New Materialist Informatics

22–25 March 2021

11th international new materialisms conference invites participants to investigate the possible intersections between and beyond new materialism and informatics. As a transversal field of inquiry, new materialism opens hybrid spaces between the social sciences & the humanities and the natural & technical sciences & engineering. Increasing computing power and technological advancements highlight the need to account for the material basis as well as material consequences of informatics and to ask how techno-politics and techno-epistemologies can be reconfigured for these complex times. This conference provides space to investigate these questions and bring together interdisciplinary research spanning information sciences and the (post)humanities to highlight the inter- and intra-connectedness of computing and worldmaking.
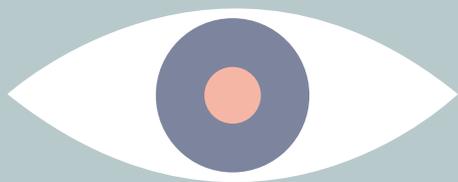
Programme

Participants will have a chance to attend hands-on workshops on March 22, 2021, paper presentations and keynotes on 23-25 March 2021 and demonstrations throughout the event.

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Vibrant Subjects: Posthuman Perspectives on Nourishing Design

Shaowen Bardzell
Professor of Information Sciences and Technology at Penn State University's College of Information Sciences and Technology, USA

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New Players on the World-Stage: A New Materialist Approach to Robotics and HRI

Maaike Bleeker
Professor in Theatre Studies in the Department of Media & Culture Studies, Utrecht University, Netherlands

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Authenticating Figures: Algorithms and the New Politics of Recognition

Wendy Hui Kyong Chun
Canada 150 Research Chair in New Media at the School of Communication, Simon Fraser University, Canada

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Notes on the Three Stages of the Algorithmic Condition; The Ethe of Mimesis, Feminicity, and Bio-informatics

Felicity Colman
Professor of Media Arts and Associate Dean of Research for the London College of Fashion at University of the Arts, London, UK

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Knowing-Making Accessibility: Crip and Unfinished Technosciences in Physical and Virtual Worlds

Aimi Hamraie
Associate Professor of Medicine, Health, and Society and American Studies at Vanderbilt University, USA

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On material conditions and effects of the entanglements between race and technology

Safiya Umoja Noble
Associate Professor, Department of Information Studies and Co-Director of the UCLA Center for Critical Internet Inquiry (C2i2), University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), USA

Keynote Lectures

As the first conference dedicated to the specific intersection of new materialist research and informatics, this conference centres around questions such as: How can new materialism and informatics be brought together in ways that help build liveable and sustainable techno-lifeworlds? What new perspectives on contemporary crises might emerge at such an intersection and beyond? What kind of conceptual and methodological tools are needed for new materialist informatics design and research? The conference includes and goes beyond the new materialist readings of computing and computational artefacts and generates innovative perspectives on how techno-world-making can be performed from a new materialist perspective.

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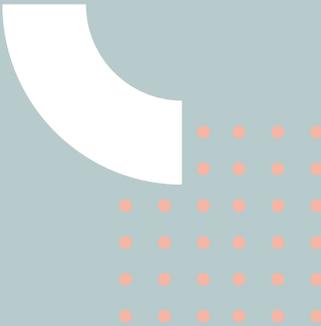
Speculative Materialities, Indigenous Worldings and Decolonial Futures in Computing & Design

With contributions by
Outi Laiti, University of Lapland, Finland; Luiza Prado de
O. Martins, artist, writer and researcher, Germany;
Femke Snelting, Constant, Belgium; and Caroline J. Ward,
JUST AI (LSE & Ada Lovelace Institute), UK

Roundtable
Discussion

Registration

Conference Registration

Conference registration is now open! Conference registrations include access to all NMI2021 events. The conference has moderate, all-inclusive participant fees. The income from fees will be used towards honoraria for keynotes and respondents and, depending on availability, to support artists, designers and presenters in need of support. Visit our website: *www.uni-kassel.de/go/NMI2021* for more information.

Conference Themes

The conveners of New Materialist Informatics invite to approach these questions from a multiplicity of disciplinary perspectives, including the humanities and social sciences, design, engineering and computer science. Around 80 contributions, including workshops and demonstrations, are to be presented on themes that include new materialist informatics theories, concepts and methodologies, design interventions and praxes, contemporary issues regarding material effects and conditions of informatics and future perspectives for research and design.

Organisers and Contact

The conference is organised by the Gender/ Diversity in Informatics Systems Research Group (GeDIS) and the Research Center for Information System Design (ITeG), University of Kassel, Germany.
If you have any questions, please email us at NMI2021@uni-kassel.de.