

Workshop

# Scale

## A Fragmentary Atlas for the Humanities

The concept of scale has become ubiquitous across the humanities, from discussions of the nonhuman and the planetary to artistic, political, and poetic reflections on the contemporary.

Yet, despite this new theoretical attention to scale, much remains uncertain about the term's usage. 'Scale' is a shifting, polyvalent, relational term. Rather than a fixed measure, it is a fluid mode of inquiry involving manifold analytical approaches such as reducing and zooming out, focusing and expanding, dislocating and recontextualizing, or close and distant reading. To focus on a specific scale, be it the cosmic or the everyday, is to focus on objects and processes that become visible or invisible, central or marginal, at this scale compared to others, or to trace how our categories shift with a shift in scale. The relationality of scale makes it hard to define yet fruitful for engaging with complex experiences and phenomena.

This workshop reflects the ongoing collective inquiry by ICI fellows into the concept of scale. Contributions to the workshop explore scale as it appears in various thematic and disciplinary contexts ranging from theories of artificial intelligence to anthropology and philosophy, and from literary studies to media studies to gender and queer theory. As such, the workshop aims to constellate some theoretical fragments on scale into a (necessarily incomplete) atlas crossing the human and non-human, modern and pre-modern, individual and social, local and cosmic, as well as artistic, political, and poetic.

Image credit: Claudia Peppel

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## A Fragmentary Atlas for the Humanities

6 - 7 October 2025  
14:00-19:00 • In English

With

Filippo Bosco  
Kirill Chepurin

Franco Costantini  
Federica Di Blasio

Yuri Di Liberto

Tobi Haslett

Nicolas Helm-Grovas

Magdalena Krysztoforska

José Antonio Magalhães

Jasmine Pisapia

Angelica Stathopoulos

Verónica Stedile Luna

Organized by  
current ICI Fellow cohort

## Programme

**Monday  
6 October 2025**

**14:00**

**Welcome**

**14:15 – 15:45**

**Panel I - SPACE**

**Federica Di Blasio  
'Volatile and Determining':  
Scales of the Everyday**

**Filippo Bosco  
Scale of Things (to Come):  
On Drawings for  
Monica Bonvicini's 75 mph (1997-98)**

**Tobi Haslett  
Theft and Gift:  
The Scales of Urban Rebellion**

**15:45 – 16:15**

**Coffee Break**

**16:15 – 17:45**

**Panel II - TIME**

**Yuri Di Liberto  
Processes Without Subjects:  
On Scale as Suspicion**

**Jasmine Pisapia  
Of Dust, Volcanoes, and Death:  
Timescales of Disaster and the Everyday**

**Kirill Chepurin  
Earth as Cemetery:  
A View from Outer Space**

**14:00 – 15:30**

**Tuesday  
7 October 2025**

**Panel III - FORM**

**Angelica Stathopoulos  
A Grammar of Diminution  
(the I, the i, the eye, the Ei)**

**Nicolas Helm-Grovas  
'Ignoring all this...':  
Notes on Stephen Heath and Metalanguage**

**Verónica Stedile Luna  
Page as Margin / Book as Performance:  
Reduction and Expansion in  
Editorial Procedures**

**15:30 – 16:00**

**Coffee Break**

**16:00 – 17:30**

**Panel IV - SPIRIT**

**Franco Costantini  
Poetry at the Edge of the Universe:  
The Collapse of Scales in the Empyrean**

**José Antonio Magalhães  
Intelligence and Spirits:  
Prometheanism and Perspectivism  
in the Geopolitics of Mind**

**Magdalena Krysztoforska  
The Measure of Generality:  
On the Politics of Scale in AI Model Evaluation**

**17:30 – 18:00**

**Coffee Break**

**18:00 – 19:00**

**Wrap up**