

Minotsu.

EmpOURment Conference
- our brave space -

- 10:00 Arriving with coffee and snacks
- 11:00 Kick-Off & Welcome
- 11:10 Keynote: Entanglement through disentanglement
- 11:30 Get-together with our Awareness Team
- 12:00 Lecture + QA: Spaces of Liberation
- 13:00 Lunch Break
- 14:00 Workshops
- 17:00 Coffee break
- 17:30 Open Stage
- 19:00 Official end, get-together in the club afterwards with music

10:00

Arriving with coffee and snacks

11:00

Kick-Off & Welcome

Jamila Al-Yousef, Melanelle B. C. Hémêfa

11:10

Entanglement through disentanglement

Melanelle B. C. Hémêfa [D]

11:30

Get together with our Awareness Team

Josephine "Pepita" Niang, Serkan Ünsal [D]

Awareness means paying attention to each other and creating a space together in which different people with different experiences can feel comfortable. For this, it is necessary that we constantly sensitize ourselves to certain issues in order to recognize boundaries and consciously perceive discrimination and power structures. At Minotsu we want to support you in creating a safer space, where we learn together to listen and redistribute capacities and resources.

12:00

Lecture + QA: Spaces of Liberation

Sinthujan Varatharajah [D]

13:00

Lunch Break

14:00 – 17:00

Three parallel workshops

1. temporal slip resistance

Ayodamola Okunseinde [ENG]

The tension between the lived experience of time and the hegemonic imposition of the Western time construct gives rise to oppressive time structures in which individuals and communities must contend. Communities of color and non-conformists most often bear the brunt of such oppression to the point of facing temporal extinction. Using Charles W. Mills's formulation of White Time, a time that manifests itself as the nominally timeless ideal to the exclusion of non-white temporalities, this workshop seeks to contest the modern temporal framework that is predicated on colonial, racialized, and capitalist legacies. Through a series of speculative design performance-based activities, workshop participants are led through Afrofuturist conceptions and manifestations of time to emerge as temporal resistance agents battling against epistemic erasure.

2. HOLODECK OF HEAVENLY BODIES

Deep Space Worldbuilding

Empowerment Workshop

Promona Sengupta [ENG]

In many many science fiction books, films, and other cultural artefacts, we see many different kinds of spaceships, exploring worlds beyond human comprehension and reach, and carrying cutting edge technologies of the future. Many of these ships house a particular room called "holodeck", a place where cosmonauts of deep space can imagine and manifest anything that they desire, and experience it while being so far away from their home planets -- foods from home, environments of comfort, sexual encounters with partners of choice etc. The holodeck is a way for science fiction writers and filmmakers to insert their own creative process into their final works, referencing the sheer power of imagination to give us the life that we desire and deserve. In this workshop, we will take our collective experiences of distance, such as homesickness, migration, refugeehood, and co-create a holodeck through creative free writing, body movements and other forms of making and care. Through the creative practice of world-building, we will take a ride to the farthest corners of human imagination and reorient our neural pathways with the fruits of deep space travel.

3. Private bodies- forbidden stories

Dr. Maiada Aboud [ENG]

The workshop will address the following questions: How can personal pain, as an element of live performance, help in challenging cultural taboos and furthermore help in healing throughout the pedagogical course? How can artists' creative practice help with giving voice to personal pain? What memories do our bodies hold? What can our bodies tell us about ourselves, our past and our future? The participants will explore identities, belonging and embodied memories through diasporic, decolonial and queer perspectives. This workshop will focus on the relevance of sharing marginalized and queer experiences as devices for education. The autoethnography and embodied practices considered are analyzed through the lens of performance, culture, and race.

17:00

Coffee Break

17:30

Open Stage

Presented by: Jamila Al-Yousef [D/ENG]

This is a warm invite to participate in our Open Stage with an approx. 5-minute long artistic or discursive contribution. It can be related to the topics of our conference or to other topics close to your heart. E.g. it could be a poem, a video, a song or a presentation of your work, your projects, your artistic / activist fields of activity. We will provide a projector, laptop, internet, mics and sound. If you already know what exactly you need, please let us know in advance. We are also happy about your spontaneous participation. Nothing has to be prepared. For questions and technical needs please contact Jamila Al-Yousef: jamilaandtheotherheroes@gmail.com

19:00

Official ending & get-together in the club afterwards with music

Biographies

Melanelle B. C. Hémêfa (she/her) is a doctoral candidate, poetess, author, curator, speaker, moderator, and educational consultant. Melanelle addresses issues around anti-Black racism, Black feminism, postcolonialism, intersectionality, and empowerment from a scholarly, activist, intersectional, and emotional perspective. Melanelle loves words and words love Melanelle.

@ melanelle_

Jamila Al-Yousef (she/her) is a singer, festival curator, and anti racism & empowerment consultant from Berlin. She mainly works as a trainer and consultant in the field of Racism Critical Cultural Work and co-founded the Empowerment Network BaWü. With her psychedelic desert funk band JAMILA & THE OTHER HEROES, named after her Palestinian grandmother, she is singing about social injustice, empowerment and healing.

www.jamilaandtheheroes.com

@ jamilaandtheheroes

Josephine "Pepita" Niang is a speaker and works in projects around political education and low-threshold education about structural inequality and power relations. She focuses on anti-racism, postcolonial theories and intersectional and queerfeminist studies and on communicating these online and offline. Among other things, she is an author and part of the postmigrant and queerfeminist educational collective "erkär mir mal..." and a mentor for awareness work in cultural and club spaces.

@ erklaermirmal

@ emergentbass.bln

Serkan Ünsal is a political trainer, speaker and media educator. He develops projects at the intersections of digitality and education, tackling socio-political issues and structural power relations. As an editor, he is part of the postmigrant and queerfeminist education collective "erkär mir mal...". He also works as a coach in the context of diversity and awareness sensitization for cultural institutions and in club operations. His main topics are: migration and gender research, educational inequality and critical urban research.

@ erklaermirmal

@ serku.sh

Sinthujan Varatharajah சிந்துஜன் வரதராஜா is a political geographer and essayist who researches and writes on statelessness, spatiality, and geographies of (dis)power. In 2020, Varatharajah's exhibition "how to move an ark" was part of the 11th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art. Varatharajah's first book "to all the places that lie behind us" was published by Hanser Verlag in 2022.

@ varathas

Ayodamola Tanimowo Okunseinde (ayo) is a Nigerian-American artist, designer, educator, and time-traveler from New York. His works range from painting and speculative design to physically interactive works. He has exhibited and presented at the 11th Shanghai Biennale, 17th Venice Architecture Biennale or Brooklyn Museum. Okunseinde is currently a Ph.D. student in Anthropology at The New School for Social Research and Assistant Professor of Interaction and Media Design at Parsons School of Design.

www.ayo.io

@ ayoio

Captain Pro / Promona Sengupta holds a PhD and is an artist, academic, activist, and curator. Her creative practice engages with decolonial speculative imagination as a means for radical politics. She has shared her multidisciplinary creative practices at the Maxim Gorki Theater or at District Berlin. She is co-founder of the Berlin and Delhi-based progressive cultural-political pop-up Mo'Halla. She is committed to centering rest in the activist spaces.

@ promo_sapien

Maiada Abouds was born in Palestine (Arab Israeli), graduated from Haifa University and holds a PhD from Sheffield Hallam University, studying the ways in which social and religious structures are interconnected and affect the individual. With her performance art 'endurance art' she brings together culture with social life and decolonial perspective as well as identity and belongings.

www.maiadaaboud.com

@ maiada @ drmaiada