SLOW POLITICS. What Europe Needs In The Age Of Crisis

Berliner Gazette Conference 2014

Workshops Nov.13–14 | Public Talks Nov.15

#bgcon14

berlinergazette.de/slow-politics

Intro

All of the crises haunting Europe today – be it "Lampedusa" or "NSA-Gate" – indicate one major problem: our governments' democratic instruments are paralyzed by perpetual turbulence and hence unable to deal properly with the ensuing grievances. What now? It is necessary to reinvent democracy! In this challenging moment **citizen movements** act as **laboratories of the future**.

The *Slow Politics* conference looks at the plurality of citizen movements as a greater whole and sets out to **detect hidden commonalities**: Only by connecting the dots does it become possible to create a counterforce to the acceleration of crises. In that sense "slow politics" is our motto for taking a bird's eye point of view. From this decelerated perspective the conference explores the larger democratic project underlying various grassroots efforts: to empower people as political **actors** who are able to **tackle the uncertainties** caused by the manifold crises.

Slow Politics investigates perspectives for a **precarious generation** that is deeply concerned about its **rights**, **privileges** and **liberties**: How can a communal feeling arise in Europe if national self-interests prevail? How can we practice transparency if secret services are booming beyond public control? How can our mobile societies restore inner peace if migrants are always "the others"? How can we save the environment if consumerism and economics remain rampant? What happens to free access to culture and knowledge if public institutions continue crumbling? What is the common denominator linking all these issues?

Slow Politics deals with these future concerns in **five tracks**: 1) The Big We, 2) After NSA-Gate, 3) We Are All Migrants, 4) Bitcoin Meets Blue Marble and 5) Publics in Peril. Here **representatives of citizen movements**, **media folks** and **researchers** from more than 20 countries come together. They introduce their problems and discuss solutions so as to network with others. Results will be made available for the public – as data visualizations, stories and more.

Slow Politics is a platform for exchange and collaboration. The first two days offer 5 parallel workshops. A limited number of participants can register by contacting the following E-mail *bgcon14@supermarkt-berlin.net*. The third day, November 15, is open to the general public and, from 1:30 p.m., offers talks by distinguished speakers including **Claudia Núñez** (MigraHack), **Marina Sitrin** (The City University of New York), **Geert Lovink** (Institute of Network Cultures), **Sara Moreira** (Generation E), **Max Haiven** (Nova Scotia College of Art and Design), **Felix Stalder** (Zurcher Hochschule der Künste) and **Annika Richterich** (Maastricht University).

Slow Politics is the **14th annual conference** organized by berlinergazette.de and takes place at **SUPERMARKT** – an emerging event center on the border of Berlin-Mitte and Berlin-Wedding, blending conference facilities with a café and co-working space.

Slow Politics has been prepared through a series of workshops in Berlin as well as a symposium in Japan. In addition, the conference is framed by berlinergazette.de's **annual theme**: http://berlinergazette.de/feuilleton/jahresthemen/slow-politics

berlinergazette.de/slow-politics

Timeline

November 13: Workshops
10:00 a.m. | Breakfast + Registration + Introduction
10:15 a.m. | Brainstorming in Workshop Groups
01:30 p.m. | Lunch
02:30 p.m. | Collaboration in Sub-Groups
06:00 p.m. | Summary of Day 1

November 14: Workshops
10:00 a.m. | Breakfast + Roadmap for Day 2
10:15 a.m. | Collaboration in Sub-Groups
01:30 p.m. | Lunch
02:30 p.m. | Preparing Presentation of Results
06:00 p.m. | Closing Workshops

November 15: Public Talks
10:00 a.m. | Matinée: Presentation of Workshop Results
12:15 p.m. | Lunch
01:30 p.m. | Keynote
02:00 p.m. | *The Big We*: Marina Sitrin (New York) & Felix Stalder (Vienna)
03:15 p.m. | *Publics In Peril*: Ben Kaden (Berlin) & Geert Lovink (Amsterdam)
04:15 p.m. | *We Are All Migrants*: Sara Moreira (Porto) & Claudia Núñez (Stanford)
05:15 p.m. | Coffee Break
05:45 p.m. | *Bitcoin Meets Blue Marble*: Luise Neumann-Cosel (Berlin) & Paula Bialski (Hamburg)
06:45 p.m. | *After NSA-Gate*: Annika Richterich (Maastricht) & Max Haiven (Halifax)
07:45 p.m. | Goodbye drinks

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Track 1 | **"The Big We"**

Austerity policies foster an unprecedented age of crisis in Europe. They shrink economies of entire countries and "expel ever larger groups from the official economy" (Saskia Sassen). Paradoxically one can detect a new sense of community right there in the hot spots. In the survival economies of the expelled and in the social movements which emerge during the crisis, new approaches are being tested – not only to economy and democracy, but also to coexistence and solidarity. In that sense the age of crisis in Europe is also an age of social innovation. People come together, experiment with unconventional forms of colaboration and bundle their energies in seminal networks. Here they seek answers to problems caused by the crisis and in doing so they create new forms of the Big We. Which forms of social networking enable this? What kind of connections do the actors cultivate? Which interests do they have in common? Which problems do they solve? Which potentials of networking remain dormant?

Public Talk | "The Big We" | November 15 | 2 p.m.
Marina Sitrin (City University of New York) & Felix Stalder (Zurcher Hochschule der Künste). Moderation: Zlata Veselinovic (Zagreb). No registration is required. Admission is free.

Workshop | "The Big We" | November 13 & 14
The workshop analyses and maps emerging social networks as an inspiration and as a source of strength for the Big We in Europe. The guests of this workshop develop a cartography of relations among the more than 100 representatives of initiatives that are present at *Slow Politics*: How do they relate to each other, to national politics and to other forces in Europe? In the course of this, a visualization of relationships will be produced in the form of a dynamic map of Europe.

The guests are Dario Azzellini (Johannes Kepler Universität), Tabea Grzeszyk (hostwriter.org), Bernd Hatesuer (TEPP), Stephen Kovats (r0g-media.org), Olga Melgoui (CityDog.by), Katerina Mishchenko (Medusa), Victor Nitu (thesponge.eu), Sibylle Peters (the-art-of-being-many.net), Luisa Maria Schweizer (euroalter.com), Marina Sitrin (CUNY), Elena Veljanovska (kontrapunkt), Zlata Veselinovic (University of Zagreb). The moderators are Christopher Senf (berlinergazette.de) and Adriana Homolova (Onderzoeksredactie).

Registration: The workshop targets activists, journalists and researchers. On November 13 and 14 the workshop takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday, November 15, when the (preliminary) results are presented, from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. A limited number of participants can register through November 10 by contacting the following E-mail: bgcon14@supermarkt-berlin.net. The registration fee is 30 Euros for three days, including catering.

Track 2 | **"After NSA-Gate"**

The great crisis of democracy is now palpable all over Europe. No longer is it only the "problem kids" (Greece, Turkey, etc.), but also the putative "showpiece states" who are concerned, particularly Germany. Since the ongoing revelations of a monstrous extent of surveillance, we must acknowledge that civil rights are crumbling and that a global security industry is booming: a wild cross over of government and private sector interests, beyond democratic legitimacy and public control. What to do? Developers, activists, researchers and journalists, but also users are working on initiatives designed to lead the nexus of technology and democracy onto new ground.

Public Talk | "After NSA-Gate" | November 15 | 6:45 p.m.
Annika Richterich (Maastricht University) & Max Haiven (Nova Scotia College of Art and Design). Moderation: Anna Sauerbrey (Berlin). No registration is required. Admission is free.

Workshop | "After NSA-Gate" | November 13 & 14
The workshop brings together a broad spectrum of players in order to facilitate an exchange of perspectives, needs and experience. Two subgroups will be formed: 1. Users are invited to describe their individual requirements and then to discover in exchange with experts, what specific tools they need. They study specific applications based on their own interests and collaboratively create a manual with a wide range of solutions. 2. Users enter into dialogue with developers, who present new tools for an audit, including trustner.com, kinko.me, youbroketheinternet.org.

The guests are Diani Barreto (wauland.de), Detlef Borchers (heise.de), Stefan Candea (thesponge.eu), Baruch Gottlieb (Telekommunisten), Matthias Hannig (trustner.com), Michael Krömer (Think Fabrik), Carlo von Loesch (youbroketheinternet.org), Sebastian Mondial (Die Zeit), Marion Schmidt (dox-box.org), Pit Schultz (reboot.fm), Harald Strack (ssystems), Enrico Thierbach (kinko.me). The moderators are Lilian Masuhr (berlinergazette.de) and Michael Prinzinger (kinko.me).

Registration: The workshop targets users interested in digital empowerment. On November 13 and 14 the workshop takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday, November 15, when the (preliminary) results are presented, from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. A limited number of participants can register through November 10 by contacting the following E-mail: bgcon14@supermarkt-berlin.net. The registration fee is 30 Euros for three days, including catering.

Track 3 | **"We Are All Migrants"**

In populist rhetorics "Migrants" are never us. It's always *them*. In the course of this "false clarity" we have become accustomed to the fact that migrants fail to find asylum in our society – be it in a literal sense (with refugees entering through camps, etc. and never really arriving at their destination) or in a symbolic sense (with young professionals from South Europe looking for a new home and work but always remaining outsiders on the move). But what do we see when we step beyond this "false clarity"? What are the real dynamics of migration? Looking for a role in a different country – is it a matter of free choice or coercion? Where is the border between economic refugees and professional nomads? Or between economic refugees and political ones? How do we gain access to current data in this field? How can we learn about people's stories?

Public Talk | "We Are All Migrants" | November 15 | 4:15 p.m.
Claudia Núñez (MigraHack.com) & Sara Moreira (Generation E).
Moderation: Verena Dauerer (Berlin). No registration is required. Admission is free.

Workshop | "We Are All Migrants" | November 13 & 14
The workshop gathers journalists, programmers, media activists, human rights workers and researchers. Building on the experience of data journalism projects like MigMap, MigraHack.com, The Migrant Files or deprofiler.com, the workshop boosts political awareness as much as hands-on solutions. The hackathon-style workshop attempts to build cross media stories about an invisible class of 'young skilled workers' in Europe (focus: Greece, Portugal, Germany) and link those stories to a databank on migration, that is created prior to the conference.

The guests include Irida Baglanea (andcompany&Co.), Annabel Church (HacksHackers), Abiol Lual Deng (Kendake Partners), Mathieu Magnaudeix (mediapart.fr), Danislava Marinova (Hertie School of Governance), Katerina Michailidi (Sourcefabric.org), Sara Moreira (Generation E), Claudia Núñez (MigraHack), Jacopo Ottaviani (Generation E), Cristina Pombo (Expresso). The moderators are Magdalena Taube (berlinergazette.de) and Matthew Linares (microsplash.org).

Registration: The workshop targets journalists, programmers and activists. On November 13 and 14 the workshop takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday, November 15, when the (preliminary) results are presented, from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. A limited number of participants can register through November 10 by contacting the following E-mail: bgcon14@supermarkt-berlin.net. The registration fee is 30 Euros for three days, including catering.

Track 4 | **"Bitcoin Meets Blue Marble"**

Middle-class comfort has been shaken due to the ongoing climate catastrophe and the pervasive turmoil echoing the financial crisis. People from all kinds of social milieus are getting together to demand a better use of resources. Citizens are reorganising energy supply bottom-up, pushing for an energy transition – a shift to sustainable economies by means of renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable development. At the same time an increasing number of people share cars, use exchange services or give away food they don't need. Alternative economies are taking shape and new currencies are emerging (e.g. Bitcoin). It is the great opportunity and challenge of our present age to bring the various movements together. Yet, such a holistic approach in the name of the Blue Marble has so far only been implemented on local levels. For example in so called Transition Towns. Is it possible to apply this on a global level? How can new forms of cooperation between various movements contribute to this goal?

Public Talk | "Bitcoin Meets Blue Marble" | November 15 | 5:45 p.m.
Luise Neumann-Cosel (buerger-energie-berlin.de) & Paula Bialski (Leuphana University).
Moderation: Ela Kagel (Berlin). No registration is required. Admission is free.

Workshop | "Bitcoin Meets Blue Marble" | November 13 & 14
The workshop takes Berlin as it starting point: the capital of subcultures, casual expert groups and alternative/creative milieus. Within this world the workshop links proven approaches related to alternatives in energy supply with new movements related to sharing cultures and alternative currencies. Interviews with actors in those fields try to answer seminal questions like: How can the disparate movements be brought together? How can we join forces? What do we need to get organised? The workshop result is a paper grounding a larger movement in the making.

The guests are Thomas Dönnebrink (OuiShare), Camilla Elle (utopie-magazin.org), Christophe Guené (Kreditunion), Annette Jensen (taz.de), Luise Neumann-Cosel (buerger-energie-berlin.de), Ute Scheub (taz.de), Andrea-Liane Spangenberg (bioenergiedorf-coaching.de), Akseli Virtanen (robinhoodcoop.org), Nikolai Wolfert (leila-berlin.de). The moderators are Tatiana Abarzua (berlinergazette.de) and Ela Kagel (Supermarkt).

Registration: The workshop targets activists in the realm of environmentalism and alternative economies. On November 13 and 14 the workshop takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday, November 15, when the (preliminary) results are presented, from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. A limited number of participants can register through November 10 by contacting the following E-mail: bgcon14@supermarkt-berlin.net. The registration fee is 30 Euros for three days, including catering.

Track 5 | **"Publics In Peril"**

Free access to culture and knowledge is in doubt. The state no longer provides enough budget for institutions working in the service of the public – entailing processes of privatisation. At the same time a vast new domain of the commons is emerging. Catalysed by the internet, we openly communicate, share knowledge and cooperate. While this domain "can no longer be contained by the form of private property" (Žižek), there is no public infrastructure to back it up. Today, various initiatives and movements tackle this complex set of problems: pioneering efforts for public licenses, people's collecting societies, a free web index and an open public broadcasting system. How can these particular initiatives bundle their energies?

Public Talk | "Publics In Peril" | November 15 | 3:15 p.m.
Geert Lovink (Institute of Network Cultures) & Ben Kaden (libreas.eu).
Moderation: Janet Merkel (Berlin). No registration is required. Admission is free.

Workshop | "Publics In Peril" | November 13 & 14
The workshop tackles a concrete case: Looking at the Snowden files (historic disclosures of a global surveillance industry that severely undermines democracies) the workshop designs concrete options to put them into a public library. And in doing so, to give citizens and pros worldwide the opportunity to openly access and study them. By using the Open Archive of Stasi Records or WikiLeaks projects as reference points, this case could widen and sharpen the understanding of public institutions dealing with cultural heritage and public data in the digital age. The workshop invites multiple stakeholders to elaborate a policy paper. The curated selection of guests includes net activists, creatives, librarians and researchers.

The guests are Kristoffer Gansing (transmediale.de), Max Haiven (Nova Scotia College of Art and Design), Ben Kaden (libreas.eu), Frauke Mahrt-Thomsen (Kritische Bibliothek), Morana Miljanovic (tacticaltech.org), Lieke Ploeger (OpenGLAM.org), André Rebentisch (meshcon.net). The moderators are Sabrina Apitz (berlinergazette.de) and Corinna Haas (ICI Library).

Registration: The workshop targets net activists and librarians. On November 13 and 14 the workshop takes place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday, November 15, when the (preliminary) results are presented, from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. A limited number of participants can register through November 10 by contacting the following E-mail: bgcon14@supermarkt-berlin.net. The registration fee is 30 Euros for three days, including catering.

Public Talks

01:30 p.m. | Keynote

02:00 p.m. | *The Big We: Solidarity In The Euro-Crisis*
Marina Sitrin (City University of New York)
Prof. Felix Stalder (Zurcher Hochschule der Künste)
Moderation: Zlata Veselinovic (Zagreb)

03:15 p.m. | *Publics In Peril: Snowden Files For All?*
Ben Kaden (libreas.eu)
Geert Lovink (Institute of Network Cultures)
Moderation: Janet Merkel (Berlin)

04:15 p.m. | *We Are All Migrants: Stories From The Dark Side Of Data*
Claudia Núñez (MigraHack.com)
Sara Moreira (Generation E)
Moderation: Verena Dauerer (Berlin)

05:15 p.m. Coffee break

05:45 p.m. | *Bitcoin Meets Blue Marble*: *Sharing The Planet?*
Luise Neumann-Cosel (buerger-energie-berlin.de)
Paula Bialski (Leuphana University)
Moderation: Ela Kagel (Berlin)

06:45 p.m. | *After NSA-Gate: Re-Designing Democracy*
Annika Richterich (Maastricht University)
Prof. Max Haiven (Nova Scotia College of Art and Design)
Moderation: Anna Sauerbrey (Berlin)

07:45 p.m. Goodbye drinks

* No registration is required. Admission is free.

berlinergazette.de/slow-politics

Warm-Ups

Slow Politics in berlinergazette.de | Text Series | Jan.-Dec., 2014
As of January 2014 Berliner Gazette has been working on the annual focus Slow Politics. Around 40 texts (reports, essays etc.) emerge throughout the whole year. Researchers, activists and creative artists get a chance to speak. All texts are contributed on a voluntary basis and are published under a Creative Commons license.
URL: http://berlinergazette.de/feuilleton/jahresthemen/2014-slow-politics/

Bootstrapping *Slow Politics* | Workshop | April 6, 2014
Berliner Gazette has organized five workshops on a single day to test the format of five parallel tracks for *Slow Politics*. Sponsors of the event are EU Culture, KnightMozilla OpenNews and the Rosa-Luxemburg-foundation. Here you can find the report: http://berlinergazette.de/wp-content/uploads/KOMPLIZEN_Report_41614.pdf

Brainstorming *Slow Politics* | Meet Ups | June-Nov., 2014
Berliner Gazette is organizing Meet Ups of groups, which emerged during the last years at Berliner Gazette events dealing with a diverse range of topics and including 20 to 80 people in loose networks. In the course of more than 20 meet ups the themes of the conference are being discussed. The groups are the conference's dialogue partners, but they also operate beyond the conference.

***Slow Politics* in Japan | Symposium | September 27–29, 2014**
Berliner Gazette is organizing a beta-version of its annual conference in collaboration with Sapporo Media Arts Lab. The project reflects post-Fukushima Japan as a test case for a crisis-ridden country at G8 level and consequently as a special challenge for the long-term approach of Slow Politics. Sponsors are Sapporo City and KnightMozilla OpenNews. Photo documentation: https://www.flickr.com/photos/berlinergazette/sets/72157648040887948/

Graphic Recording *Slow Politics* | DIY-Masterclass | November 6, 2014
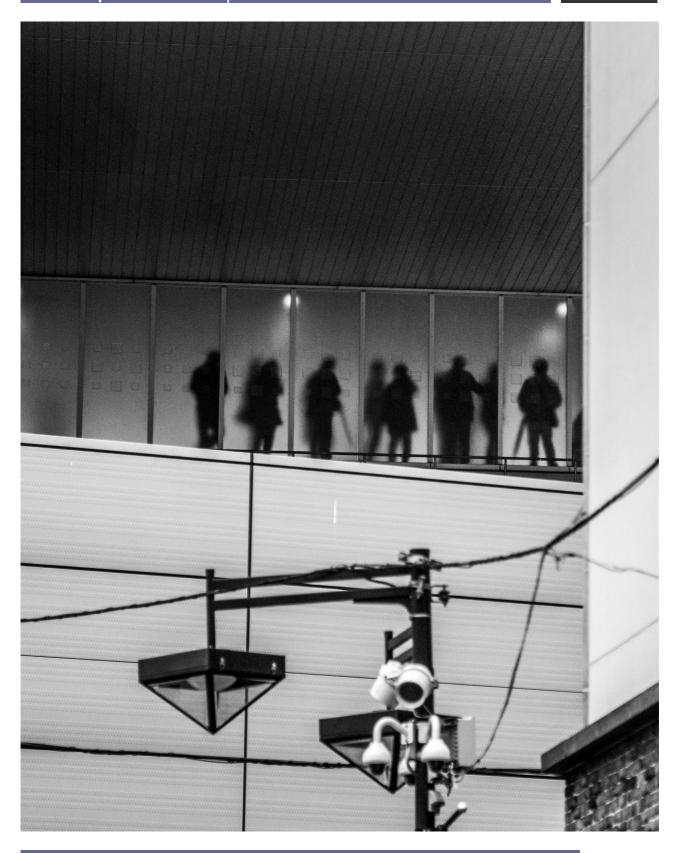Berliner Gazette is hosting a workshop together with Pfefferwerk AG and Supermarkt, where professional graphic designers are teaching prospects the handwork of visual live recording – knowledge can be applied effectively at *Slow Politics*.

Robin Hood @ Slow Politics | Intervention | November 10–12, 2014
Robin Hood, the asset management cooperative based in Finland and Silicon Valley, owned by its members and known for its financial services to "hedge precarity" establishes a temporary Berlin office November 10-12 as part of the *Slow Politics* conference at Supermarkt.
More info: robinhoodcoop.org

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About the organiser

The Berliner Gazette has being published on the internet since 1999. This experimental platform strives towards dialogue with offline formats as well as cross-border exchange with citizen movements and academic disciplines. It goes without saying that the conventional border between editorial staff and audience is permeable.

Beyond established limitations…

For us, themes, not news, are most important, as diverse as Europe Crisis and Digital Natives or Open Cultures and Post-Snowden. We bundle all of that in the Feuilleton. Here we work together with people who raise their voice, with scientists and artists, with readers of every age group. At the moment our team consists of fifteen people, who take care of up to 900 authors from five language areas. Together we investigate the impact of the digital revolution on culture and politics by making the knowledge of the digital avantgardes accessible to the broader public.

...creating the Feuilleton together

What begins online is continued offline: We organize symposia and seminars for the purpose of an extensive cultural and political education. We realize our events together with cooperation partners: NGOs and schools, cultural institutions and citizen networks.

We understand each event location as an extended editorial office because ideas and contents are developed that are processed and then published in the Berliner Gazette, occasionally even in our books. In that way we are further expanding the range of our Feuilleton.

We consider all results part of the commons. Hence, we share all of our contents under a Creative Commons license for free public access and use. As we do not earn any money with our contents, it is our challenge to look for alternative models of funding.
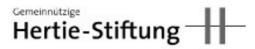
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