SPM

SOCIETY FOR PHENOMENOLOGY AND MEDIA

19th Annual Conference

of the

Society for Phenomenology and Media

Living in the Anthropocene

Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts

March 15-17, 2017

Introduction

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According to many climate and environmental scientists, we are entering a phase in human history which will be characterized by huge changes in the earth's atmosphere and biosphere – global warming of course being the most pressing issue. Humanity's largely destructive influence on its unique planetary life support system has gained such a momentum lately that earth system scientists declare we have entered a new geological era, the so-called Anthropocene, in which the human (*anthropos*) has become the most influential geological (f)actor, trumping the natural ones in every respect. While the Anthropocene attests to the enormous power of a techno-scientifically empowered humanity to radically disrupt the earthly ecosystem upon which it fundamentally depends for its very survival, it simultaneously reveals that utter dependence, and summons us to radically rethink our residence upon the planet.

At this conference we reflect upon, inventory and systematize the challenges posed to us by these developments from the standpoint of SPM's core foci, with a special emphasis on issues of ontology, epistemology, practice and wider societal consequences concerning power and politics.

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Schedule at a Glance

Wednesday March 15th

08.30–09.00 Registration with coffee
09.00–09.30 Welcome

09.30–11.00 **Keynote: Langdon Winner**

Coffee break

11.20–12.50 Parallel sessions

Lunch (on your own)

14.40–15.50 Parallel sessions

Coffee break

16.10–17.40 Parallel sessions

18.00–20.00 **Reception**

Thursday March 16th

09.00–10.30 **Keynote: Michel Puech**

Coffee break

10.45–12.15 Parallel sessions

Lunch (on your own)

14.00–15.10 Parallel sessions

Coffee break

15.40–16.50 Parallel sessions

17.00–18.30 **SPM Board meeting**

Friday March 17th

09.00–10.30 Parallel sessions

Coffee break

10.45–12.15 Parallel sessions

Lunch (on your own)

14.00–15.10 Parallel sessions

Coffee break

15.30–17.00 Plenary session

17.00–17.15 Concluding words

19.00–22.00 **Conference dinner**

Keynote Speakers

Langdon Winner

Prof. dr. Langdon Winner is a political theorist who focuses on social and political issues that surround modern technological change. He is the author of *Autonomous Technology* (MIT Press, 1977), a study of the idea of "technology-out-of-control" in modern social thought, *The Whale and The Reactor: A Search for Limits in an Age of High Technology* (The University of Chicago Press, 1986) and editor of *Democracy in a Technological Society* (Kluwer, 1992). He is Professor of Political Science in the Department of Science and Technology Studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York where he serves as co-director of the newly founded Center for Cultural Design. Praised by *The Wall Street Journal* as 'the leading academic on the politics of technology,' Dr. Winner has taught and lectured at countless universities across the world. His courses include "Technology and the Human Prospect," "Contemporary Political Thought," "Race and Technology," "Technology and Social Theory" and "Law, Values and Public Policy." Winner is past President of the Society for Philosophy and Technology. At present he is doing research on and writing a book about the politics of design in the contexts of engineering, architecture and political theory; a book on sustainable technologies; and a collection of his essays on technology and human experience.

Michel Puech

Prof. dr. Michel Puech is an Associate Professor (*Maître de conférences*) of Philosophy at Paris-Sorbonne University. His academic background is in classical European philosophy. Gradually he specialized his research field towards a critical analysis of modernity. He has published numerous books and articles on the philosophy of technology, the concept of "the sustainable" and more broadly on new value systems. His current work focuses on the notion of wisdom. Michel Puech teaches on among others eco-ethics (environment and the economy), techno-ethics and main approaches in contemporary ethics. His recent books are *Homo sapiens technologicus. Philosophie de la technologie contemporaine, philosophie de la sagesse contemporaine* (Le Pommier, 2008), *Développement durable: un avenir à faire soi-même* (Le Pommier, 2010) and *The Ethics of Ordinary Technology* (Routledge, 2016). Puech is a highly sought-after speaker and publishes prolifically in academic but also in popular venues, contributing intensely to various public debates.

Schedule

Wednesday March 15th, 2017

08.30 – 09.00   Registration with coffee

09.00 – 09.30   Welcome   Room: Troonzaal

09.30 – 11.00   **Keynote – plenary**   Room: Troonzaal
       "Biosphere Meets Public Sphere in the Post-Truth Era"
       Langdon Winner (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute – USA)

Coffee break

11.20 – 12.50   Parallel sessions:

       Session 1.1: *Cyborgs, Hybrids, Virtuality*   Room: Rubensauditorium
       Chair: Melinda Campbell
       "From Uncanny Valley to Cyborg Intentionality"
       – *Stacey Irwin* (Millersville University – USA)
       "Technology, Humanity, and Vulnerability"
       – *Shoji Nagataki* (Chukyo University – Japan)
       "The Body Lived as a New Anthropocene Experience?"
       – *Marta Graciela Trógolo, Alejandra De Las Mercedes Fernández and Rosario Zapponi*
         (Universidad Nacional del Nordeste – Argentina)
       "Phenomenological Approach to the Disappearance of Angles in Virtual Reality"
       – *Jacques Ibanez Bueno* (Université Savoie Mont Blanc – France)

       Session 1.2: *Politics, Collectives, Culture*   Room: Ockeghemzaal
       Chair: Paul Majkut
       "Re-Imagining the Noosphere: Reflections on Digital Network Technology, Energy
       and Collective Intelligence in the Emerging Ecotechnological Age"
       – *Pieter Lemmens* (Radboud University Nijmegen – The Netherlands)
       "The Anthropocene As Event"
       – *Jan Jasper Mathé* (Vrije Universiteit Brussel – Belgium)
       "The Double World of Cultural Mediation"
       – *Tõnu Viik* (Tallinn University – Estonia)

12.50 – 14.40   *Lunch* (on your own)

14.40 – 15.50   Parallel sessions:

Session 2.1: *Living in the 'Digitalcene': From Virtual Reality to Augmented Reality*
Room: Rubensauditorium
Chair: Francesca Dell'Orto
"AR Gaming as a Tool to Promote Peace in the Middle East?"
– *Galit Wellner* (The NB School of Design, Tel Aviv University – Israel)
"Facing the Digital Partner: A Phenomenological Analysis of the Digital Otherness"
– *Nicola Liberati* (University of Twente – The Netherlands)

Session 2.2: *Anthropocene: An Ideological Construct*   Room: Ockeghemzaal
Chair: Luis Acebal
"Does the Anthropocene Dream of Hawk's Nest? Environment and Labor in Muriel Rukeyser's *Book of the Dead*"
– *Elvira Godek-Kiryluk* (University of Illinois, Chicago – USA)
"Contradictions of a Theotechnological Political Art Program"
– *Gerardo De La Fuente* (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico – Mexico)
"Anthropocene: Science or Pop Culture?"
– *Paul Majkut* (National University, San Diego – USA)

Coffee break

16.10 – 17.40   Parallel sessions:

Session 3.1: *Human, Posthuman, Nature*   Room: Rubensauditorium
Chair: Dennis Skocz
"Becoming Posthuman in the Anthropocene"
– *Christine Daigle* (Brock University – Canada)
"Living in the Anthropocene: Eco-Phenomenological Dwelling"
– *Randall Dana Ulveland* (University of Oregon – USA)
"Hello Anthropocene, Goodbye Humanity: Reassessing Transhumanism Through Postphenomenology"
– *Richard Lewis* (Vrije Universiteit Brussel – Belgium)
"Human Agency as Doing and Suffering (in) the Anthropocene: Towards a Normative Model of Human Agency in the Anthropocene in Dialogue with Marshall McLuhan and Augustine of Hippo"
– *Pablo Irizar* (KU Leuven – Belgium)

Session 3.2: *Data, Tracking, Networks*   Room: Ockeghemzaal

Chair: Cristina Pontes Bonfiglioli

"Reflections on Broken Data"

– *Minna Ruckenstein and Sari Yli-Kauhaluoma* (University of Helsinki – Finland)

"Bodies in Technology Revisited: Tracking the Other's Bodily Data At-a-Distance"

– *Katleen Gabriels* (Vrije Universiteit Brussel – Belgium)

"On- or Off-life? Life in the Era of the Social Network"

– *Silvia Ferrari* (Fondazione Collegio San Carlo di Modena – Italy), *Verbena Giambastiani* (Università di Pisa – Italy) *and Valeria Ferraretto* (Università di Pisa – Italy)

18.00 – 20.00   **Reception**

Thursday March 16th, 2017

09.00 – 10.30   **Keynote – plenary**   Room: Rubensauditorium
"From Fishbowl to Global: Ordinary Mediation with Anthropocenic Issues"
Michel Puech (Paris-Sorbonne University – France)

Coffee break

10.45 – 12.15   Parallel sessions:

Session 4.1: *Ontology, Epistemology, Existence*   Room: Rubensauditorium
Chair: Pieter Lemmens
"Conceiving the Anthropocene: An Onto-Epistemological Inquiry"
– *Dennis Skocz* (Society for Phenomenology and Media – USA)
"Heidegger's One *Alétheia* or More?"
– *Luanne Frank* (University of Texas, Arlington – USA)
"Husserls *Interessenleben*"
– *Paul Willemarck* (Nootechnics Collective – France)
"Communicating Bodies: Merleau-Ponty's Phenomenology of (Erotic)
Intercorporeality"
– *Marc Van den Bossche* (Vrije Universiteit Brussel – Belgium)

Session 4.2: *Depictions of the Anthropocene*   Room: Ockeghemzaal
Chair: Kurt Cline
"Depictions of the Apocalypse in the Age of the Anthropocene"
– *Mithun Bantwal Rao* (Wageningen University – The Netherlands)
"Magic and Self-Destruction: Romanticism and Media in the Anthropocene"
– *Mark Coeckelbergh* (University of Vienna – Austria)
"A Phenomenological Approach of Body-Image-Environment Relationship: Social
Psychology and the Concept of Mimesis"
– *Arley Andriolo and Cristina Bonfiglioli* (University of São Paulo – Brazil)
"Anthropocene vs. *Weltlösigkeit*: What's the Real Risk?"
– *Emanuele Antonelli* (University of Turin – Italy)

12.15 – 14.00   *Lunch* (on your own)

14.00 – 15.10   Parallel sessions:

Session 5.1: *Wilderness: Pristine Origins and Human Wastelands*   Room: Rubensauditorium
Chair: Randall Dana Ulveland
"A New Telluric Force"
– *Melinda Campbell* (National University, San Diego – USA) *and Patricia King*
(Autonomous University of the State of Morelos, Cuernavaca – Mexico)
"Thoreau and Krakauer: Wilderness as a Philosophical and Cultural Construct"
– *Luis Acebal* (National University, San Diego – USA)
"Oh, Wilderness"
– *Paul Majkut* (National University, San Diego – USA)

Session 5.2: *Aesthetic Mediations of the Anthropocene Part I*   Room: Ockeghemzaal
Chair: Shoji Nagataki
"Mediating the Anthropocene?"
– *Jørgen Bruhn* (Linnæus University – Sweden)
"Truth Claims in Anthropocene Poetry"
– *Emma Tornborg* (Linnaeus University – Sweden)
"The City of Berlin as a Silent Witness? – Anthropocentric City Views"
– *Corina Löwe* (Linnæus University – Sweden)

Coffee break

15.40 – 16.50   Parallel sessions:

Session 6.1: *The Image: Concept, Art & Technology*   Room: Rubensauditorium
Chair: Alberto Carrillo Canán
"Walter Benjamin's Concept of Image: The Case of Photography"
– *Gustavo Racy* (University of Antwerp – Belgium)
"Aerial Views of Landscape: An Approach to a Theory of Image"
– *Cristina Pontes Bonfiglioli* (University of São Paulo – Brazil)
"In Between Visual Arts and Cinema: Merleau-Ponty's Aesthetics and the Cinematic
Thought"
– *Juliana Froehlich* (University of Antwerp – Belgium)

Session 6.2: *Aesthetic Mediations of the Anthropocene Part II*   Room: Ockeghemzaal
Chair: Lars Lundsten
"The Anthropocene in School and in Family Films"
– *Liviu Lutas* (Linnaeus University – Sweden)
"Vizualizing Climate Change: Cinematic Transmediations of Climate Change
Discourse"
– *Anne Gjelsvik* (Norwegian University of Science and Technology – Norway)

"Climate Change in Imaginaries of the Mountain: Hanna Ljung's *I Am a Mountain to Measure*"
– *Anna Sofia Rossholm* (Linnaeus University – Sweden)

17.00 – 18.30   **SPM Board meeting**   Room: Ockeghemzaal

Friday March 17th, 2017

09.00 – 10.30   Parallel sessions:

Session 7.1: *Literature, Poetry, Writing*   Room: Rubensauditorium
Chair: Gerardo De La Fuente
"Scandal of Literality – Conditions of a Nervously Optimistic Literary Organology"
– *Berkay Ustun* (SUNY Binghamton – Turkey)
"'Entire-Being'; Todo Migra"
– *Lisa Neville* (SUNY Cortland – United States Minor Outlying Islands)
"Nomadic Poetics"
– *Kurt Cline* (National Taipei University of Technology – Taiwan)
"Writing Architecture: Oops, Loops as Design Tool, or the Value of a Seminar
Culture at Universities of Technology"
– *Lena Hopsch* (Chalmers University of Technology – Sweden)

Session 7.2: *Political Perspectives, Policy & the Media*   Room: Ockeghemzaal
Chair: Elvira Godek-Kiryluk
"Internet Democracy?: A Case Study of Online Media Practices"
– *Stephen Deutsch* (Free University of Berlin – Germany)
"Identity Crisis in the Post Millennium Era – Unearthing the Missing Link Between
Zimbabwe's Foreign Policy and the Public Media"
– *Alexander Rusero* (Harare Polytechnic School of Journalism and Media Studies –
Zimbawe)
"Reporting Sporting Activities of Women Comparing Vanguard Newspaper and
Complete Sports Newspaper"
– *Judith Tiri and Philip Imade* (University of Jos – Nigeria)
"Political Theatre Now in Istanbul"
– *Hasibe Kalkan* (Istanbul University – Turkey)

Coffee break

10.45 – 12.15   Parallel sessions:

Session 8.1: *Time in the Anthropocene*   Room: Rubensauditorium
Chair: Tõnu Viik
"Lifetime and World-Time in the Age of Anthropocene"
– *Francesca Dell'Orto* (University of Turin – Italy)
"From Mark-Making to Anthropocene Marker: Cupules, Geo-Intentionality, and
Deep Time"
– *Harrison Farina* (Emory University – USA)

"Anthropo-Scene: Spatio-Temporal Deformations in Screen Media"
– *Russell Cook* (Loyola University Maryland – USA)
"The Riddle of Stolen Time: A Picaresque Philosophical Tale"
– *Matti Itkonen* (University of Jyväskylä – Finland)

Session 8.2: *Metaphysics, Philosophy of Technology*   Room: Ockeghemzaal
Chair: Stacey Irwin
"Which Way to Turn? Transcendental Philosophy of Technology in the
Anthropocene"
– *Dominic Smith* (University of Dundee – United Kingdom)
"Terms for Talking about Efficiency"
– *Yoni Van Den Eede* (Vrije Universiteit Brussel – Belgium)
"The Entelechy of Technology: A Phenomenological Analysis of the Anthropocene"
– *Hye Young Kim* (Free University of Berlin – Germany)
"Fantasy of Unlimited Expansion of Human Power in the Anthropocene: Focusing
the Metaphysical Aspect of Modern Technology"
– *Tales Tomaz* (Centro Universitário Adventista de São Paulo – Brazil)

12.15 – 14.00   *Lunch* (on your own)

14.00 – 15.10   Parallel sessions:

Session 9.1: *Art and the Anthropocene*   Room: Rubensauditorium
Chair: Luanne Frank
"Anthropocene and Art"
– *Alberto Carrillo Canán and May Zindel* (BUAP – Mexico)
"Art and Experiences of Embodied Disrupted Reality"
– *José David Romero Martín* (University of the Basque Country – Spain)
"Phenomenology of Sound in Contemporary Art Since the Global Turn"
– *Wilfried Bossier* (University of Antwerp – Belgium and La Sorbonne Paris 1
Panthéon – France)

Session 9.2: *Film, Television, Screens*   Room: Ockeghemzaal
Chair: Nicola Liberati
"Tools for New Lifestyles: Indigenous Stone Crushing and Public Perception of
Television Environment Reporting in Jos City"
– *Sarah Lwahas* (University of Jos – Nigeria)
"Under My Screen: Towards Phenomenological Construct of the Cinematic Touch"
– *Shlomo Oz Uziel* (Tel Aviv University – Israel)

Coffee break

15.30 – 17.00   Plenary session:

Session 10: *Media, Mediation, Communication*   Room: Rubensauditorium
Chair: Cristina Pontes Bonfiglioli
"Embodied Immediacy and Haptic: Mediation in the Anthropocene"
– *Angela Maiello* (Università di Roma – Italy)
"Toward an Ecology of Communication"
– *Norval Baiatello Jr* (PUC SP – Brazil) *and Danielle Naves de Oliveira* (CISC SP –
Germany)
"The Global Medium – A Conceptual Journey with Innis and Ingarden"
– *Lars Lundsten* (University of Akureyri – Iceland)
"Mediating Knowledges: How Theatre Transmits Partial Perspectives"
– *Bjorn Beijnon* (Utrecht University – The Netherlands)

17.00 – 17.15   Concluding words   Room: Rubensauditorium

18.30 – 21.30   **Conference dinner**

Practical Information

Conference Venue

The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts
Address: Academy Palace, Hertogsstraat/Rue Ducale 1, 1000 Brussels

Parking

Follow the inner lane of the inner ring road, past the Wetstraat (=Regentlaan), take the rightmost lane, and either enter the Academy Palace here, or turn around the domain of the Academy Palace to enter it at the side of the Royal Palace.

Getting Around in Brussels

Brussels has an intricate public transportation network of trains, buses, trams and metros. On the website of the MIVB/STIB – the public transport company that exploits the Brussels metro, tram and bus lines – you can find a journey planner that includes all of these four options: http://www.mivb.be.

The metro station closest to the Royal Academy is "**Troon/Trône**." The nearest bus station is also called "**Troon/Trône**."

Social Events

The reception on Wednesday night takes place at the conference venue.

The conference dinner on Friday night takes place at **Restaurant La Manufacture**, which is a nice 25-minute walk from the Academy Palace through the center of Brussels. You can also take a taxi or public transportation (see Google Maps).
Address: Onze-Lieve-Vrouw van Vaakstraat/Rue Notre Dame du Sommeil 12-20, 1000 Brussels.
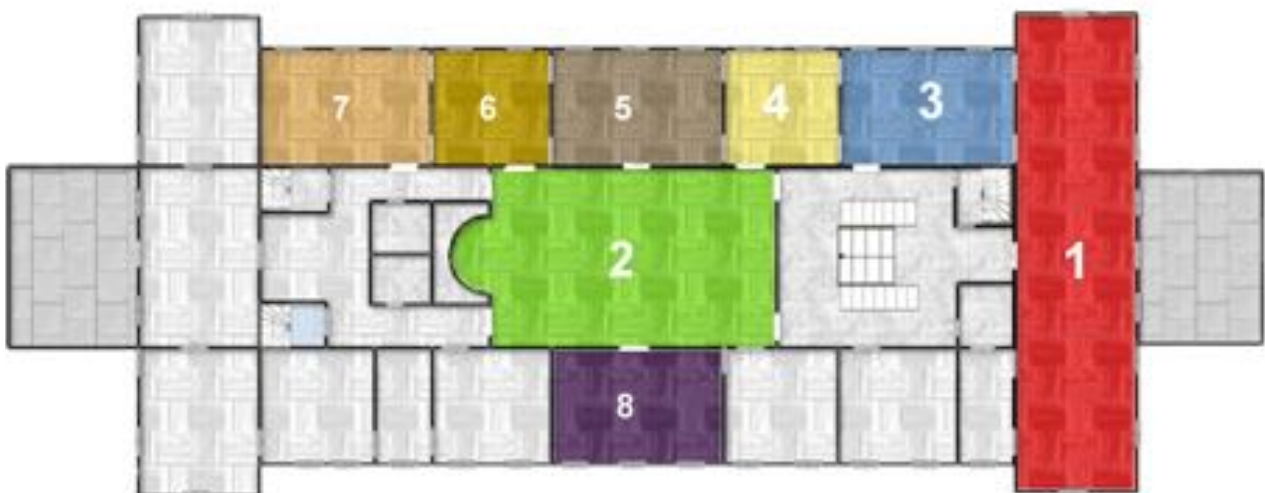http://www.lamanufacture.be

Getting Around at the Academy

Parallel sessions take place in the *Rubensauditorium* and the *Ockeghemzaal*. Both are located at ground level but in different buildings. The *Rubensauditorium* is in the main building, the Academy Palace ("Paleis der Academiën"). The *Ockeghemzaal* is located in the "Troongebouw."

The plenary session on the morning of Wednesday March 15th takes place in the *Troonzaal*, which is located on the 1st floor of the main building (Academy Palace).

Academy Palace and "Troongebouw." Ground floor. Rubensauditorium: 2. Ockeghemzaal: 5.

Academy Palace. 1st floor. Troonzaal: 2.

Wireless Network

Participants can make use of the wireless network of the Academy. The network name is 'academie' – no password is required.

Visiting Brussels

Feel free to visit Brussels on your own! The nearest tourist information desk "**VisitBrussels**" is situated in the Koningsstraat/Rue Royale 2, in the Brussels Info Place (BIP) offices. That is a four minute walk from the conference venue.

http://visitbrussels.be

Organization

The 19th Annual Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Media is hosted by

- Free University of Brussels / Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)
- Centre for Ethics and Humanism, VUB

and funded by

- Research Foundation – Flanders / Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen
- The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts / Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten (KVAB)
- Centre for Ethics and Humanism, VUB
- Society for Phenomenology and Media

Conference Coordinator: Prof. dr. Yoni Van Den Eede

Organizers: Prof. dr. Yoni Van Den Eede, VUB; Dr. Pieter Lemmens, Radboud University Nijmegen; Prof. dr. Marc Van den Bossche, VUB; Society for Phenomenology and Media

Local Scientific Committee:

- Prof. dr. Joke Bauwens, VUB
- Prof. dr. Helena De Preester, Universiteit Gent; Hogeschool Gent
- Dr. Pieter Lemmens, Radboud Universiteit, Nijmegen; SPM
- Prof. dr. Johan Taels, Universiteit Antwerpen
- Prof. dr. Marc Van den Bossche, VUB; SPM
- Prof. dr. Yoni Van Den Eede, VUB; SPM
- Prof. dr. Guido Van Steendam, KU Leuven
- Prof. dr. Karl Verstrynge, VUB

A special thanks goes to Francesca Dell'Orto (SPM Secretary), Melinda Campbell (SPM Treasurer) and the KVAB staff.

Notes

(Notes, continued)