

## Workshop CRITICAL TIMES Part II: Ecologies of Relation

### CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Date and Location: April 11 – 13, 2024,  
"Buitenplaats Brienoord" (Van Brienoord 5, NL-3077 AE Rotterdam, <https://www.buitenplaatsbrienoord.nl/>).

Organized by Christoph Brunner, (Erasmus School of Philosophy, Rotterdam University), Rahel Kesselring, Robert Stock ("Matters of Activity" / Department of Cultural History and Theory, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin).

Rotterdam-Team: Shanti Ganesh (independent scholar, Rotterdam), Claire Tio and Sander Tuns (Erasmus School of Philosophy, Rotterdam University)

We invite Post-Doc's, PhD's and advanced MA students from the humanities, social science as well as arts and design to engage with us in a discussion about critical times and materialities, postcolonial and posthuman critique, non-European perspectives, and notions of "deep time" of materialities.

**CRITICAL TIMES. Part II: Ecologies of Relation** unfolds a critical conversation, contesting linear conceptions of time, reductionist notions of materiality, and teleological solutionism, by focusing on ecologies and relations. Either term, ecology and relation, has received much attention over the last decade, especially in the arts, design, and humanities. Both emphasize the intersection of different domains of knowledge, media and practice in order to understand and navigate the challenges of an increasingly complex present. We aim to critically address and resituate the multi-faceted dimensions of both through in-depth and creative formats. Thereby, we continue a discussion initiated with the first iteration of the workshop — *Critical Times. Part I: Multiple Matter*. It took place in Berlin on November 17+18, 2023 and explored temporality in relation to active matter and the Anthropocene thesis resonating through urban settings, activist-arts interventions and scarce materials. The upcoming workshop will follow the same format as the first part with four inputs by invited contributors but will also include a third day to collectively reflect and envision potential forms and formats for continuation.

The workshop **CRITICAL TIMES. Part II: Ecologies of Relation** takes place from April 11 — 13, 2024 at "Buitenplaats Brienoord" in Rotterdam. We envision formats that are unconventional, playful and non-hierarchical and hopefully undermine classic forms of representation and knowledge consumption. We ask our invited contributors to facilitate experimental situations in order to take time and practice together. Accordingly, the event will unfold into four sessions of approximately four hours and includes the sharing of food, moments of rest and hopefully deep engagement and laughter.

**APPLICATION** We warmly invite you to participate in the workshop. To attend, please send your short CV and a brief expression of interest — max. 250 words — to [criticaltimes.MoA@gmail.com](mailto:criticaltimes.MoA@gmail.com) **by February 29, 2024.**

**CONTACT:**

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## INVITED CONTRIBUTORS:

### LARA ALMARCEGUI

The works that Lara Almarcegui has been developing over the course of nearly twenty years are situated at the border between urban renewal and urban decay, and make visible what tends to escape general notice. On the one hand, Almarcegui focuses her attention on abandoned spaces and structures in the process of transformation; on the other, she investigates the different connections that can be established between architecture and the urban order. The work of Lara Almarcegui poses questions about the current state of the construction, development, use, and decay of spaces that are apparently peripheral to the city. In her large-scale projects she provokes a dialogue between the different elements that make up the physical reality of the urban landscape, in its constant transformation through demolitions, excavations, construction materials, and contemporary ruins.

### MARTINO MORANDI

Martino Morandi works at the intersections between art, technology and politics. His interests and projects revolve around the material conditions of technologies and their genealogies, using non-hegemonic paradigms like conviviality, semi-efficiency, dys-functioning. He graduated in Graphic Design from the Gerrit Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam (BA, 2011). He collaborates with LAG in Amsterdam and Constant VZW in Brussels.

### RAPTI SIRIWARDANE-DE ZOYSA

Rapti Siriwardane-de Zoysa is an environmental anthropologist and cultural geographer, with a formative background in literature and theater studies. Much of her work lies at the intersection of political ecology, critical ocean and urban studies. At ZMT, she presently serves as co-principal investigator of the project *Towards Blue Urbanism for Sea Level Change Adaptation: Global Trajectories and Speculative Futuring in Island Southeast Asia (BlueUrban)* together with Dr. Johannes Herbeck (artec Sustainability Research Center, University of Bremen). Before, she was an adjunct lecturer with the Department of Anthropology and Cultural Studies as well as the Institute for Sociology (IFS). Prior to academia, she has had a background in international development serving at the CGIAR-WorldFish HQ (Penang), the Alola Foundation (Timor-Leste), the National Youth Council (Singapore), and the UNFCCC Secretariat (Bonn), among others.

### FEMKE SNELTING

Femke Snelling develops projects at the intersection of design, feminisms and free software. In various constellations she has been exploring how digital tools and practices might co-construct each other. She is member of Constant, a non-profit, artist-run association for art and media based in Brussels (since 2003). Since 1997, Constant generates performative publishing, curatorial processes, poetic software, experimental research and educational prototypes in local and international contexts. With Jara Rocha she activates Possible Bodies, a collective research to interrogate the concrete and at the same time fictional entities of bodies in the context of volumetric technologies. With the Underground Division (Helen Pritchard and Jara Rocha), she studies the computational imaginations of rock formations. She co-initiated the design/research team Open Source Publishing (OSP) and formed De Geuzen, a foundation for multi-visual research, with Renée Turner and Riek Sijbring. Femke teaches at the Piet Zwart Institute (experimental publishing, Rotterdam) and a.pass (advanced performance and scenography studies, Brussels).