

Aquatic complexities. Tourism, aesthetics and dis:connections

A workshop at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect

Commercial tourism brochures and posters paint a connective picture of holiday destinations. Images adorned with sun, beaches and the turquoise sea attract millions of travellers annually and fuel cultural exchange, the connection of remote places and job creation. This workshop will concentrate on commercial and non-commercial aesthetic works that reflect the tensions between water, the sea, rain – referents of the Latin aqua – and tourism. When dealing with water as the most important resource of tourism, whether fresh or salty, in natural or artificial basins, these works relate to complexities such as interruptions, pauses, frictions and absences that always go along with the connections that water-based tourism promotes.

This workshop welcomes thinkers and practitioners from art, design and architecture (history), cultural and literary studies to discuss the many ways in which aesthetic creations and designed environments surrounding water-based tourism visually comment, mediate and influence global dis:connections – past, present and future. Historical and contemporary visual works that treat water as an image, a material, medium, means, environment and eco-system can illuminate the ubiquitous but overshadowed interdependencies of global entanglements and disentanglements in tourism. The works reinterrogate the sensorial aspects of leisure design and the connections it generates between the mediated destinations and the consumers with regard to water-related dis:connections.

The workshop covers a wide range of aquatic complexities: we consider the rising sea level and the disappearance of many destinations, environments and cultures; infrastructures and tourist gazes that both connect and disconnect destinations and visitors; the global design of maritime architectures and bodies; ecological devastations due to the over-exploitation of water in tourism; islands, beaches, hotels and pools as sites of (im)mobility, social inclusion and exclusion, and of conflicts between local communities and global power structures.

By theorising on aquatic complexities as visualised in manifold aesthetic practices, genres and methods, this event fosters alternative ways to approach globalisation from the perspectives of the humanities and the arts while contributing to non-hegemonic art history.

Your participation is understood to imply consent to photographic and video recordings for internal purposes, scholarly communication and publicity.
Should you have any concerns, please contact Sophie Eisenried at sophie.eisenried@lmu.de.



Käte Hamburger
Research Centre
global dis:connect

Aquatic complexities

Tourism, aesthetics, and dis:connections

Concept and organisation:
Hanni Geiger



Please register by 6 September 2024:

<https://www.globaldisconnect.org/registration/>

A link will be sent for remote participation upon registration.

**11-12
September
2024**

Käte Hamburger
Research Centre
global dis:connect
LMU Munich

Maria-Theresia-Straße 21
81675 Munich
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Wednesday, 11. September 2024

16:30 Welcome and introduction

DESIGN TALK

17:00 **Ivica Mitrović** (Arts Academy, University of Split):
Adriatic: notes for the future
– Followed by a discussion moderated by Julian Stalter

18:30 Dinner

Thursday, 12 September 2024

MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURES AND THE TOURIST GAZE

Chair: Valeska Huber

9:00 **Jonathan Stafford** (The Leibnitz-Center for Literary and Cultural Research, ZfL, Berlin): *Democratising the sublime: spectacular danger and the rise of mass leisure by the sea*

9:45 **Eva-Maria Troelenberg** (Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf): *'Venice is threatened every year with a new transportation device'. Visual histories and infrastructures of mobility in Venice*

10:30 Coffee break

WATER, DESIGN AND 'GLOCALITY'

Chair: Hanni Geiger

11:00 **Panayiota Pyla** (University of Cyprus): *Hotel waterscapes: the aesthetics, economics and politics of pools and beaches in Cyprus*

11:45 **Chelsea Haines** (Arizona State University): *Redrawing the Mediterranean: Dora Gad's yam tikhoniut*

12:30 Lunch

GENDER, LEISURE AND MIGRATION

Chair: Anna Messner

14:00 **Hanna Büdenbender** (Saarland University): *Female body and the sea: representations of mermaids and South Sea maidens between the local and the global*

14:45 **Burcu Dogramaci** (global dis:connect / LMU Munich): *Valeska Gert's Ziegenstall on Sylt Island: transatlantic exile and a cabaret bar as a place of return*

15:30 Coffee break

ARTIST TALK – IN CONVERSATION

Chair: Boris Čučković Berger

16:00 **Hanni Geiger** (global dis:connect): *On leisure and limbo. Adriatic nodes of tourism and migration*
– Artist response by **Ilir Tsouko** (Berlin/Tirana/Athens/Priština)
– Discussion

17:15 Concluding remarks