

A...kademie der bildenden Künste Wien

Graduate Conference 2025 / Graduiertenkonferenz 2025

15.5.2025, 9:30 – 16:00 h

Conference Room, Academy of Fine Arts, Schillerplatz 3, 1010 Vienna

/ Sitzungssaal, Akademie der bildenden Künste, Schillerplatz 3, 1010 Wien

The Conference will be held in English and German. Presentations are in the language in which the dissertation is written.

/ Die Konferenz wird auf Englisch und Deutsch abgehalten. Präsentationen sind jeweils in der Sprache, in der die Dissertation verfasst wird.

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Program / Programm

Start	Presentation / Präsentation
9:30 h	Welcome / Begrüßung Ingeborg Erhart, Vice-Rector for Art and Teaching
9:45 h	Tina Amerstorfer <i>Der Workshop im zeitgenössischen Tanz – Ein Entschreiben des Körpers?</i> Moderation: Larissa Mohr Discussant / Diskutant_in: Hamida Sivic
10:30 h	Claudia Sandoval Romero <i>De(s)colonial and Photographic approach to the Search for Contact Zones between the Periphery and Center in mumok's Collection and Exhibitions, 1998–2018</i> Moderation: Iris Julian Discussant / Diskutant_in: Laura Valentina Bohnenblust
11:10 h	Short break / Kurze Pause
11:20 h	Ruthia Jenrbekova <i>Actor-Network Theatre: A framework for studying the nonexistent</i> Moderation: Olia Sosnovskaya Discussant: Claudia Strate
12:05 h	Mariel Rodríguez <i>Mestizaje, Neoliberalism, and the Persistence of "Whiteness" in Mexico</i> Moderation: Ana de Almeida Discussant / Diskutant_in: Andrea Ancira
12:45 h	Lunch Break / Mittagspause
13:30 h	Miguel González Cabezas <i>Racial Enclosures in the Anti-State State. Racial Capitalism, Migration and Securitization.</i> Moderation: Ruby Jana Sircar Discussant / Diskutant_in: Diana Bulzan
14:15 h	Bahar Zamani <i>Mapping Otherness: Spirituality, Subjectivation, and Subtle Forms of Resistance in Postcolonial Contexts</i> Moderation: Giulia Gabrielli Discussant / Diskutant_in: Önder Özengi
14:55 h	Ana de Almeida <i>From the Shoebox to the Archive – A reflexion on the production of photographs in the 1974-1989 inter-revolutionary space between the Carnation and the Velvet Revolutions</i> Moderation: Mariel Rodríguez Discussant / Diskutant_in: Claudia Sandoval Romero
15:35 h	Final Words: Johan Hartle, Rector Academy of Fine Arts
15:40 h	Informal conclusion / Informeller Ausklang, Networking
16:00 h	End / Ende

Abstracts

Der Workshop im zeitgenössischen Tanz – Ein Entschreiben des Körpers?

von Tina Amerstorfer, Doktoratsstudium der Philosophie

Dissertationsbetreuer_in: Krassimira Kruschkova | Präsentation in Deutsch

Der zeitgenössische Tanz setzt sich selbst das ziellose Ziel, sich immer wieder neu zu entschreiben in einem sprachlichen und körperlichen Tanz auf der Grenze des Möglichen. Erst in seiner Aktualisierung wagt er, sich selbst für einen kurzen Moment vorzuschreiben, was er ist, und zeigt damit möglicherweise auch immer ein kleines bisschen von dem, was er war und deutet an, was er sein könnte. Wie könnte dieses Entschreiben des Körpers aussehen und welche Besonderheit weist das Workshop-Format auf, um dies zu ermöglichen?

De(s)colonial and Photographic approach to the Search for Contact Zones between the Periphery and Center in mumok's Collection and Exhibitions, 1998–2018

by Claudia Sandoval Romero, Doctor of Philosophy program

PhD Supervisor: Jens Kastner | Presentation in English

My contribution focuses on a de(s)colonial and photographic approach to the analysis of mumok's collection and exhibition program between 1998 and 2018, a decade on either side of the 2008 global economic collapse (Brown 2015, Temin 2010). In this period Museum moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig Wien - mumok acquired the work of two female artists from Latin America who use photography as their expressive medium (mumok 2018, 2019). This presentation frames their presence within the field theory (Araeen, Quemin, Bourdieu) from a gender critical perspective.

Actor-Network Theatre: Queer Life & Constructions of Artefacts

by Ruthia Jenrbekova, PhD in Practice program

PhD Supervisors: Anette Baldauf, and Renate Lorenz | Presentation in English

The presentation introduces a selection of the most intriguing parts of the PhD project under consideration. The first part is dedicated to the conceptual framework called 'Action-Network Theatre' in relation to its origins and the scope of applicability. The second part showcases the three main case studies of the PhD project, discussing how the proposed framework is used to examine the emergence of: an artist-run art space, a series of performative artworks, and a local theoretical discourse forming around the contemporary art scene in Kazakhstan.

Mestizaje, Neoliberalism, and the Persistence of "Whiteness" in Mexico

by Mariel Rodríguez, Doctor of Philosophy program

PhD Supervisor: Ruth Sonderegger | Presentation in English

This paper examines the evolving role of mestizaje in Mexico under neoliberal globalization. Once central to nation-building, state-led mestizaje discourses have been supplanted by market-driven identity formations and multiculturalist indigenism. Yet, mestizaje persists in culture and public memory, reinforcing privilege through racialized whiteness (*blanquitud*) —as a habitus required for participation in Modernity. Drawing on Bolívar Echeverría, this study argues that mestizaje remains a subtle mechanism of exclusion, sustaining racial hierarchies while obscuring them.

Racial Enclosures in the Anti-State State. Racial Capitalism, Migration and Securitization.

by Miguel González Cabezas, Doctor of Philosophy program

PhD Supervisor: Marina Gržinić | Presentation in English

In the paper I will focus on the final part of the dissertation, exploring the contradictory dynamics of global neoliberalism, racial enclosures as mechanisms of material and ideological exclusion, and the idea of the anti-state as a form of implementation of the neoliberal project.

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Mapping Otherness: Spirituality, Subjectivation, and Subtle Forms of Resistance in Postcolonial Contexts

by Bahar Zamani, Doctor of Philosophy program

PhD Supervisor: Ruth Sonderegger | Presentation in English

This project explores spirituality as subtle resistance, critiquing Western-centric activism and subjectivation processes. Examining Iran's 1979 revolution through Michel Foucault, Daryush Shayegan, and Ranajit Guha, this project highlights spiritual activism, cultural schizophrenia, and subaltern agency, proposing a global framework to rethink non-Western identity beyond Eurocentric narratives.

From the Shoebox to the Archive – A reflexion on the production of photographs in the 1974-1989 inter-revolutionary space between the Carnation and the Velvet Revolutions

by Ana de Almeida, Doctor of Philosophy program

PhD Supervisor: Sabeth Buchmann | Presentation in English

This dissertation accompanies the transformation of a collection of photos stored inside a shoebox into an archive where lived and transmitted experience is articulated with macro-political and historical processes. It has as its main source the amateur photos of José Alberto Vidal de Almeida, my father, a Portuguese scholarship holder student in the former Czechoslovakia between 1978 and 1987. The analysis of the archive allows a parallel following of the final years of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia and the first years after the left wing revolution in Portugal, in April 1974.

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Presenters / Vortragende

Tina Amerstorfer

Tina Amerstorfers Arbeit lokalisiert sich in der Exploration von Schreibprozessen und dem zeitgenössischen Tanz. 2019 schloss sie ihr Germanistik- und Philosophie-studium mit der Arbeit „Der Körper spricht: Natürliche Sprache und Tanz als körperbasierte Kommunikationsmedien im Vergleich“ ab. Seit 2022 schreibt sie an ihrer Dissertation und experimentiert darin und darüber hinaus in Tanz- und Schreib-workshops mit dem Dazwischen von Sprache und Körper.

Claudia Sandoval Romero

claudia* sandoval romero is an Austro-Colombian journalist, researcher and transdisciplinary artist. At the heart of sandoval romero's proposal is a critical reflection on archives and counter- archives, care work and the pursuit of epistemological justice within the contact zones. sandoval romero's work engages deeply with feminisms (*), horizontal pedagogies and practices of deScoloniality, driven by a commitment to expose power relations and open up spaces for erased voices to be heard. This approach to art is nurtured by the driving force of creating pedagogical spaces of horizontal exchange, contributing to the urgent debates around loss, mourning and restitution for women and non-binary people (*) of the Global South—voices systematically erased from the symbolic, economic and social fields. sandoval romero's practice spans photography, film/video and research, fusing sociological methods with collective creation. claudia* sandoval romero holds a Bachelor in Media and Journalism (University of Valle, Colombia), a Master in New Media Art (University of Sao Paulo, Brazil) and a Master in Critical Studies (Academy of Fine Arts Vienna). sandoval romero is currently pursuing her* PhD in the sociology of art, supported by the DOC Scholarship of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) until December 2024 and the Dissertation Completion Fellowship from January to June 2025.

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Ruthia Jenrbekova

Ruthia Jenrbekova is an artist and researcher from Almaty, Kazakhstan. She holds MA in ecology and works as an intermedial cultural organizer. Co-founder of Kreolex zentre. Fields of interest: queer ecology, material semiotics, arts-based methodologies, transfeminism.

Mariel Rodríguez

Mariel Rodríguez, visual artist, cultural scientist, and curator. Research focus: decolonial theory, critical race theory, gender studies, artistic research. Bachelor Studies in Cultural Studies at the Universidad de las Américas, Puebla (Mexico) and Master in Critical Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Between 2020 and 2024 university assistant for artistic research at the University of Arts and Design, Linz.

Miguel González Cabezas

Miguel González Cabezas, is an artist and currently a PhD candidate in Philosophy at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna where he also completed his MA. He has participated in international conferences and has contributed to books edited by Marina Gržinić: 'Border Thinking' published in 2018 by Sternberg Press and soon in the book 'Intersections of Conviviality: Voices from Communities' to be published by Cambridge Scholars.

Bahar Zamani

Bahar Zamani is a doctoral researcher in Art Theory and Cultural Studies at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, supervised by Prof. Dr. Ruth Sonderegger. Her research focuses on postcolonial theory and cultural studies, with professional experience teaching university courses on othering, subjectivation, and gender. She has also coordinated funded cultural projects and held editorial positions. Bahar has presented at international conferences, published academic works, and actively volunteers with institutions promoting intercultural dialogue and human rights advocacy.

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Ana de Almeida

Ana de Almeida is an artist and researcher living and working in Lisbon and Vienna. In her practice, de Almeida deals with individual and collective memory and processes of remembering from a socio-political perspective, with the intersection of family-narratives and macro-political events and with processes of privatization of history. She is a Doc-Team fellow of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, researcher at the Institute of Art Theory and Cultural Studies of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and lecturer at the University for Applied Arts Vienna.