



DIS/APPEARING

International Conference

May 27 – 29, 2015

Charles University, Prague



Internationales Kolleg für
Kulturtechnikforschung und
Medienphilosophie



FACULTY OF ARTS
CHARLES UNIVERSITY
IN PRAGUE

Bauhaus-Universität
Weimar

GEFÖRDERT VON



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

PROGRAM

Wednesday, May 27

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| KEYNOTE 04:30 pm, Karolinum | Georges Didi-Huberman <small>Paris</small> Que ce qui apparaît seulement s'aperçoit. <small>In English.</small> |
| 07:00 pm | Welcome Reception |

Thursday, May 28

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| PANEL I 10:00 am – 01:30 pm Karolinum | Bettine Menke <small>Erfurt</small> Appearing and Exiting, Stage and Offstage. |
| Chair: Karel Thein <small>Prague</small> | Josef Vojvodík <small>Prague</small> «That which has disappeared <returns> »: On the Mediality of Grief. |
| | Coffee Break |
| | Jacques Aumont <small>Paris</small> Forgetfulness at Work: Film as a Site of Oblivion. |
| | Discussion |
| 01:30 pm – 03:00 pm | Lunch |
| PANEL II 03:00 pm – 06:30 pm Karolinum | James Elkins <small>Chicago</small> Managing the Limits of Representation. |
| Chair: Zdeňka Kalnická <small>Ostrava</small> | Wolfgang Struck <small>Erfurt</small> Fallen out of the World: A Geographical Fantasy. |
| | Coffee Break |
| | Astrid Lindenlauf <small>Bryn Mawr</small> Good Riddance to Bad Rubbish: The Disposal of Unwanted Objects in Ancient Greece. |
| | Discussion |

Friday, May 29

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| PANEL III 10:00 am – 01:30 pm Karolinum | Miroslav Petříček <small>Prague</small> Trembling of the Non-identical in Appearing. |
| Chair: Kateřina Krtilová <small>Weimar</small> | Dieter Mersch <small>Zürich</small> Operativity, Ontologies, Speculations. |
| | Coffee Break |
| | Mark Hansen <small>Durham</small> On the Primacy of Dis-Appearance: The Operative Ontologies of Topological Media. |
| | Discussion |
| 01:30 pm – 03:00 pm | Lunch |
| PANEL IV 03:00 pm – 06:30 pm Karolinum | Matthew Solomon <small>Ann Arbor</small> Méliès and the Materiality of Modern Magic. |
| Chair: Martin Pokorný <small>Prague</small> | Akira Mizuta Lippit <small>Los Angeles</small> Disapparition: On Phantom Departures. |
| | Coffee Break |
| | Claudia Blümle <small>Berlin</small> Behind the Curtain: Dis/Appearing in Surrealist Art. |
| | Discussion |
| FILM SCREENING 08:00 pm Ponrepo | Introduction: Lucie Česálková <small>National Film Archive, Prague</small> |
| | Bill Morrison <small>New York</small> Decasia (67', 2002) |
| 10:00 pm | Closing Remarks + Wine & Cheese |

DIS/APPEARING

Western philosophy and culture in general have, as it were, always been more concerned with appearance than with disappearance: aesthetic, epistemic, religious, or technical practices are supposed to make something appear and thus intelligible, perceptible, or imaginable. This bias parallels the ontological preference given to coming into being and becoming present by neglecting the processes of disintegration, dissolution, and destabilization of formations and relations. This notwithstanding, disappearing has always kept a somewhat less apparent, but highly important, key place in Western thought. Religious and political institutions and logics have always worked on making anything (including, in the case of totalitarian regimes, people) that formed a contradiction disappear. Nevertheless, references to disappearance within the humanities are traditionally accompanied by the restorative rhetoric of loss and endangerment. The conditions of highly technological media societies were especially too easily held responsible for dramatic disappearances (of body, reality, distance, etc.), virtualization, and dematerialization.

The conference will examine disappearing and its relationship to appearing by drawing on the concept of «operative ontologies». Leaving behind a concept of being as a primordial and reliable ontological realm, «operative ontologies» seek to document and unfold different «modes of existence», «ontological regimes», or «dispositions of being» (Haudricourt, Viveiros de Castro, Descola, Latour following Souriau). In dialogue with plural and regional ontologies, the concept focuses on the media technological constitution of the relation of humans and things: neither subjects nor objects are understood as essential entities given in advance and as a *basis* of relations, but rather as metastable *results* of generative operations which produce realities, distinctions, collectives, and realms of being in the first place (all of which we wish to address as «media»).

Drawing on «operative ontologies», the conference aims to explore two concrete operations: appearing and disappearing, with particular regard to the second. In line with the pluralization of beings, it is necessary to investigate different modes of going out of existence and out of sight and, thus, to investigate the ontological and aesthetic dimensions of disappearing. Obviously, disappearing can be a matter of passing, of destruction, as well as a matter of becoming invisible or infinitesimally small, of hiding, banishment, or of displacement. It is thus virtually impossible to think of both operations as independent from each other. Both are characterized by a liminality, raising questions of temporality as well as spatiality: Where does something disappear to and from where does it appear? Does dis/appearance unfold gradually, suddenly, or tiltingly?

SPEAKERS

Jacques Aumont
Claudia Blümle
Georges Didi-Huberman
James Elkins
Mark B. N. Hansen
Astrid Lindenlauf
Akira Mizuta Lippit
Bettine Menke
Dieter Mersch
Bill Morrison
Miroslav Petříček
Matthew Solomon
Wolfgang Struck
Josef Vojvodík

CONFERENCE VENUES

Karolinum, Patriotic Hall
Ovocný trh 3–5
Praha 1, 116 36

Kino PONREPO
Bartolomějská 11
Praha 1, 110 00

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