

Recent developments in the web show a way of managing/constructing memory and remembrance that is drastically different from familiar forms. The problem has moved from the excess of forgetting to the excess of memory: the web seems to remember everything.

These practices can be interpreted in the broader framework of a Web Intelligence that has definitely abandoned the effort to reproduce and simulate the forms of human consciousness and intelligence and relies rather on the users' interpretations to direct its own selections. The lecture will present the concept of "virtual contingency" to indicate the specifically digital way in which the web "feeds" on the uncertainty (contingency) of users in order to orient its own complexity.

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The lecture is part of the **ICI Lecture Series Constituting Wholes II**, which seeks to re-examine the critical potential of notions of wholeness by exploring the double movement in constituting wholes. How are wholes and other forms of association differently constituted and how do they constitute their parts or elements? How can one maintain a critical position towards persistent wholes without making them inescapable and foreclosing the possibility of reducing violence and arriving at more benign forms of association? Conversely, how can one be attuned to heterogeneities and potentialities without participating in the reparation of existing structures of domination?

Conceived within the framework of the multidisciplinary ICI Research Focus **Constituting Wholes**, the lecture series will address and debate these and similar questions from a variety of perspectives.

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Virtual Contingency – Digital Techniques of Remembering and Forgetting

