

Workshop

DE-CONSTITUTING WHOLES:

Haunting, Eclipse, Plasticity

The yearlong multidisciplinary ICI Project 'Constituting Wholes' explored the critical potential of remobilizing the notion of the whole. In which ways are wholes constituted and how do wholes constitute, determine, and control their parts? Does the constitution of wholes necessarily involve an exclusion – not only of some parts and of other conceivable wholes but also of some aspects of its constituting elements? When wholes are said to be more than the sum of their parts, this 'more' contains both a promise and a threat. The workshop proposes that such promising, threatening excess should also be thought in terms of de-constitution; and its three panels investigate different modes of negativity under the headings 'Haunting', 'Eclipse', and 'Plasticity'.

Talks by

EIRINI AVRAMOPOLOU
DANIEL C. BARBER
MARCUS COELEN
ALICE GAVIN
PETA HINTON
NAHAL NAFICY
JAMILA MASCAT
ROBERT MEUNIER
STEFANO OSNAGHI
RUTH PRESER
FILIPPO TRENTIN
ARND WEDEMEYER

ici KULTURLABOR
BERLIN INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL INQUIRY

ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry
Christinenstr. 18/19, Haus 8
D -10119 Berlin
Tel: +49 30 473 72 91 10
www.ici-berlin.org
U-Bhf Senefelder Platz (U2)

Workshop

9–10 July 2014

In English

Wednesday

9 July 2014

16:00–20:00

Thursday

10 July 2014

11:00–19:00

**De-Constituting
Wholes
Haunting,
Eclipse,
Plasticity**

WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2014
16:00-20:00

Part 1: **HAUNTING**
Moderation: **Nahal Naficy**

Haunting is a method for exploring how objects, processes and affects make themselves known in other than obvious terms. By pointing to forms of historicity, violence, and dis-possession, haunting disrupts the naturalness of evidence and the transparency of 'things', knowledge, or experience. Space and time cannot remain intact when the tactility of everyday life is mediated by the labor of the negative. Indeed, thinking through hauntings haunts you back. It suggests an aporetic immanence that obfuscates any capacity for a totality, or whole. Informed by psychoanalytic, feminist, queer and post-colonial perspectives, this panel seeks to trouble the unforeseeable, the unknown, the absent and the invisible in methods, archives, and systems of justice, desire, and death.

16:30 Peta Hinton
Haunted Ontologies:
Feminist Ethics as an
Im/possible In/justice to Come

17:00 Eirini Avramopoulou
On Dispossession:
Letting Death Speak of Desire

17:30 **Coffee break**

18:00 Filippo Trentin
Atlas:
Informe, or the (Un)transposability of
Forms and Identities

18:30 Ruth Preser
Berlin my Love:
Haunting and the City

19:00 **Discussion part 1**

THURSDAY 10 JULY 2014
11:00-19:00

Part 2: **ECLIPSE**
Moderation: **Filippo Trentin**

Eclipse is an event without history, an event that nullifies the visibility supplied by a narrative. If day and night mark the turnings and passages of the world, the world rightly told, then eclipse is the event of this "everyday" world's wrongness. Seeking to think not about eclipse but according to eclipse — not "in light of" but "in eclipse of" — this panel explores the methodology of thinking within the wrongness of the world, a wrongness for which even the word "eclipse" may be wrong.

11:00 Marcus Coelen
Eclipse of Phantasm

11:30 Daniel C. Barber
Knowledge Never Enlightened:
Anti-Black Epistemicide and
the Creation of the Future

12:00 **Coffee break**

12:30 Alice Gavin
"From Those Flames... No Light":
On Handsworth Songs and Paradise Lost

13:00 Nahal Naficy
Revolution Is in the Air, to Hell with Revolution:
On Air Pollution in Teheran

13:30 **Discussion part 2**

14:00 **Lunch break**

Part 3: **PLASTICITY**
Moderation: **Daniel C. Barber**

The notion of plasticity challenges the idea that wholes are constituted through subsumption and that such wholes ought to be resisted according to a logic of exemption or excess. Plasticity names the transformative nature of immanent processes of the giving and receiving of forms, thus allows to consider the question of wholes beyond the dichotomies of components and composites or object and context. Yet the concept often conjures expectations of individual adaptation in a neo-liberal order and thus calls for a critical assessment. Exploring the potentials and pitfalls of the concept in diverse fields, the panel will ask whether it is possible to proceed not from the "constituting" of wholes but their de-constitution in morphosis.

15:30 Jamila Mascot
Plastic Totalities between Kant and Hegel

16:00 Stefano Osnaghi
Probability and the Bounds of Sense

16:30 **Coffee break**

17:00 Robert Meunier
**The Plasticity of Concepts of Plasticity
in Biology**

17:30 Arnd Wedemeyer
Pumping Honey:
Joseph Beuys at the documenta 6

18:00 **Discussion part 3 and whole workshop**