



## Re-configuring computing through cyberfeminism and new materialism (CF+)

**Lab Meeting #1: *Cyberfeminist legacies, technofeminist trajectories, computational practices: where are we today?***

**DATE:** November 8, 2018

**TIME:** 14:00 – 17:00

**LOCATION:** Seminar room 0420, Research Center for Information System Design (ITeG), University of Kassel, Pfannkuchstraße 1, Kassel

CF+ is a project of the Gender/Diversity in Informatics Systems research lab at the University of Kassel, Germany. The project aims to lay the groundwork for revisiting dominant modes and practices of knowledge and artefact production in computer science through cyberfeminist and feminist new materialist lenses, and to produce innovative theoretical and methodological approaches in computing based on this revision. On a broader level, CF+ seeks to consolidate a network of people working on and interested in these issues for on-going collaboration.

This first lab meeting of the project CF+ invites scholars, computer scientists, designers, artists and activists to come together to evaluate the current situation: what are the legacies of cyberfeminism almost two decades after the first Cyberfeminist International took place in Kassel? How have cyberfeminist ideas been taken up in computer science and computational practices? What kind of trajectories and spaces for critical intervention in computation can be envisioned from the perspectives of contemporary technofeminist practices and new materialist theories?

### **Lab Meeting Structure**

The lab meeting will be organised in two parts.

**Part I** will start with a contribution by **Cornelia Sollfrank**, a conceptual artist, interdisciplinary researcher and educator. Since the mid 90s, Cornelia Sollfrank has investigated the worldwide communication networks and transferred artistic strategies of the classical avant-gardes into the digital medium. She was founding member of the collectives *frauen-und-technik* (Women and Technology, 1992) and *-Innen* (1994) and initiated and run the world-wide cyberfeminist network *Old Boys Network* (1997-2001), including the co-organisation of three international conferences on Cyberfeminism (1997, 1999, and 2001).

C. Sollfrank's talk will be followed by a discussion, moderated by Goda Klumbyte and Alisa Blakeney (GeDIS Lab, Kassel).



In **Part II** participants will be invited to attend a more in-depth workshop the goal of which will be to share ideas and flesh out critical questions for further investigation. The workshop will be divided in three simultaneous group discussions, and participants will be invited to choose the discussion that they would like to contribute to:

**I. Critical interventions between arts, activism and computational practices**

This stream will be focussed on the convergences and divergences between computational practice and artistic work. How are computational practices brought into the arts? Are the insights from the arts fed back into computational practices, and if so, how? What are the possible modes of working together?

**II. (Techno)feminism and computer science: collaborate or only cohabitate?**

How could computer science benefit from (techno)feminist and new materialist theoretical and methodological approaches? What are the key areas where these approaches are needed? And vice versa: what could (techno)feminist and new materialist bodies of thought and practice learn from computing practices? Is there a will to collaborate, or are we - both in computing and in feminist fields - content with simply cohabiting?

**III. Bringing communities together: strategies for consolidating a network**

This stream is dedicated to brainstorming on how a network of critical practitioners and theoreticians could be brought together and maintained: what kind of strategies, tools and techniques of community and network building could be employed? How to establish a network based on inclusion and intersectionality? Which kind of institutional support would such a network need? What forms of organisation could we think of?

**Attendance and Registration**

The first part of the Lab Meeting with contribution by C. Sollfrank is open to anyone. Please register to attend by emailing [goda.klumbyte@uni-kassel.de](mailto:goda.klumbyte@uni-kassel.de). If you wish to take part in the full event, i.e. including the second part of the Meeting, as well further activities of network building and consolidation, please apply by also sending your biographical note and a brief statement of interest by October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

We look forward to seeing you at the Lab!

Further information about the project: <https://www.uni-kassel.de/eecs/fachgebiete/gedis/research/cf.html>

For questions please email: [goda.klumbyte@uni-kassel.de](mailto:goda.klumbyte@uni-kassel.de) and [alisa.blakeney@uni-kassel.de](mailto:alisa.blakeney@uni-kassel.de)