

Symposium

New Solidarities in the More-than-Human World

The event will take place on 30 January 2025 from 10:00 to 14:00 in the Library Building of the University of Gdansk (53 Wita Stwosza St., Gdansk, Room 1.22)

Agenda

Moderator: dr Weronika Metlenga

10.00 Opening

10.15 Address by the authorities

10.30 Alex Taek-Gwang Lee, Kyung Hee University, *Sympoietic Weakness: On the Relational Technicity*

While weak technologies are traditionally understood as innovations that adapt to existing conditions rather than disrupting them, viewing them through the lens of sympoiesis (making-with) reveals a deeper understanding of their role in technological experiments. I argue that weak technologies exemplify sympoietic principles by emerging through complex relationships between users, established systems, and social practices rather than through isolated technological advancement. This perspective reframes what might be seen as limitations of weak technologies as manifestations of sympoietic weakness – an acknowledgment that sustainable transformation occurs through interconnected relationships rather than autonomous breakthroughs. My analysis suggests that understanding weak technologies as sympoietic processes can guide the development of more sustainable technological exercises that strengthen rather than disrupt existing socio-technical relationships.

11.15 Q&A session

11.30 Rick Dolphijn, Utrecht University, Not the Sky, not the Water, but the Land is that which Binds us, what Creates Solidarity

Whereas the 20th century may have called for a solidarity that has a social necessity, the 21st century surely asks us to expand our notion of solidarity towards an ecological, or more-than-human necessity. We must ask ourselves therefore “what binds us together”, what makes us a unity, a solid unity perhaps. This is the land, not the gas or liquid states of matter that surround us, but the land on which we live. It is time to remind ourselves of the fact that all objects surrounding us, either grow on the land, or are assembled from it. Especially in modern times, our technologies but actually our lives in general, have “forgotten the Earth”, even when it comes to something like solidarity. What would a new solidarity look like? If we must live our lives differently, what does this new ‘togetherness’ look like? How should we, together with the arts, search for ways to engage with land and the more-than-human world it gives rise to, creatively?

12.00 Q&A session

12.15 Coffee break

12.30 Utrecht University representatives of the Humanities Honours Program

13.00 Discussion "More-than-Human Solidarities and Cultural Organisations" chair: Rick Dolphijn (UU)

- Martyna Jastrzębska | Intermedia Studio at the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdansk
- Bartosz Rief | European Solidarity Centre
- Kacper Nosarzewski | 4CF/The Futures Literacy Company
- Irena Chawrińska | More-than-Human Studies Lab UG

13.45 Closing remarks