

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM / COLLOQUE INTERNATIONAL
PARIS GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS, HISTORY,
AND HUMANITIES IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES (GSAH)
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

The Digital Unconscious L'inconscient numérique

Film, arts and visual studies / Cinéma, arts et études visuelles

September 4th - 6th 2024

4 - 6 Septembre 2024

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO / UNIVERSITÉ DE CHICAGO



Sorbonne
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Arts, History & Humanities
in Global Perspectives
GRADUATE SCHOOL

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Today's cinema and media produce images that draw on a long-lasting visual history of digitization and geometry. Departing from technological determinism, it is possible to envisage an iconography of the digital that is independent of the computational manufacture of images that have a traceable archaeology. At the same time, the unconscious associated with technologies specific to digital technology - artificial intelligence, for example - echoes the notion of "latent space", the ways in which an individual or collective unconscious appears to 'rise' to the surface of images. From calculation to code and post-production, digital technology promises to eradicate error, the accidental and the unplanned. But in so doing, it gives rise to new forms of technological strangeness that reveal the unconscious, dysfunctional and unpredictable side of our visual culture.



Spatial Montage Table, Rémi Sagot-Duvauroux, Spatial Media-Ensalab, Inria.

The University of Chicago

Katherine Buse, Assistant Professor of Cinema and Media Studies /

Marc Downie: New Media artist, Experimental Filmmaker, IA Researcher /

Patrick Jagoda, Professor of Cinema and Media Studies / **Dan Morgan**, Professor of Cinema and Media Studies / **Ashlyn Sparrow**, Senior Research Associate in the Department of Cinema Media Studies

PhD Students: Bret Klein Hart, Yangqiao Lu, Nat Modlin, Andy Oranday, Nicolas Rueda, Zach Yost, Evan Wisdom, Hang Wu

Duke University

Anne-Gaëlle Saliot, Associate Professor of Romance Studies, Core Faculty, Cinematic Arts

Abby Shepherd, PhD

Université Paris Cité

Emmanuelle André, Professor of Cinema Studies / **Martine Beugnet**, Professor in Visual Studies / **Olga Kobryn**, Associate Professor of Cinema and Media Studies / **Marie-Pierre Burquier**, Lecturer / **Charlie Hewison**, Lecturer

PhD Students: Sarah Benedyczuk, Aya Motegi, Harrison Patten, Elie Raufaste

Université Sorbonne Nouvelle

Guillaume Soulez, professor of Cinema and Audiovisual Studies

PhD Students: Anthony Blanc, Rémi Sagot-Duvauroux

Harvard University

Tom Conley, Abbot Lawrence Lowell Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies and of Romance Languages and Literatures

University of Bergen

Scott Rettberg, Professor of Digital Culture

University of Toronto

Avery Slater, Assistant Professor of English

UCLA School of Theatre, Film and Television

Kriss Ravetto, Professor of cinema and Media Studies

& **Robert Arellano**, American author, musician and educator

Symposium Organized by

Patrick Jagoda (The University of Chicago)
Emmanuelle André (Cerilac, Université Paris Cité)
Martine Beugnet (Larca, Université Paris Cité)
Olga Kobryn (Cerilac, Université Paris Cité)
Anne-Gaëlle Saliot (Duke Université)
Guillaume Soulez (Ircav, Sorbonne Nouvelle)

With the support of the Franke Faculty Grant
(The University of Chicago)



Cinema and Visual Culture International Colloquium Series

<http://www.univ-paris3.fr/film-and-literature-international-colloquium-series-paris-3-nyu--548542.kjsp>

The Sites of the Virtual

<http://www.univ-paris3.fr/les-lieux-du-virtuel-the-sites-of-the-virtual-2018--592296.kjsp>

<https://u-paris.fr/cerilac/colloque-digital-unconscius/>

<https://artscultvis.hypotheses.org/the-digital-unconscious>



Digital Unconscious: Conference Schedule

[Film Studies Center / Cobb 307](#)

[Welcome | Film Studies Center | The University of Chicago \(uchicago.edu\)](#)

Wednesday 4 September 2024

9.30-10.00 - Introduction

10.00-11.00 - Panel 1: **Filmic Manifestations of the Unconscious**

Moderated by Harry Patten

- **Tom Conley** (Harvard University): "Where is Saint-Omer?"
- **Emmanuelle André** (Université Paris Cité): "Calculation or the Mental of Film"

11.15-12.15 - Panel 2: **Defamiliarization Through Found Footage Practices**

Moderated by Elie Raufaste

- **Martine Beugnet** (Université Paris Cité): "Blind Gaze: Found Footage and the Cinematic Unconscious"
- **Marie-Pierre Burquier** (Université Paris Cité): "Gregory Chatonsky's Post-Cinematographic Experiments. A Reflection on the Digital Unconscious of *Vertigo*"

12.15-1.45 - *lunch*

1.45-2.45 - Panel 3: **Agency and Freedom in Video Game Media**

Moderated by Sarah Benedyczuk

- **Patrick Jagoda/Ashlyn Sparrow** (dialogue) (University of Chicago): "Something Like Freedom: Video Games and the Nonsynchronous Contemporaneity of Racial Capitalism"
- **Katherine Buse** (University of Chicago): "Collective Nonconscious vs. Collective Unconscious: Modeling agency in popular media and computer science"

3.00-5.00 - Screening, experimental films (selected by Marie-Pierre Burquier and Charlie Hewison)

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Thursday 5 September 2024

9.30-10.00 - Coffee

10.00-11.15 - Panel 4: **Excavating Deep-time Relations to the Land through Digital Means**
Moderated by **Aya Motegi**

- **Anne-Gaëlle Saliot** (Duke University): “Digital Counter-Visualities of the Atomic: French-Japanese Cinema After Fukushima”
- **Charlie Hewison** (Université Paris Cité): “Mapping the Ancestral Present’, intermedial productions by the Karrabing Film Collective”
- **Kriss Ravetto-Biagoli** (UCLA School of Theater, Film & Television): “Vestigial Unconscious”

11.30-12.45 - Panel 5: **Writing with the Digital : Computational poetics, hypertext fictions, cyborg authorship.**
Moderated by **Nat Modlin**

- **Avery Slater** (University of Toronto): “Words Within Words: The Meaning of Latent Space”
- **Robert Arellano** (Author, musician): “Enter the e-Lit ice machine: Defrosting the historic *Hypertext Hotel*”
- **Scott Rettberg** (University of Bergen): “AI Text-to-Image Writing and the Digital Unconscious”

12.45-2.15 - lunch

2.15-3.30 - Panel 6: **Aesthetic Regimes of Human-Machine Interactions**
Moderated by **Rémi Sagot-Duvaouroux**

- **Olga Kobryn** (Université Paris Cité): “The Digital Unconscious; defining a concept.”
- **Dan Morgan** (University of Chicago): “Media Expansionism, the Last Bastion of the Analog”
- **Guillaume Soulez** (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle): “The Machined Man and the Variety of Digital Unconscious”

3.45-5.00: Screenings and VR Demo:

- VR demonstration of work by **Marc Downie** (University of Chicago, 311)
- Screening of *The Oasis I Deserve* (Ines Sieulle, 2024) presented by Olga Kobryn, and films by Scott Rettberg.

Friday 6 September 2024

Workshop day lead by participating Grad Students:

- **Sarah Benedyczuk** (Université Paris Cité)
- **Anthony Blanc** (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle)
- **Bret Klein Hart** (University of Chicago)
- **Yangqiao Lu** (University of Chicago)
- **Nat Modlin** (University of Chicago)
- **Aya Motegi** (Université Paris Cité)
- **Andy Oranday** (University of Chicago)
- **Harrison Patten** (Université Paris Cité)
- **Elie Raufaste** (Université Paris Cité)
- **Nicolas Rueda** (University of Chicago)
- **Rémi Sagot-Duvaurox** (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle)
- **Abby Shepherd** (Duke University)
- **Pauline Shongov** (Harvard University)
- **Evan Wisdom** (University of Chicago)
- **Hang Wu** (University of Chicago)
- **Zach Yost** (University of Chicago)

9.00-11.00 - Session 1, presentations by Grad students

11.15-12.30 - Session 2, presentations by Grad students

12.30-2.00 - lunch

2.00-3.45

- Internal discussions (2 groups)

4.00-5.00

- Public final discussion