



Annual Conference

September 21-23, 2017

Predictive Texts: Imagining the Future

Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland

Call for Presentations

Keynote

Professor Dimitris Dalakoglou

Chair of Social Anthropology at Vrije University Amsterdam.

The arts and the liberal arts have always had an eye on the future. From classical works of dystopic fiction to surrealist artistic visions, imaginings and simulations of the world's future has always been central to humanities hopes and fears. Works of fiction can be considered a way of dealing with an uncertain future, offering opportunities for the creator and observer to explore the unknown.

In the creative and liberal traditions, time, intellectual endeavour and resources have been exhaustively spent dealing with the future. Be that in countless anthropological reflections on cultural transformations, or what the future holds for enclaves of cultural traditions in the Anthropocene, or to revolutionary world simulation in digital mediums, the future has always been a central motivational cog in a spinning wheel.

This conference will give presenters the opportunity to look back on classical fiction and non-fiction predictive texts and reflect on the accuracy of prediction. This classical beginning raises the question - in imagining the future - do we set a course for that future? As liberal and creative arts are often responsible for imagining the future, then are we responsible for that future? As anthropologists, if we use our skills as ethnographers to understand the needs of the future for the development of goods and services, through long-term engagement with participants - where does our responsibility begin and end? If those in the liberal arts and creative arts have their finger on the pulse of cultural trends what is our part in that future?

Through *Predictive Texts* presenters will have an opportunity to reflect on the creative process and ask - is it possible to imagine a world, its inhabitants, codes of behaviour, soundscapes, rationality, without simply re-imagining or pirating from the diversity of the cultures present or vanished? This conference invites those in the creative process; authors, poets, musicians, artist, gamers, role-players and others and asks them to consider is it possible to escape the boundaries of cultural existence and create new world orders? We encourage presenters to explore a bricolage of theories and vistas from early classical fiction to contemporary creations. Within the digital age *Predictive Texts* will offer both academics and non-academics time to reflect on the role culture has in forming or hindering imaginings of the world.

Papers are invited under the following themes but not exclusively:

- *Predictive Texts: Classical Imaginings of the Future*
- *Mind Box: Cultural and Philosophical Imaginings of the Future*
- *Dystopic Visions: Near future fiction, ecological and surrealist visions*
- *Writing anthropological futures*
- *Digital Futures - big data, security, AI*
- *Sound and Vision*
- *Ethnographic fiction*
- *Writing anthropology*

Participants are invited from all disciplines. Traditional presentations are invited, but new modes of showcasing your work can be accommodated with advance notice. Please give advance notice of the technologies needed to present non-traditional formats.

Important Dates:

Please note this a second call for papers and the change of date.

Please address queries to: cormac.sheehan@ucc.ie. Please submit an outline of your presentation as soon as possible, but no later than by the July 23rd, 2017 to aai.qub.2017@gmail.com

Traditional presentations: please submit a 350-word abstract of your presentation. Non-traditional presentations, please submit a brief description of your project, and any other multi-media format: recorded oral presentation, videos, graphics, photographs, games, etc.

About the Keynote:

Dimitris Dalakoglou is a Professor at VU University Amsterdam, where he holds the Chair in Social Anthropology. His research foci are: Infrastructures, Crises and Urban Spaces. In 2012 he was awarded an ESRC-Future Research Leaders grant for the project The City at a time of Crisis: Transformations of Urban Spaces in Athens. His books include *Greek Crisis* (2017), *The Road* (2016), *Roads and Anthropology* (2014, 2012); *Revolt and Crisis in Greece* (2011) and *Crisis-scapes: Athens and Beyond* (2014).

For more information please visit: <http://dimitrisdalakoglou.weebly.com/bio.html>

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