetic education in schools*

Klaus Schüller is a lecturer (at Darmstadt UAS), curator, musician and interdisciplinary media artist. He is co-curator of „Bin gleich wieder da!“ and founded “Netzwerk Bahnhof Langstadt e.V.” fostering media aesthetic and cultural education in rural Germany.

**10:40 h Max Kullmann (Germany, Stuttgart)**

COULD YOU DO SOMETHING WITH SOUND? AND SPACE?

*Dealing with the challenges of aural education*

Max Kullmann, Dipl.-Ing. and M.A., studied Architecture and Sound Studies in Berlin. As a founding member of *hands on sound*, a design collective for acoustic scenography, he produces various installations and likes to experiment with problematic acoustics.

**11:40 h Open to the general public**

**Walter Tilgner (Germany, Allensbach)**

NATURAL SOUNDSCAPES

*Eavesdropping on forests, lakes and wetlands in Central Europe*

Walter Tilgner is a globally renowned natural sound recordist of Europe's last biotopes: His huge, beautiful and publicly available oeuvre includes recordings since the late 1970s. He is a honorary member of the “Forum Klanglandschaft“.

**13:30 h Guided tour through the exhibition “Bin gleich wieder da!”**

**14:15 h KEYNOTE Dr. Raitis Smits (Latvia, Riga)**

OPEN FIELDS

*Artistic research practices grounded in digital media*

Dr. Raitis Smits is an assistant professor in the Latvian Academy of Art, and the key founder of *RIXC*, *Center for New Media Culture* in Riga, curator of the RIXC annual festival, and chief editor of *Acoustic Space* – a peer-reviewed journal and book series.

**14:30 h Jörg Stelkens (Germany, München)**

// COMMENT OUT

*10 questions a coder could ask herself before start typing*

Jörg Stelkens, Dipl.-Ing., Dr. phil., is the executive manager of a software factory for broadcast. He worked as musical instrument coder, designer for media artists (accSone), lecturer, curator for sound art (City of Munich) and media art (Siemens Cultural Program).

**15:40 h KEYNOTE Associate Professor Mark Lipton (Canada, Ontario)**

TEACHING FROM A MEDIA ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

*A critical approach to media education and digital privacy*

Mark Lipton is Associate Professor at the University of Guelph (School of English and Theatre/Media Studies). As author of several media literacy books he teaches about culture, digital literacy and pedagogy, performance studies, and research methods.

**16:30 h Final round with all speakers**

**Moderation: Prof. Sabine Breitsameter**

**17:15 h Farewell**

**18:00 h End**

*The program is subject to change*