

TACIT FUTURES

Towards the Democratic Control of Movement

BG Annual Conference | Public Talks | October 27-29 | Volksbühne at Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz

Borders and infrastructure enable or disable the movement of humans and goods, data and money. Therefore, both sites catalyze the future of human togetherness – either fostering equality or aggravating inequality. Can the decisions about the control of movement and thus about the future of society – can these decisions that are often made behind closed doors become a democratic project? BG (Berliner Gazette) and Volksbühne at Rosa Luxemburg Platz invite activists, researchers, coders and journalists to search for answers. The BG Annual Conference, this year entitled TACIT FUTURES, will initiate discussions and collaborative processes tackling the democratic control of movement.

The Public Talks target representatives of journalistic networks, research institutions, cultural initiatives, activist organisations and NGOs. The moderation of the concentrated talks will create space for fruitful audience discussions. As a warm up to each talk the conference program will present artistic and performative interventions. The conference language is English. Tickets (8,-/reduced 6,-) for individual events can be reserved and purchased via Volksbühne: 030-24065-777 | [ticket\(at\)volksbuehne-berlin.de](mailto:ticket(at)volksbuehne-berlin.de) | online here: <http://volksbuehne-berlin.de/english/karten/>

A description of the TACIT FUTURES Public Talks program follows on the next pages.

Below some photos of a Public Talk at the BG Annual Conference in 2015 (more impressions of it [here](#)).



Yochai Benkler, Michel Bauwens and Max Haiven with audience.

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WHO CONTROLS MOVEMENTS? | Thursday, October 27, 2016, 8 p.m. | 3. Stock



Humans and goods, data and money – everything is in motion. Today, all this movement is crucial to strategies of survival and emancipation as well as for politics of expansionism and profit. In this Public Talk the TACIT FUTURES conference will explore the big picture of movement in dialogue with Brian Massumi and Konrad Becker, asking questions like: How are different types of movement inter-related? How are different actors exploiting, navigating and emancipating movement?

As a philosopher and media theoretician **Brian Massumi** has contributed to this field from a variety of angles over a great period of time, dating back to the early 1990s, when he edited the book “The Politics of Everyday Fear”. Here Massumi’s investigations of fear-driven societies began gesturing towards a “politics of affect”, analyzing also capacities and mechanisms to be moved by and with as well as to move others. In his most recent opus magnum “Ontopower” (Duke, 2015) Massumi shifts the focus ever sharper towards questions of power and in that sense towards the conditions and politics for any movement to take place. A preliminary study of this major philosophical work has been published in German under the title “Ontomacht” (Merve, 2010).

This TACIT FUTURES talk will be opened with a lecture performance by **Konrad Becker** (photo above), who is a pioneer in the field of digital networks. Becker’s work as a sound artist, activist, researcher and author dates back to the late 1970s, leading him to explore the transformation of network cultures with regard to their political and emancipatory potential. In his audio-visual input statement Becker will focus on big-data-driven prediction industries and their rampant colonization of movements as well as futures.

As a warm up the journalist and curator **Krystian Woznicki** presents photos taken in the past 20 years on four continents. His slideshow invites to rediscover mental and physical movements in urban environments by focusing on apparatuses and architectures for watching. The journalist **Anna Sauerbrey** will moderate this session.

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WHO CLAIMS BORDERLESSNESS? | Friday, October 28, 2016, 8 p.m. | 3. Stock



Is global capital borderless? Can we think borders before and beyond the play of capital? In this Public Talk the TACIT FUTURES conference will explore these questions with philosopher and postcolonial critic **Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak** (photo above). She will touch gender, the world, the globe; and she will attempt to look at the word “planet,” in the gravity of its many imperatives in space and time.

Considered one of the most influential postcolonial intellectuals, Spivak is best known for her essay "Can the Subaltern Speak?," which, already in 1985, offers a strong critique of her own tradition – Hindu patriarchy – and shows its complicity with British-inspired reformism. This is one of the reasons why Spivak's work has become an important source of inspiration for resistance movements and social struggles around the world.

In 2012, Spivak was awarded the Kyoto Prize in Arts and Philosophy for being "a critical theorist and educator speaking for the humanities against intellectual colonialism in relation to the globalized world." In 2013, she received the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award given by the Republic of India. Books available also in German are "Can the Subaltern Speak?" (Turia + Kant, 2007), "Righting Wrongs" (Diaphanes, 2008), "Imperatives to Re-Imagine the Planet" (Passagen, 2013).

Moderated by **Guillaume Paoli**, this TACIT FUTURES talk tries to account for Spivak's influence in a variety of ways, last but not least by looking at the potential of her ideas as one yet to unfold, e.g. by exploring the links between Spivak's critical engagement and the work of the diverse actors whom the BG project assembles around the hybrid issues of movement control.

In a warm up performance the dancer **Tamar Grosz** explores movement control as an emancipatory endeavour by reflecting her own migration experience: being born in Chile, growing up and studying in Israel, living and working in Germany today.

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WHO SHAPES FUTURES? | Saturday, October 29, 2016, 4 p.m. | 3. Stock



The time has come to explore the worlds of groups, who suffer from war, disasters and all kinds of other crisis. And to acknowledge that they are not just victims, but also subjects with agency, who cultivate survival strategies and solidarity networks that foster seminal innovations for the entire planet.

So, what holds us back to account for them as the innovators of our civil societies, as pioneers of a new era of peer cooperativism and as early adopters of the commons as a new way of organising ownership? – bottom-up and collective, rather than state-run or private. Can we learn to see 'their' invisibilized survival economies as exemplary struggles for equality? And what could be the lessons regarding efforts towards commoning housing, labor, health care and all the raw materials of life?

Moderated by **Marcus Staiger** (Bündnis für bedingungsloses Bleiberecht), this TACIT FUTURES talk will guide through fields of social and political experimentation exercised by contemporary refugee movements. Leading protagonists such as **Jennifer Kamau** (International Women's Space) and **Sinam Mohammad** (People Council For Western Kurdistan) tbc, will present their struggles. They will take as a starting point the Federation of Northern Syria – Rojava, a de facto autonomous region originating in three self-governing cantons in northern Syria. Based on principles of direct democracy, gender equality, and sustainability, the Rojavan government and society is polyethnic.

In a warm up a performance the anonymous collective **Szaeobot** reflects Rojava as an utopian state for the 21st century, by blending Haiku poetry with global social network codes.

After this panel a thematic dinner will unfold at 6 p.m.: Thoughts on food, food for thought. The closing event invites you to join the collaborative experiment Nowhere Kitchen with artist, choreographer and cook **Pepe Dayaw**. You are invited to bring your own food to his nowherekitchen.com – leftovers, cooked or uncooked. We will transform it into something extraordinary! Bring your leftovers and join cooking at 6 p.m. Dining will start at 7 p.m.

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Frame for the Public Talks

The three Public Talks are part of the BG Annual Conference TACIT FUTURES. Next to the Public Talks the conference encompasses five workshop tracks, that will also take place on October 27-29 at the Volksbühne at Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz. Check the program [here](#). The five workshops will bring together more than 100 activists from 20 countries, which are invited to work on creative collaborative resources dedicated to the respective track theme. The results will be made available as online resources via [berlinergazette.de](#). They can include position papers, multimedia storytelling projects and collections of ideas. The common goal of all conference formats is to explore visions for the democratic control of movement. This idea has been elucidated in a paper drafted by the Berliner Gazette. It can be downloaded [here](#).

The BG annual conference will be realized as a cooperation between Berliner Gazette e.V. and Volksbühne at Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz. It will be funded by the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb, the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union and the ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius. It will be supported by Diaphanes, DiEM25, Exberliner, Knight-Mozilla OpenNews, Merve, Meson Press, openDemocracy, piqd, Passagen Verlag, Supermarkt, tab ticketbroker, Takemura Juku, transcript, transmediale. And it will be organized in collaboration with the “Aesthetic Education Expanded” initiative and curated by [berlinergazette.de](#), Kontrapunkt, Kuda.org, Kulturtreger, Mi2.

Milestones of BG's Annual Project

The BG's annual project TACIT FUTURES initiates discussions at various events and in an online newspaper. Moreover, it provides a platform for collaboration. The project was launched in cooperation with transmediale with the program “Diving into Snowden Archives” at House of World Cultures, February 4 and 5, 2016. The Berliner Gazette is now working on a special section in its online newspaper. Around 40 reports, essays and interviews will be published throughout the year. In parallel, the Berliner Gazette will organize more than 20 meet-ups, serving as the project's cooperative platforms for dialogue about ideas and projects. Moreover the Berliner Gazette plans to organize various partner events. The project will culminate in the international Berliner Gazette conference scheduled for October 27 to 29, 2016 in Berlin.

TACIT FUTURES: [Online-Newspaper](#) | Essays, Interviews + Protocols (in German) by Corinna Haas, Alexander Karschnia, Julia Molin, Eiji Oguma, Joseph Vogl, Krystian Woznicki.

TACIT FUTURES: [Diving into Snowden Archives](#) | Panel + Workshops
transmediale, Berlin, February 4 to 5, 2016

TACIT FUTURES: [Japan after Japan](#) | Film Screening + Talk
Supermarkt, Berlin, March 19, 2016

TACIT FUTURES: [Re-Imagination](#) | Lecture + Talk
Volksbühne at Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, Berlin, May 3, 2016

TACIT FUTURES: Social Media Abyss (Im Bann der Plattformen) | Lecture + Talk
Rosa-Luxemburg-Foundation, Berlin, October 6, 2016

TACIT FUTURES: Berliner Gazette Annual Conference | Workshops, Performances + Talks
Volksbühne at Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, Berlin, October 27 to 29, 2016

TACIT FUTURES: [Photos](#), [Videos](#), [Audios](#) | Documents of the Annual Project
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