
panels
screenings
installations
debates
concerts
institut for x
aarhus
(re)
imAIgine
26. – 28.
november
CARLSBERG
FOUNDATION
DANMARKS FRIE
FORSKNINGSFOND
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
FUND DENMARK
AARHUS
UNIVERSITY

(re)imAIgine_
the festival

(re)imAIgine is a three-day public festival that explores how we imagine AI, and more importantly, how we can imagine it differently. It's a space to be critical of the boring and stifled stories of AI progress, and to coax out new sentiments that unsettle the fAIt accompli. Expect installation, video art, documentary, performance, workshop, music, lecture and debate about waste, politics, ecology and public interest in times of the AI imperative.

The festival explores three themes over three days: humans and environments, publics and politics, alternatives and detours.

All events take place at Institut for (X), Exners Plads 9, 8000 Aarhus C.

Free and open to all.

24+25/11
PRE WORKSHOP

DARC PhD/Research workshop

The DARC (Digital Aesthetics Research Centre, Aarhus) PhD/research workshops are a collaboration with transmediale festival, Berlin, since 2012. This year, the workshop takes place as part of the (re)imAIgine festival, Aarhus, under the theme of "Interstices: Research (in) the gaps" – which explores works that occupy and move through social, structural, ontological, and material gaps of computational cultures and infrastructures.

26/11
THURSDAY_ humans and environments

A - HOUSE

10.30 - 11.00 DOORS OPEN

11.00 - 11.15 WELCOME
by Nina Frahm, Kasper Schiølin, Santtu Räisänen (Aarhus University)

11.15 - 11.30 OPENING
Maja Horst (Dean of Arts, Aarhus University)

11.30 - 13.30 FORUM_ (re)imAIgine the subject

We create AI, and AI creates us. This forum explores the relationship between humans and AI, data and people, users and subjects – and asks how it can be imagined differently.

Hosted by Søren Riis (Roskilde University)

KEYNOTE
by Olga Goriunova (Humanities and Arts Research Institute, Royal Holloway University London): AI and the Meaning of Life

DISCUSSION
by Peter Danholt (Digital Design and Information Studies, Aarhus University)

DEBATE
with Søren Pold (Aarhus University), Marco dell'Oca (TRUSTED Collective, ETH Zurich), Frederic Schade (University of Copenhagen), Shuang Frost (Aarhus University)

13.30 - 15.00 BREAK

14.00 - 14.30

FILM SCREENING

Video essay "Metabolism of Techno-Financial Worlding"
by Andreu Belsunces Gonçalves

15.00 - 17.00

FORUM_ (re)imAIgine decay and wasting

AI slop is immaterial, but data centres are not. This forum asks what AI deposits, builds up, decays, and destroys both in our environment and culture.

Hosted by Santtu Räisänen (Aarhus University)

KEYNOTE
by Ulrike Felt (University of Vienna): What If AI Doesn't Rot? Innovation Residues and the Futures That Remain

KEYNOTE
by Gabriele de Seta (University of Bergen): AI slop is a viscous medium

DEBATE
with Gabriele de Seta, Ulrike Felt, Nanna Bonde Thylstrup (Copenhagen University), Pablo Velasco (Aarhus University)

17.00 - 17.15

BREAK

17.15 - 18.45

BOOK LAUNCH_ curating superintelligences

Curating Superintelligences: A Reader on AI and Future Curating (2025, Open Humanities Press) asks about the implications of "super-intelligences" for contemporary art and culture, and the new possibilities for curatorial practice and its future forms: What can the practice of curating learn from AI, and what can AI learn from curating?

Hosted by Magdalena Tyżlik-Carver (Aarhus University)

DISCUSSION
with Alasdair Milne (University of Glasgow and Edinburgh), Murad Khan (University of the Arts London), Olga Goriunova (Royal Holloway University London)

19.00 - 21.00

DRINKS_@Xbar

21.00 - 23.00

CONCERT_ axel harpoeth + inga bari

Axel Harpoeth plays a DIY-wearable-synth, dismantling the stage/audience-gap and bringing the audience and performer closer. Merging his body with technology, he explores our escalating, intimate relationship with technology. With an innate curiosity he explores the creative potential within the shortcomings of technology and uses it to express both human and technological vulnerabilities.

INGA BARI moves restlessly between UK garage, house, trance, ambient electronic music and post-club, and exists somewhere between ecstasy and unease, analogue nostalgia and digital alienation. Their sound sits where grey Scandinavian rave cynicism meets naive, bubbling grooves: raw, playful and uncompromising, with everything from club bangers to dusty rave meditations.

27/11

FRIDAY_ publics and politics

A - HOUSE

10.00 - 10.30 DOORS OPEN

10.30 - 11.00 WELCOME & OPENING
by Kasper Schiølin (Aarhus University) & Rasmus Frey (OS2)

11.00 - 13.00 FORUM_ (re)imAIgine the public interest

We should not serve AI, AI should serve us. This forum explores the role of publics, interests, and policies in the governance of AI, and asks how to rethink their power in the age of AI.

Hosted by Nina Frahm (Aarhus University)

KEYNOTE
by Theresa Züger (Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society): What if AI were designed to serve the public interest?

DISCUSSION
by Alan Irwin (Aarhus University)

DEBATE
with Mascha Gugganig (TU Munich), Rafael Bezerra Nunes (University of Vienna), Alexander Wentland (TU Munich), Niels Ørbæk Chemnitz (OS & Data)

13.00 - 14.00 BREAK

14.00 - 16.00 FORUM_ (re)imAIgine politics

If AI is political, what should be its politics? This forum explores where the politics of AI are located, how we are governed by them, and how we can contest them.

Hosted by Nina Frahm (Aarhus University)

KEYNOTE
by Louise Amoore (Durham University): Zero shot world: on a machine learning politics

DISCUSSION
by Asker Byrld Staunaes (Aarhus University)

DEBATE
with Nikolaus Pöchhacker (University of Graz), Tess Doezema (University of Vigo), Maja Hojer Bruun (Aarhus University), Vassilis Galanos (University of Stirling)

16.00 - 16.30 **BREAK**

16.30 - 17.30 **ARTIST TALK_ (re)imAIgine the future**

Science fiction doesn't just imagine the future—it helps build it. This artist talk with Nestor Siré and Steffen Köhn explores how speculative fiction becomes technological reality, and how speculative ethnography can reveal, inhabit, and contest the futures already taking shape around us.

Hosted by Kasper Schiølin (Aarhus University)

18.00 - 19.00 **SCREENING AND DIRECTORS TALK**

"Metabolism of Techno-Financial Worlding"
The speculative video essay "Metabolism of Techno-Financial Worlding" explores how the venture capital industry feeds on belief, uncertainty and hype to fabricate technological futures that gradually impose themselves upon the present. Meet its director Andreu Belsunces Gonçalves for a Q&A afterwards.

Hosted by Santtu Räisänen (Aarhus University)

19.00 - 02.00 **DRINKS_@xbar + DJ set**

DJ set by onesecafterthelaughter (Scotland)

28/11

SATURDAY_ alternatives and detours

A - HOUSE

9.00 - 10.00 **DOORS OPEN**

LOFT

10.00 - 13.00

WORKSHOP_ AI is accelerating – but do we know where we are headed?

In this workshop facilitated by Gejst Studio (Aarhus), participants work with diverse plausible AI futures and use materials to make them tangible: What does an ordinary Thursday in 2035 look like? How is AI present in everyday life? What feels easier, harder, meaningful, strange or risky? What role does human agency have in that future?

Hosted by Gejst Studio

Limited number of participants – first come, first serve.

13.00 - 13.30 **BREAK**

A-HOUSE

13.30 - 14.30

SESSION_(re)imAIgine creativity

ChatGPT is boring—but does AI have to be? This session looks beyond today's optimized, off-the-shelf chatbots to explore forgotten technological paths, alternative models, and creative experiments that might make AI strange, surprising, and poetic (again).

Hosted by Kasper Schiølin (Aarhus University)

DISCUSSION
with Malthe Stavning Erslev (Aarhus University) and Kristoffer Ørum (University of Copenhagen)

14.30 - 16.00

FORUM_ (re)imAIgine resistance

Can we organise us out of the machine? In this forum, we journey to Lolland, where we find the biggest data center site ever proposed in Denmark. We will get a glimpse of the infrastructural nodes across borders and landscapes it will depend on and impact if built. After ruminating in the complicities of the AI machine, we come back home to collectivise our confessions and aspirations at the AI resistance altar.

Hosted by Caroline Salling

DISCUSSION
with Caroline Salling (Roskilde University), Tomas Vlk (Kritik Digital), and Anne Katrine Hansen (Cybernauterne)

16.00 - 16.30 **BREAK**

16.30 - 18.00

SCREENING "Ulaṭbānsi | Zigzagging" & FORUM_(re)imAIgine knowledge

This forum challenges our conceptions of knowledge and how and where it is produced. Rather than locating knowledge in machines, we locate it in-between bodies, practices, materials, and performances. In the film "Ulaṭbānsi | Zigzagging" we learn from handloom weavers and musicians from India to foreground the entangled nature of knowledge in AI and beyond.

Hosted by Christian Ulrik Andersen (Aarhus University)

DEBATE
with Annapurna Mamidipudi (Handloom Futures Collective) and Lone Koefoed Hansen (Aarhus University)

18.00 - 18.30 **BREAK**

18.30 - 20.00

FORUM_(re)imAIgine sound

Is AI transforming the ways we produce and perceive sound for the better? In this forum, we explore sound as a relational phenomenon between humans and technical instruments and ask how the increasing uptake of AI changes the production, performance, and perception of sound and music.

Hosted by Mads Rosendahl Thomsen (Aarhus University)

DEBATE
with Nils Frahm, Marie Højlund (Aarhus University), and Elvira Brattico (Center for Music in the Brain, Aarhus University)

20.00 - 03.00

CLUB NIGHT__@xbar

DJ sets by 89Selene and my.sol (Aarhus)

26.-28.

INSTALLATIONS & SCREENINGS_info

INSTALLATIONS

DOCKETING THE AI-STATE: A MEMORIAL by Asker Bryld Staunæs

QUEER MOTTO API by Winnie Soon and Helen Pritchard

THE LINE OF FLIGHT by CROSSLUCID

ANATOMY OF AI, AFTER Crawford and Joler by Sofia Greaves, Estelle Luhoff and Ramis Örlü

THE NEXT BIENNIAL SHOULD BE CURATED BY A MACHINE (TNBSCBM) by Joasia Krysa and Leo Impett

BERTIFIER by Malthe Stavning Erslev

SCREENINGS

Metabolism of Techno-Financial Worlding by Andreu Belsunces Gonçalves

Ulaṭbānsi | Zigzagging by Handloom Futures Collective

MEMORIA by latency.club (Nestor Siré and Steffen Köhn)

imaginaries of existential risks_
the project

The festival is part of the research project Imaginaries of Existential Risks: Making, Governing and Contesting Humanity's Future. The project explores how artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly being portrayed by scientists, tech companies, policymakers and others as an "existential risk" that threatens the future of humanity and life as we know it. By examining who creates these imaginaries of the future, how they shape political decisions around the world, and how they are challenged and contested by social movements, the project raises important questions about who gets to imagine and define our collective future.

At the heart of the project is a concern that powerful visions of AI might leave little room for alternative perspectives, voices and possibilities. The (re)imAIgine festival takes this concern as its starting point, bringing together researchers, artists and the wider public to explore how imagining the future with (and perhaps without!) AI can become a more open, inclusive, and democratic endeavor.

The project is carried out at Aarhus University and is funded by the Independent Research Fund Denmark (DFF) and the festival is co-funded by generous support of the Carlsberg Foundation.

the team_
behind



Kasper Schiølin is an associate professor at Information Studies, Aarhus University, and the principal investigator of the project Imaginaries of Existential Risks. Before joining Aarhus University, he worked for many years a Harvard University's program for Science, Technology and Society.



Nina Frahm is postdoctoral researcher and Co-PI of the Imaginaries of Existential Risks project. Trained in Science, Technology & Society Studies, she works on the governance of technoscientific innovation across countries, institutions, and domains, including neurotechnology and AI.



Santtu Räisänen is a postdoctoral researcher. Before joining the project, he carried out his PhD research in STS and cultural studies at the Centre for Consumer Society Research, University of Helsinki, where he helped found the Datafied Life Collaboratory. He has researched technology builders and material politics, and has a particular interest in technoculture in the ambiguous space between consumer and citizen subjectivities.



Sophia Makrinius is an interdisciplinary cultural worker and research assistant in the project, with special responsibility for festival production and coordination. Trained in Urbanism at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, she now works at the intersection of urban sociology, community building and cultural production, with a focus on art and civic participation.

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