



DIS/APPEARING

International Conference

May 27 – 29, 2015

Charles University, Prague



Internationales Kolleg für  
Kulturtechnikforschung und  
Medienphilosophie



FACULTY OF ARTS  
CHARLES UNIVERSITY  
IN PRAGUE

Bauhaus-Universität  
Weimar

GEFÜHRT VON



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung

## PROGRAM

Wednesday, May 27

**KEYNOTE**  
04:30 pm, Karolinum

Georges Didi-Huberman <sup>Paris</sup>  
Que ce qui apparaît seulement s'aperçoit. In English.

07:00 pm

Welcome Reception

Thursday, May 28

**PANEL I**  
10:00 am – 01:30 pm  
Karolinum

Bettine Menke <sup>Erfurt</sup>  
Appearing and Exiting, Stage and Offstage.

Chair: Karel Thein <sup>Prague</sup>

Josef Vojvodík <sup>Prague</sup>  
«That which has disappeared <returns>»: On the Mediality of Grief.

Coffee Break

Jacques Aumont <sup>Paris</sup>  
Forgetfulness at Work: Film as a Site of Oblivion.

Discussion

01:30 pm – 03:00 pm

Lunch

**PANEL II**  
03:00 pm – 06:30 pm  
Karolinum

James Elkins <sup>Chicago</sup>  
Managing the Limits of Representation.

Chair: Zdeňka Kalnická

Wolfgang Struck <sup>Erfurt</sup>  
Fallen out of the World: A Geographical Fantasy.

Ostrava

Coffee Break

Astrid Lindenlauf <sup>Bryn Mawr</sup>  
Good Riddance to Bad Rubbish: The Disposal of Unwanted Objects in Ancient Greece.

Discussion

Friday, May 29

**PANEL III**  
10:00 am – 01:30 pm  
Karolinum

Chair: Kateřina Krtilová  
Weimar

Miroslav Petříček <sup>Prague</sup>  
Trembling of the Non-identical in Appearing.

Dieter Mersch <sup>Zürich</sup>  
Operativity, Ontologies, Speculations.

Coffee Break

Mark Hansen <sup>Durham</sup>  
On the Primacy of Dis-Appearance: The Operative Ontologies of Topological Media.

Discussion

01:30 pm – 03:00 pm

Lunch

**PANEL IV**  
03:00 pm – 06:30 pm  
Karolinum

Chair: Martin Pokorný  
Prague

Matthew Solomon <sup>Ann Arbor</sup>  
Méliès and the Materiality of Modern Magic.

Akira Mizuta Lippit <sup>Los Angeles</sup>  
Disapparition: On Phantom Departures.

Coffee Break

Claudia Blümle <sup>Berlin</sup>  
Behind the Curtain: Dis/Appearing in Surrealist Art.

Discussion

**FILM SCREENING**  
08:00 pm  
Ponrepo

Introduction: Lucie Česálková <sup>National Film Archive, Prague</sup>

Bill Morrison <sup>New York</sup>  
Decasia (67', 2002)

10:00 pm

Closing Remarks + Wine & Cheese

## DIS/APPEARING

Western philosophy and culture in general have, as it were, always been more concerned with appearance than with disappearance: aesthetic, epistemic, religious, or technical practices are supposed to make something appear and thus intelligible, perceptible, or imaginable. This bias parallels the ontological preference given to coming into being and becoming present by neglecting the processes of disintegration, dissolution, and destabilization of formations and relations. This notwithstanding, disappearing has always kept a somewhat less apparent, but highly important, key place in Western thought. Religious and political institutions and logics have always worked on making anything (including, in the case of totalitarian regimes, people) that formed a contradiction disappear. Nevertheless, references to disappearance within the humanities are traditionally accompanied by the restorative rhetoric of loss and endangerment. The conditions of highly technological media societies were especially too easily held responsible for dramatic disappearances (of body, reality, distance, etc.), virtualization, and dematerialization.

The conference will examine disappearing and its relationship to appearing by drawing on the concept of «operative ontologies». Leaving behind a concept of being as a primordial and reliable ontological realm, «operative ontologies» seek to document and unfold different «modes of existence», «ontological regimes», or «dispositions of being» (Haudricourt, Viveiros de Castro, Descola, Latour following Souriau). In dialogue with plural and regional ontologies, the concept focuses on the media technological constitution of the relation of humans and things: neither subjects nor objects are understood as essential entities given in advance and as a *basis* of relations, but rather as metastable *results* of generative operations which produce realities, distinctions, collectives, and realms of being in the first place (all of which we wish to address as «media»).

Drawing on «operative ontologies», the conference aims to explore two concrete operations: appearing and disappearing, with particular regard to the second. In line with the pluralization of beings, it is necessary to investigate different modes of going out of existence and out of sight and, thus, to investigate the ontological and aesthetic dimensions of disappearing. Obviously, disappearing can be a matter of passing, of destruction, as well as a matter of becoming invisible or infinitesimally small, of hiding, banishment, or of displacement. It is thus virtually impossible to think of both operations as independent from each other. Both are characterized by a liminality, raising questions of temporality as well as spatiality: Where does something disappear to and from where does it appear? Does dis/appearance unfold gradually, suddenly, or tiltingly?

### SPEAKERS

Jacques Aumont  
Claudia Blümle  
Georges Didi-Huberman  
James Elkins  
Mark B. N. Hansen  
Astrid Lindenlauf  
Akira Mizuta Lippit  
Bettine Menke  
Dieter Mersch  
Bill Morrison  
Miroslav Petříček  
Matthew Solomon  
Wolfgang Struck  
Josef Vojvodík

### CONFERENCE VENUES

Karolinum, Patriotic Hall  
Ovocný trh 3–5  
Praha 1, 116 36

Kino PONREPO  
Bartolomějská 11  
Praha 1, 110 00

### CONTACT

Kateřina Svatoňová  
katerina.svatonova@ff.cuni.cz

Christoph Eggertglüß  
christoph.eggertgluess@uni-weimar.de

Filozofická fakulta  
Univerzita Karlova v Praze  
nám. Jana Palacha 2  
Praha 1, 116 38  
Czech Republic

info@ff.cuni.cz  
www.ff.cuni.cz

IKKM  
Bauhaus-Universität Weimar  
99421 Weimar  
Deutschland

ikk@uni-weimar.de  
www.ikk-weimar.de

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LUMINACE

