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**Mimetic  
Mutations**  
Conference

21/5-  
22/5  
2015

Medien und Mimesis

DFG-Research Unit  
»Media and Mimesis« (FOR 1867)  
Project »Mimesis of the Moving Image«

📍 **Bauhaus-University Weimar**  
IKKM-Lounge  
Universitätsbibliothek  
Steubenstr. 6  
99423 Weimar

What are the cultural techniques of mimesis that define contemporary arts and media? The proliferation of memes and selfies, the appropriation of a corporate aesthetics in post-internet art (e.g. K-Hole, DIS), and the rapid increase of the remake in contemporary television series and music videos (e.g. *Homeland*, *House of Cards*, *Girls*, *Bound 2*) shed light on the mimetic mutations in contemporary arts and media.

These phenomena indicate a mutation of the cultural techniques of mimesis while also rearticulating a change instigated by the aesthetic strategies of advertising deployed by Andy Warhol's pop art and described as simulacra by Jean Baudrillard.

Traditionally denoting the relationship between an object and its imitation, and described by Aristotle as the result of the human desire to produce imitations, mimesis has undergone a number of changes in recent years. Whereas the relation of twentieth century arts and media to mimesis was often marked by critical distance and a certain self-awareness, twenty-first century digitally networked media cultures display a more affirmative relationship towards mimesis. This shift in perspective not only articulates a shift in the cultural techniques of mimesis, but also blurs the borders between the critique and affirmation. Today we are no longer dealing with an anti-mimetic aesthetics of distance and irony; rather distance and irony are replaced by a mimetic aesthetics of affirmation and immersion.

The conference *Mimetic Mutations* aims at discussing art historical, film, TV and digital media studies contributions on the vexed relationship between critique and affirmation in the cultural techniques of mimesis as well as the more general mimetic mutations in contemporary arts and media.

Thu **21/5**

- 13<sup>30</sup> – 13<sup>45</sup>** Opening Remarks & Introduction
- 13<sup>45</sup> – 15<sup>00</sup>** **Maria Muhle**  
Primarily Rhetoric: On the Notion of Aesthetic Mimesis
- 15<sup>15</sup> – 16<sup>30</sup>** **Sudeep Dasgupta**  
Disfigurations of the Mimetic: Modernity and the Historicity of Affect
- Chair: Christiane Voss
- 16<sup>45</sup> – 18<sup>00</sup>** **Lisa Åkervall**  
Mimetic Modulation and the Sound of Control
- 18<sup>15</sup> – 19<sup>30</sup>** **Mara Mills**  
Diagrams of Speech Systems: From Process to Processing
- Chair: Philine Zebralla

**DINNER**

Fri **22/5**

- 10<sup>00</sup> – 11<sup>15</sup>** **Erika Balsom**  
Refractions of the ›Poor Image‹: Unauthorized Circulation and Josiah McElheny's *The Past Was A Mirage I'd Left Far Behind*
- 11<sup>30</sup> – 12<sup>45</sup>** **Kirsten Maar**  
Déjà-Vu? Ways of Repeating Difference in Dance
- Chair: Lisa Åkervall
- LUNCH**
- 14<sup>15</sup> – 15<sup>30</sup>** **Seb Franklin**  
Digital Mimesis and Utopian Imaginaries
- 15<sup>45</sup> – 17<sup>00</sup>** **Daniela Wentz**  
Memetic Mutations
- Chair: Lorenz Engell

**CONTACT**

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