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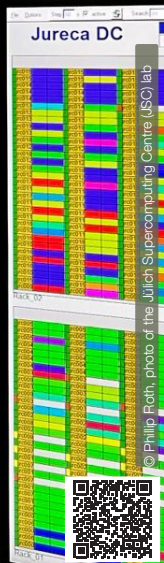
Käte Hamburger Kolleg
Cultures of Research

RWTH AACHEN UNIVERSITY

“Cultures of Research” International Conference

March 25 to 27, 2025

Forum M, Buchkremerstraße 1-7, 52062 Aachen



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Program

Tuesday, 25th	
09:00	Welcome and Introduction (Gabriele Gramelsberger, Stefan Böschen)
09:15-10:15	Panel 1 “Historicizing Science” (chair: Dawid Kasprowicz) **Hans-Jörg Rheinberger**: “Historicizing Epistemology”
Coffee break	
10:30-12:00	Panel 1 “Historicizing Science” (cont.) • **Arianna Borrelli**: “Historicizing Concepts” • **Carsten Reinhardt**: “The Residual Uncertainty of Historicizing Science” • **Roland Wittje**: “Postcolonial reflections: Practicing History of Science and Technology at IIT Madras” • **Benjamin Peters**: “The Binaries of AI History: Zero, One, Many?” (Zoom)

Lunch	
13:00-14:00	Panel 2 “Dealing with Complexity” (chair: Arianna Borrelli) **Mary Morgan**: “Models and their Scales: From Simplicity to Complexity”
Coffee break	
14:15-15:30	Panel 2 “Dealing with Complexity” (cont.) • **Erica Onnis**: “Which Metaphysics of Emergence for a Metaphysics of Complexity?“ • **Jan C. Schmidt**: “Complexity – Against the Control Obsession in Modernity” • **Hadeel Naeem**: “AI and the Complexity of Pain” • **Ehsan Nabavi**: “AI and the Systems Complexity Imaginary in Water Modelling”

Coffee break	
16:00-17:45	Panel 3 “Lifelikeness” (chair: Phillip Roth) • **Denisa Butnaru**: “Improper Copies: On Anarchic Phantasies of Outliving” • **Joffrey Becker**: “Robots, AIs and the Domains of Likeness” • **Jianqing Chen**: “The Chip-as-Brain Analogy in Smartphone Photography” • **Hans Ekkehard Plesser**: “Some Observations on Life(un)Likeness of Learning in Neural Networks”
Break	
18:00-20:00	Evening Keynote Lecture (chair: Gabriele Gramelsberger) **Ad Aertsen**: “40 Years of Computational Neuroscience” **Afterwards: Reception (finger food)**

Wednesday, 26th	
09:00-10:15	Panel 4 “Digitalization of Science” (chair: Gabriele Gramelsberger) **Franck Varenne**: “The Changing Roles of Parsimony in Complex Agent-Based Models”
Coffee break	
10:30-12:00	Panel 4 “Digitalization of Science” (cont.) • **Markus Pantsar**: “The Future of Mathematicians, Human and Artificial” • **Fernando Pasquini Santos**: “Orality as an Usability Paradigm in AI-Supported Scientific Research” • **Marcus Carrier**: “Learning to Fold: Artificial Neural Networks and Protein Folding in the 1990s” • **Alexandre Hocquet**: “And the Winner is… AlphaFold!”

Lunch	
13:00-14:00	Panel 5 “Varieties of Science” (chair: Stefan Böschen) **Alfred Nordmann**: “Science, Technoscience, Engineering Science as A Vocation”
Coffee break	
14:15-15:30	Panel 5 “Varieties of Science” (cont.) • **Svitlana Shcherbak**: “Towards a Political Epistemology of Conservative Modernization” • **Nelson Casimiro Zavale**: “Can or Will Africa Become a Knowledge Society by 2063? Challenges Faced by Higher Education and Science Systems in Africa and the Role of Higher Education and Science Studies” • **Matthew Eisler**: “Green Work, Environmental Knowledge, and Ecological Thinking”

Coffee break	
16:00-18:00	Panel 6 “Freedom of Research” (chair: Jana Hambitzer) **Frederik Stjernfelt**: “Different Challenges to Freedom of Research” **Steve Fuller**: “Is Freedom of Research a Guild Right of Academics or a Generalized Right in Society?”
18:00	**Conference dinner**

Thursday, 27th	
09:00-10:15	Panel 7 “Expanded STS” & Euregio (chair: Stefan Böschen) • **Catharina Landström**: “From Participatory Modeling to an STS Perspective on Software Crossing from Science to Society” • **René von Schomberg**: “Trust in Science for Policy Ecosystems” • **Pierre Delvenne**: “Expanding STS Towards Political Economy: Technoscience, Capitalism and the Valuation of Living Things”
Coffee break	
10:30-12:00	Panel 7 “Expanded STS” & Euregio (cont.) • **Daniela Wentz**: “Rewriting Protocols: STS as Intervention” • **Bart Penders**: “(Inter)National Reforms in Science” • **Harro van Lente**: “STS as a Platform”

Lunch	
13:00-14:30	Panel 8 “Art and Research” (chair: Ana María Guzmán Olmos) • **Amanda Boetzkes**: “Urani? Naamik! No to U commodities, GGG and the New ASX, ETM!” • **Kyveli Mavrokordopoulou**: “'Atomize Racism, not the Pacific:' Oceanic Nuclear Resistance circa 1980” • **Nathalia Lavigne**: “Infinite conversation: Eduardo Kac’s dialogical art expanded in time and space"
Coffee break	
14:45-15:30	Panel 8 “Art and Research” (cont.) • **Masahiko Hara**: “Science-Art Installation Experiment: Mattering Living and Non-Living Systems” • **Nikita Braguinski**: “Listening to Data: Streaming and the Future of Musicology”
Coffee break	
16:00	Departure

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The Conference

The international conference “Cultures of Research” takes stock of the first four years of the fellow program at the Käte Hamburger Kolleg: Cultures of Research (c:o/re), the international Center for Advanced Studies in History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science and Technology at RWTH Aachen University. During these years, more than fifty international fellows came to c:o/re to explore the transformation of research in its many facets. Topics such as the digitalization of science, the growing influence of AI on research practices, the organizational transformations in science, the “engineering of science”, and the historical as well as intercultural comparison of “varieties of science” have been widely discussed.

The international conference “Cultures of Research” will focus the discussions on these topics in various panels with current and alumni fellows as well as with members of the scientific advisory board of c:o/re.

Contact

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