



Annual Conference of the Collaborative Research Center "Media of Cooperation"

University of Siegen, 25-26 September 2018

We are currently faced with a new generation of media: 'sensor media' are taking control across a broad spectrum of our society and societal discourses. The promise of a more general 'digital sensibility' is associated with smart environments, social robots, augmented reality, 4D printing, and tactile-visual intersensoriality. As a result, black boxes break and are torn asunder and anthropometric scaling parameters of the media and social sciences come into play. Since Ed Hutchins famous book 'Cognition in the Wild', distributed agency is expanding and is no longer limited to human activity. Media also adapt themselves to their natural surroundings under digital conditions. However, there is a big chasm between the ambition of media studies to explain the sensitivities of a digital culture and the scientific practices of everyday digital life.

The first generation of practitioners of media theory still believed in an explanation of media-specific practices. When media were separated by technical standardizations and institutional arrangements in the early 1960s, media were indeed specific, and simultaneously promised media-specific practices. At least there are common sense rules for listening to the radio, watching TV, working with a PC, etc. Conversely, when the internet and digital network media became dominant, at least one important strand of media theory promised 'the end of media' or rather a 'convergence culture', which implicitly gave rise to the end of media-specific practices. However, media have not disappeared. Digital mediation is inscribed into all realms of everyday and business life.

Three years after the Collaborative Research Center has started, we aim to reconsider media-specific practices and whether there are still practice-specific media. What kind of specificity characterizes digital practice? Are digital technologies inevitably inscribed into sensoria, mediation, practices and haptic media? What constitutes 'digitality' from a historical, esthetic, theoretical, or empirical perspective? And how can digital sociology, digital STS and digital ethnography contribute toward a more comprehensive description which corresponds to the complexity of media practices? These are the questions we want to discuss.

Please register via e-mail to: annualconference2018@sfb1187.uni-siegen.de

For more information please visit: <https://www.mediacoop.uni-siegen.de/de/jahrestagung-2018-2/>

Conference Program

Main Venue: Herrengarten 2 (entrance Brüder-Busch-Str.)

Tuesday, 25 September

Methodologies of Digital Practice

13:00-14:30 h (Moderation: Sebastian Gießmann)

- Tristan Thielmann (University of Siegen): Media Specificities of Digital Practice
- Michael Dieter, Carolin Gerlitz, Anne Helmond, Nate Tkacz, Fernando v.d. Vlist, Esther Weltevrede: Store, Interface, Package, Connection: Methods and Propositions for Multi-situated App Studies

14:30-15:00 h: Break

Reflexive Practices

15:00-17:00 h (Moderation: Max Kanderske)

- Mark Paterson (University of Pittsburgh): Why Haptic Media Studies?
- Julia Hildebrand (Drexel University): The Drone and I: Aerial Sensibilities and Cooperation on the Fly

17:00-17:30 h: Break

Sensory Practices

17:30-20:00 h (Moderation: Roger Norum)

- Julia Bee (Bauhaus University Weimar): Filming through the Milieu. On Sensory Documentary Practices

Keynote

- Arjun Appadurai (New York University): The Idea of the Mediant: Agency and Technology in the Financial World

Wednesday, 26 September

Technological Practices

10:00-12:00 h (Moderation: Carolin Gerlitz)

- Erhard Schüttpelz (University of Siegen): The Drift from Instruments to Containers: Media Agency at the Beginning of Mankind
- William Uricchio (MIT, Cambridge): Thinking through the Digital: From Mechanical Systems to Recursive Agency

12:00-14:00 h: Lunch

Image Practices

14:00-16:00 h (Moderation: Ehler Voss)

- Asko Lehmuskallio (University of Tampere): Digital Faces in Computational Environments
- Patricia Prieto Blanco (University of Brighton): Visual Mediations, Affordances and Social Capital

16:00-16:30 h: Break

Non-Media-Centric Practices

16:30-17:30 h (Moderation: Erhard Schüttpelz)

- Shaun Moores (University of Sunderland): Non-Representational Theories and Their Relevance for Researching Media in Quotidian Cultures: On the Primacy of Movement, 'Storied Knowledge' and Narrative

17:30-18:00 h: Break (walk to Hammerhütte)

18:00-20:00 h: GfM Conference Opening / Keynote (Introduction: Jörg Potthast)

- Luc Boltanski (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris): Déplacements du capitalisme et économie de l'enrichissement