

W.H A:T T:I M:E I:S I:T

TECHNOLOGIES OF LIFE IN THE CONTEMPORARY

14th - 16th December, 2017
Sarai-CSDS, Delhi and Goethe-Institut/
Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi

#whattimeisit

Have we finally entered the End of History? (e-flux, Journal #57, Sept 2014). Recent media technological transformations have thrown into confusion many existing political and social theories: art, media philosophy, politics, biology — in fact all ideas of life presented in the last century. Are these the jumbled signs of 'our' contemporaneity? The idea of the contemporary has been around for a few decades, seen variously as a period, a critical gesture, and a disciplinary frame for literature and art. We believe the time is right to revisit the idea of the contemporary from a different lens, outside the closeted frameworks of a Euro-American debate where contemporaneity appears as an unstable successor to modernity and postmodernity.

In the past decade we have seen the worldwide spread of media and information networks. Since value is now gained from experience, new corporations and political parties deploy strategies of agglomeration

using digital media technologies. Growing computational grids inaugurate storage and surveillance technologies that are affecting fields like the environment, finance and law. Machine time disturbs historical continuity and sequence. Genetic engineering and life storage technologies disrupt the idea of the biological life span. Media memory and recording technologies have transformed the lives of mobile phone users in the world. Media-enabled populations in Asia, Africa and Latin America are now part of a new infrastructure of the senses.

Since 2000, digital infrastructures have produced a new generation of art and media practitioners. Like the West, capitalist enterprises in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are facing new challenges and opportunities with informational networks. Like everywhere, such transformations have set in motion a sense of indeterminacy and flux, providing opportunities, shadow zones, and critical discourses.

This conference seeks to explore experience from the vantage point of these media-informational transformations. We will be debating art practice, cultural theory, media aesthetics, social theory, forensics, urbanism, and the landscape of the political. Time horizons, and its philosophies, are a major concern of the conference as we seek to displace the idea of the contemporary as (just) a 'present' without limits.

Conference Conveners:
Ravi Sundaram, Ravi Vasudevan (Sarai, CSDS) + Raqs Media Collective (Monica Narula, Jeebesh Bagchi, and Shuddhabrata Sengupta)

Sarai-CSDS is a part of the Leverhulme International Network for Contemporary Studies (LINCS). This conference is supported by the Leverhulme Trust and the Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, New Delhi.

PROGRAMME

Day One :

14th December, Thursday, 2017
@ Sarai-CSDS, 29 Rajpur Road, Delhi

Landscapes of the Digital

11:00 AM Tea

11:30 AM

Introduction I

Ravi Sundaram with
Leverhulme Network Partners

Introduction II

Conference Conveners

12:00 Noon

The "Smart" Mandate: Infrastructure, Responsive Environments, and "Preemptive Hope"

Orit Halpern, Concordia
University, Montreal
Interlocutor: Ravi Sundaram,
Sarai-CSDS, Delhi

1:00 PM Lunch

02:00 PM

Video and Post-Cinema

Mochu, Artist, Chennai
Pallavi Paul, Artist, Delhi
Lantian Xie, Artist, Dubai
Interlocutor: Monica Narula,
Raqs Media Collective, Delhi

3:30 PM Tea

4:00 PM

The Missing Pistol: Notes on Impossible Museological Objects in Palestine

Lara Khaldi, Curator, Jerusalem
Interlocutor: Santhosh Sadanandan,
School of Culture and Creative
Expressions, Ambedkar University

5:00 PM

Al is Full of Love: Human-Machine Libidinal Transference & the Automation of Love

Mohammad Salemy, The
New Centre for Research &
Practice, New York
Interlocutor: Shuddhabrata Sengupta,
Raqs Media Collective, Delhi

6:00 PM Tea

6:30 PM

Liquid Traces: The Left-to-Die Boat Case, 17 min, 2014

Directed by Charles Heller and
Lorenzo Pezzani

Day Two :

15th December, Friday, 2017
@ Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller
Bhavan, Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi

Unstable Archives

10:00 AM Tea

10:30 AM

Welcome

Leonhard Emmerling,
Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller
Bhavan, New Delhi

Introduction

Conference Conveners

11:00 AM

Technics and Forensics

Susan Schuppli, Centre for
Research Architecture, Goldsmiths,
University of London
Lorenzo Pezzani, Goldsmiths,
University of London
Interlocutor: Ravi Vasudevan,
Sarai-CSDS, Delhi

12:30 PM

After 'Jukti, Takko ar Gappo': Across the Burning Track

Moinak Biswas, Department of Film
Studies, Jadavpur University
Interlocutor: Ashish Rajadhyaksha,
Centre for the Study of Culture and
Society, Bangalore

1:30 PM Lunch

2:30 PM

Performance

Speech Acts for Two Screenings

Lantian Xie, Artist, Dubai
Interruption: Raqs Media
Collective, Delhi

3:30 PM Tea

4:00 PM

The Archive Object

Michelle Wong, Researcher and
Curator, Asia Art Archive,
Hong Kong
Venkat Srinivasan, Archivist and
Scientist, National Centre for
Biological Sciences, Bangalore
Sabih Ahmed, Archivist and
Curator, Delhi
Interlocutor: Jeebesh Bagchi, Raqs
Media Collective, Delhi

5:30 PM

Five Gardens

Introduction to the pavilion by Samir
Raut, Architect, Mumbai
Interlocutor: Rupali Gupte, School of
Environment and Architecture, Mumbai

Sound Work in the pavilion by Ish S
and DiFFuSed Beats

6:30 PM

Public Lecture Medium Design

Keller Easterling, School of
Architecture, Yale University

Day Three :

16th December, Saturday, 2017
@ Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller
Bhavan, Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi

Aesthetics and Politics

10:15 AM Tea

10:45 AM

Introduction

Conference Conveners

11:00 AM

Spectre of the Political

Ravi Vasudevan, Sarai-CSDS, Delhi
Prathama Banerjee, Centre for the
Study of Developing Societies, Delhi
Santhosh Sadanandan, School of
Culture and Creative Expressions,
Ambedkar University
Interlocutor: Shohini Ghosh, AJK
Mass Communication Research
Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia

1:00 PM Lunch

2:00 PM

Money, Media, Space

Aarti Sethi, Watson Institute,
Brown University
Prasad Shetty, School of Environment
and Architecture, Mumbai
Liu Tian, Curator, China Academy
of Art, Hangzhou
Interlocutor: Sumandro
Chattapadhyay, Centre for Internet
and Society, Bangalore

4:00 PM Tea

4:30 PM

Cinema as a Migratory Form

May Adadol Ingawanij, University of
Westminster, London
Ashish Rajadhyaksha, Centre for the
Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore
Interlocutor: Ranjani Mazumdar,
School of Arts and Aesthetics,
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Closing Note: Conference
Conveners

6:30 PM

Two Screen, The Return of Tipoo's Tiger

Raqs Media Collective, Delhi

7:00 PM Tea

7:30 - 9:00 PM

A Listening Experience Time Horizons and Sonic Worlds

Berno Odo Polzer, Berliner
Festspiele-MaerZmusik (Festival for
Time Issues), Berlin
Introduced by Leonhard Emmerling,
Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller
Bhavan, New Delhi

Sarai is a program of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi. Sarai was initiated by Ravi Sundaram, Ravi Vasudevan, Monica Narula, Jeebesh Bagchi, and Shuddhabrata Sengupta in 2000.

Raqs Media Collective is a contemporary arts and curatorial practice based in Delhi.

The Leverhulme International Network for Contemporary Studies (LINCS) includes the University of Quebec at Montreal, Glasgow School of Art, University of Paris 8, Sarai-CSDS and University of St Andrews.

For queries, write to us at: contemporaryconference2017@gmail.com

Public Transport Metro Lines:
Sarai-CSDS: Civil Lines
Goethe Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan: Barakhamba Road