Public Talks | November 9th

10 a.m. | Matinée

The three workshop groups Hackers & Journalists, Amateurs & Pros, Pirates & Capitalists present their results during the matinée. Each group has a 30 minute time slot including discussion.

12:15 p.m. | Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. | Round Up

Welcome: Thorsten Schilling (German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb)

Introduction: Krystian Woznicki (berlinergazette.de)

2:00 p.m. | Keynote: What is complicity?

Occupy, commons and other social experiments show: New forms of collectivity are being invented and tested all over the world. In her key note Prof. Gesa Ziemer enriches the debate by exploring how older forms of collective action play a crucial role by being reinterpreted for current purposes in contexts such as art, science and business. Based on her new book about complicity ("Komplizenschaft. Neue Perspektiven auf Kollektivität") Ziemer proposes a new reading of the term that often is associated with criminal operations: You have an idea, make a plan, and realize it together with an accomplice. However, the term tellingly points beyond illegal collective action including also legal ones – especially in innovative environments. When engaging upon collective action individuals behave highly affective, being only temporarily bound together. At the same time they are individual, inventive and last but not least goal-oriented. Do unexpected solutions to specific problems emerge from complicity? Is there a benefit for society as a whole?

Input: Prof. Gesa Ziemer (Researcher, HafenCity University, Hamburg)

Moderation: Ela Kagel (Founder, SUPERMARKT, Berlin)

3:15 p.m. | Hackers & Journalists: Reforming while informing the world?

It is estimated that 20 to 30 trillion dollars are hidden in offshore localities which corresponds to the economies of the USA and Japan combined. The investigation project Offshore Leaks approached this problem and unmasked details of 130,000 offshore accounts in April 2013. The report originated from the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ)), who collaborated with 86 journalists from 46 countries to produce the series of investigative reports. The investigation is based on a cache of 2.5 million secret records about the offshore assets of people from 170 countries and territories. In short: one of the biggest investigative projects of our time based on the collaboration of journalists and programmers. What are the lessons from this case of complicity? What kind of reforms does it initiate in the publishing world? Two actors who are involved in the project share their insights and reflections.

Input: Stefan Candea (Journalist, thesponge.eu & crji.org, Bucharest)

Response: Sebastian Mondial (Programmer/Data-Journalist, NDR.de, Hamburg)

Moderation: Marlis Schaum (Cologne)



Public Talks | November 9th

4:15 p.m. | Amateurs & Pros: Are creative users taking over?

Hatsune Miku is the name of a trend that originated in Japan and is spreading from all over Asia to Europe. This phenomenon is about creating music (and video) based on vocal software. At the same time it is about using the vocal software and its inherent character as an avatar for one's own identity – and variations of it. Taking this as a starting point people formerly known as fans, consumers and users create their own versions of the source material. This is a mass movement by now. Online and offline. We are talking about virtually tons of creative artifacts: for example more than 100.000 unique songs and more than 400.000 videos in the name of Hatsune Miku. Is this the future of creative production? What can cultures and markets in other countries learn from Hatsune Miku? What are the limits of this model?

Input: Prof. Mitsuhiro Takemura (Founder, SMAL.jp, Sapporo)

Response: Valie Djordjevic (Editor, iRights.info, Berlin)

Moderation: Lilian Masuhr (Berlin)

5:15 p.m. | Coffee Break

5:45 p.m. | Pirates & Capitalists: What about reinventing the economy?

A world without banks is a utopia — but not impossible. In order to free ourselves from large financial institutions we need to empower new grass roots intiatives with the help of technologies like internet and encryption. One proposal to solve the problem is Opentabs. It is an "I owe you"-system (IOU) that is based only on the trust between the two parties involved in a transaction. This means no third-party trust is involved. Initially, Opentabs is only a bookkeeping tool that helps you to write these IOUs down. As a unit of value for these IOUs, you can still use Bitcoins, Euros, beers (as in "I owe you a beer"), or anything you want. Can this kind of complicity reform social relations? Is it even possible to transform our economy by placing trust at the heart of social practises? Could grassroots banking à la opentabs become a way for funding the grassroots production of culture and knowledge?

Input: Michiel de Jong (Programmer/Founder, opentabs.net, Amsterdam)

Response: Eleanor Saitta (Researcher, International Modern Media Institute, Seattle)

Moderation: Marlis Schaum (Cologne)



Public Talks | November 9th

6:45 p.m. | Conclusion: What kind of rules do we need for complicity?

In socio-political struggles, actors from different fields can tap into different sources of power. Corporate actors and business associations regularly command vast financial resources. And while civil society activists may be committed to a righteous cause, researchers derive their discursive expert powers from a neutral assessment of facts. However, if these three actor groups form a coalition to foster a common cause this might result in less than the sum of its parts. Complicity between corporate and civil society or research actors might subvert the latter's discursive credibility. Similarly, activism and research might contradict each other. So, what are the trade-offs in cross-sectional coalition-building? What kind of responsibility do actors have? Does complicity rely on ethical and political values as well as practical standards?

Input: Leonhard Dobusch (Researcher, Freie Universität, Berlin) Response: Janina Sombetzki (Researcher, Universität Kiel)

Moderation: Lilian Masuhr (Berlin)

