



Transmediale Digital Culture Festival: Ever Elusive

Partner Event of TRANSMEDIALE-Vorspiel:

Art & Science Node

with

Capture the Future(s): Evolution II, Elusive Identity

Evolution is most often associated with complex biological processes that cause changes in the characteristics of entire groups of organisms following the course of generations. Its effect is formation of biodiversity at all levels of biological organization, including species. The research on various aspects of evolution significantly affects not only the biological sciences but also other fields, i.a. anthropology, psychology, artificial intelligence research, IT and more. It changes the perception of ourselves and our relation to the environment. What can we then say, in the age of big data, of the multiplicity and richness of new scientific discoveries and philosophical concepts, about the nature of the human uniqueness, the future of humanity?

Elusive Identity or elusive unicity?

Let's focus now on Elusive Identity:

Identity. To identify yourself. To identify with something. Being identified by others. Identifying others. Is there an identity without identifying? Identification is feeling a part of something or someone. This feeling of belonging also brings forth a delimitation. „That's not me, that doesn't belong to me“.

For being able to find affiliation or delimitation it is first necessary to categorize, to collect identification data, further to select information and finally to acquire knowledge for more accurate identity. If no classification is possible, then a feeling of confusion or helplessness is induced. However this situation may lead to the development of a new form of categorization that creates an identity.

In order to be able to categorize yourself, others or to be categorized by others, a common basis is needed.

The genetic code defines through its individual combination which species we belong to, what we look like, or which sex we belong to. In parts it even defines our emotions or our susceptibility to illnesses and our tastes. We receive our genetic identity through our parents who each gives us one set of chromosomes. The expression of our genes is also dependent on our environment, which through epigenetic modifications affect our characteristic values. To some extent it was proven that even the experiences of our ancestors still influence us.

Our environment is defined by the complex combination of data, factors that have an influence on us. Factors such as location and time of our lives, the culture in which we operate, economic and ecological conditions and social status have an influence on our biological identity.

The interplay between the various levels on which our identity is shaped, who's complexity results to an overall picture that eventually fuses to an identity. However, this image is dynamic, thus defining an identity in all its entirety seems an impossible undertaking. We can however try to illuminate some of its facets and find factors that influence its shaping. The evolutionary landscape can be perceived in various ways, but the common ground is an age-long pursuit to understand and define life, to delineate the place of a human being in it and the degree of his right to influence life processes.

The objectives of the event:

- To promote synergy between artistic and scientific milieus on international level.
- To promote the multidisciplinary knowledge sharing.
- To share knowledge on international platform with polish art & science.

The concept of the event:

- Interdisciplinary panel discussion on “Elusive Identity” within *the ASN program “Capture the Future(s): Evolution II”*.
- Exhibition on “Elusive Identity”.

The international exhibition

- will embrace selected high quality artworks by renown artists realised on the crossroad of art, science & technology.

The interdisciplinary panel discussion

- will be moderated with the support and contribution of
 - A.- scientists
 - B.- Artists
 - C.- Experts from other disciplines (*philosophy, sociology,...*)

Potential Institutions involved in the event:

- Institute of A.Mickiewicz, Warsaw
- German Patent & Trademark Office
- Fraunhofer Institute Berlin, DE
- Universitat der Kunste, Berlin, DE
- Polish Academy of Sciences, PL
- KNOW Polish Leading Centre for RNA Research, PL
- UAM Poznan University, PL
- University of Arts in Poznan
- Academy of Music in Poznan, PL
- WRO Media Art Centre, PL
- University of West England, , UK
- Artists in Labs Program, Switzerland, CH
- Zürcher Hochschule der Künste (ZHdK)., Zurich, CH

Art & Science Node
the management Board