NETWORKS OF BODIES AND NETWORKS OF IMAGES

International Conference
May 3-4, 2022

Università degli Studi di Torino
Dipartimento di Filosofia e Scienze dell'Educazione

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:

During the situation of physical distancing caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, many communication activities in everyday and professional contexts have depended on digital platforms. The constraints posed by the emergency condition have, more or less explicitly, fuelled a functional equivalence between the network of physical bodies and the network of digital images as communication networks. The fact that this alleged equivalence has to be realised through digital media implies some significant assumptions about the nature and purpose of information communication.

The digital medium collects and stores data provided by users of online platforms. This data is used in algorithmic processes that are supported by a disproportionate amount of computing power compared to the scale and limitations of general "human" use of images. Moreover, in recent years, the use of deep learning technologies applied not only to data analysis and image classification, but also in reality manipulation activities such as deepfaking, has become increasingly widespread. The falsifiability of the digital simulacrum poses one of the possible differences in principle, in the communicative dimension, between networks of digital images and networks of bodies.

Exploring and highlighting these differences in principle also raises new ethical issues. An example is the increasingly frequent cases of digital theft of identity, which is often characteristically reproducible without the consent of the communicative agents initially involved. This possibility of reproduction, which is specific to digital media, undermines, on the one hand, the trust of users enjoying online content, since the clear and secure distinction between authentic and manipulated content is called into question. On the other hand, it jeopardises the data uploaded online by users since, without an adequate security policy, they could be used without their consent and even manipulated.

The aim of the conference is therefore to analyse and deepen, through multidisciplinary contributions, the multiple declinations of the ethical-political problem, first of all by exploring the theoretical and aesthetic issues involved in the relationship between image, identity, falsification, and violence. Secondly, to hypothesise adequate strategies to manage, from an ethical and social point of view, the non-equivalence between the network of physical bodies and the network of digital images, trying to anticipate a challenge that will probably become increasingly urgent in the future.

We welcome contributions that are related, but not limited, to the following themes:

-Digital identity
-Function and status of bodies in the age of digital communication
-Virtual reality
-Digital images
-Truth and falsehood in digital space
-Violence and solidarity in digital space

Keynote speakers:

Yves Citton (Université Paris-VIII)
Alberto Romele (Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen)
Antonio Scala (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche)
Simona Stano (Università degli Studi di Torino)
Matteo Treleani (Université Côte d'Azur – Università degli Studi di Torino).

The abstract (max 500 characters), anonymised for blind review, and a separate file indicating the title of the abstract, the name and surname of the speaker, institutional affiliation, and email address, must be sent, in .pdf format, by 25 March 2022 to retidicorpi2022@gmail.com

Results will be communicated by email by 28 March 2022.

Talks may be delivered in Italian, English, and French, and will last approximately 20 minutes followed by a brief discussion.

The conference will be held in hybrid mode: in person at the University of Turin (Italy) and on Zoom. Those who wish to attend in person will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation expenses.

For further information please contact retidicorpi2022@gmail.com

Organising Committees:

Flora Geerts (Università degli Studi di Torino)
Andrea Osti (Università degli Studi di Genova)
Francesco Pisano (Università degli Studi di Firenze)

The conference is organised with the contribution of the Programme Cassini 2021, the DFE Department of the University of Turin and the Centro Studi sul Pensiero Contemporaneo (CeSPeC) - Cuneo.