Symposium
FROM SOLAR FUTURES TO FUTURE SOLIDARITY

Organized by Sara Castelo Branco and Claudia Peppel
23 October 2023
16:00 – 21:00
ICI Berlin
In English

With
Angela Anderson
Amanda Boetzkes
Illichela Coletta
Ricardo Jorge Cafeira
Gökçe Günel
Kai Koddenbrock
Illichel I. Iarder
Oxana Timofeeva

The symposium at the ICI Berlin is part of a larger project by Sara Castelo Branco entitled Solarity Prospects, which includes the exhibit Solar Capital, on show from 19 October – 5 November 2023 at ACUD Galerie – ACUD I. lacht I leu bç I lugo de Almeida Pinho with the sound collaboration by I. manuel Sékou. At the opening there will be a lecture performance, After the Death of the Sun, by Lúiza Luz.

For further details please see: acudmachtneu.de events 2018 solarity prospects project bç sara castelo brançो/

It is further accompanied by the film screening Solar Influx on 24 October 2023 at Arsenal – Institute for Film and Video Art, with works by Colectivo Los Ingrávidos, Jérôme Cognet, I lugo de Almeida Pinho, Christina I emauer, Roman Keller, and Susan Schuppli.

For further details please see: www.arsenal berlin.de kalender/

An ICI Event in cooperation with Bard College Berlin

ICI Berlin
INSTITUTE FOR CULTURAL INDUSTRY

Bard College Berlin
A LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

Image credit © I lugo de Almeida Pinho, 2021-2023

ICI Berlin | Christinenstraße 18-19, I laus I D - 10119 Berlin
Tel: +49 30 473 72 91 – 10 | www.ici-berlin.org
The sun has been a continuous element of utopian imagination — as a cultural form, an ideological power, and a spiritual force. The energy of the sun keeps the planet functional, regulates the metabolic rhythms of plants and animals, and is part of a contemporary global capital of technological and economic power. Some theories assert that solar emissions also have a biopolitical impact on human sociology, psychology, and historical events; they present a close correlation between the periods of highest solar activity and certain revolutionary or progressive movements.

In this sense, Michel Serres (1980) once defined the sun as our energetic horizon and the ultimate capital in the history of modern religion, culture, ecology, and economy. Georges Bataille (1931) also discussed the sun as a constructive and destructive force shifting between order and disorder. One of the foundations of solar politics is its relationship to energy, which in the last centuries has shaped some ideologies related to work, capitalism, progress, imperialism, and productivism; and energy was also the founding basis for certain ethical and epistemological concepts in ecology (Simon-Stickley, 2021).

Solar energy constitutes one of the most important subjects in the current context of international politics: the circulation of power between those who control energy production and those who depend on it. Given this context, it’s crucial to transform solar energy into a possible mechanism of contestation against forms of authoritarianism, neoliberalism, autocratic systems, and climate crisis. Can this critical context be re-assessed through concepts such as the ecosocialism of David Schwartzman (1996) or the solar communism of Michael Löwy (2011), which have their origins in the ecological movement as well as in the Marxian critique of political economy. These concepts, which are based in non-monetary and extra-economic criteria, take into account the preservation of ecological balance by opposing it to capitalist production systems. This might imply rescuing the Marxian idea of social justice and articulating it in a new relationship with nature.

Condemning forms of heliocentrism that develop procedures of marginality, appropriation, and energetic imperialism, this symposium will reflect on the complexities of solar energy. It encourages the idea that it is essential to seek solar futures and future solidarity outside of such procedures and to look for responses that promote a sustainable and equitable future in regard to the production of energy.

23 October 2023

16:00 Welcome and Introduction
Sara Castelo Branco and Claudia Peppel

16:00-18:00 Panel I
Gökçe Günel (online)
Leapfrogging to Solar
Ricardo Jorge Cafeira
The Roles of the Sun Over the Last Centuries
Kai Koddenbrock
German Africa Policy
From Euraficin Utopias to Another Scramble for African Resources
Oxana Timofeeva
It Is Never Too Early to Decolonize the Sun

19:00-21:00 Panel II
Amanda Boetzkes (online)
Capitalist Prize-Fighter
Solarities Observers of Modern Life
Angela Anderson
Queer Eco-intersectional Luxury Communist Solarities
Against Capitalist Authoritarianism
Michela Coletta
Being Planetary
From Managerial Cartography to Post-anthropocentric Solidarity

Ilichela Coletta
On Heraclitus, Fr. 6:
The Sun is I new Every Day