

RADICAL FUTURES - IMAGINING THE MEDIA OF TOMORROW

SYMPOSIUM

March 20-21, 2021
VIRTUAL

The symposium brings together researchers from Germany and the US to discuss both the future of media and form(at)s of imagination/imaginaries in the 21st century. Central to the discussion is the role of knowledge of the future for the imagination of digital media in a variety of potential social contexts. How can our imagination contribute to knowing the future? Which kinds of imaginaries do we consult for this purpose? Whose imagination/imaginaries receive(s) a voice? What past imaginations/imaginaries have infused the present today? What diverse digital media can we conjure up for futures that may not reflect who we are today? What truths are available today that inform realities to come?

The symposium is inspired by the publication of *Media Futures. Theory and Aesthetics*, co-authored by Christoph Ernst and Jens Schröter (2021, forthcoming from Palgrave Macmillan); and by the translation of Vilém Flusser's (retro)futuristic *What If? 22 Scenarios in Search of Images* (foreword by Kenneth Goldsmith, translated by Anke Finger and Kenneth Kronenberg) that is also part of *Greenhouse Studios*.

The symposium will take the books, among other materials, as incentives to explore questions related to our current notion of digital media as "future media," future cultures of truth, and the imagination of technologies for social change. Topics include ubiquitous computing, artificial intelligence, quantum computers, science fiction, social media, interfaces, retro-futurism, radical imagination and more; and we seek to debate ideas from different fields such as media theory, science & technology studies, Afrofuturism and critical futures studies.

Sponsored by
University of Connecticut Humanities Institute (UCHI)
Digital Humanities and Media Studies (DHMS)
Future of Truth

Organized by
Anke Finger (University of Connecticut)
Christoph Ernst (University of Bonn)

Register at
<https://futureoftruth.uconn.edu/conferences-and-speakers/radical-futures-symposium/#>



SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

Welcome and Introduction: 9:00–9:15
with Michael P. Lynch, Anke Finger, and Christoph Ernst

Panel 1: 9:15–11:00
(chaired by Yohei Igarashi)

M87: Can you Take a Picture of a Black Hole?
John Durham Peters

Crossing Rhetorics
Gabriel Morrison

Future Filters: Allergies and Media
Immunology in Nnedi Okorafor's *'Mother of Invention'*
Melody Jue

Panel 2: 11:00–12:30
(chaired by Santiago Muñoz-Arbeláez)

Embodied Rhetoric and the Fantastical
Virginia Kuhn

There Are Black People in the Future
Dexter Gabriel/P. Djéli Clark

What If? Into the Slipstream of Visions Passed
Anke Finger

Round Table: 13:30–14:30
With guest Kenneth Goldsmith

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

Panel 1: 9:00–10:30
(chaired by Dominik Maeder)

Forecasting with Quantum Mediations
–or–Manipulating the Congress of Ghosts
Jacqueline Wernimont

Imagining Quantum Computers as Media Technologies
Christoph Ernst/Jens Schröter

Interrogating the Avatar Dream
D. Fox Harrell

Panel 2: 11:00–12:30
(chaired by Katerina Krtilova)

Black Utopia as Future Method
Alex Zamalin

Resilient Natures
Orit Halpern

FlusserVision: Imagining Flusser's Tomorrow
Greenhouse Studios

Round Table: 13:30–14:30
Concluding discussion



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