

**Performing Transformation:  
Shifting Landscapes in Art, Science, and Technology  
Conference at TU Dresden | September 29-30, 2025**

With a keynote by **Antonia Majaca** and an artistic contribution by **Mario Pfeifer**,  
Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden 2025

**Call for Abstracts**



*Corpo Fechado*, Mario Pfeifer, 2016. Courtesy the artist & KOW, Berlin. Installation view at GfZK Museum of Contemporary Art, Leipzig.

We live in a time of profound transformation—marked by economic, political, and environmental crises, alongside rapid technological and geopolitical change. These dynamics challenge conventional understandings of knowledge: its foundations, applications, and role in shaping society. Scientific disciplines, far from being neutral observers, are deeply entangled in these shifts. In this context, artistic and collaborative research practices offer new ways of reimagining how knowledge is produced and shared, prompting a critical and innovative reassessment of established norms and methods.

Drawing from transdisciplinary work on performativity, we explore infrastructures, methods, and rituals that engage tensions and creative potentials in this evolving epistemic landscape. We view knowledge production as performative: a material, embodied, and collaborative process of doing, undoing, and redoing. Artistic methods frequently reconfigure the relationships among science, technology, and publics through alternative ways of sensing, connecting, and imagining futures. Performativity emphasizes the dynamic, interconnected, and context-dependent nature of knowledges itself.

We invite participants to explore how the performativity and performance of knowledges—through scientific experiments, artistic interventions, or collaborative research—are enacted across disciplinary, institutional, and social boundaries. We are particularly interested in contexts marked by economic, political, cultural, ecological, and technological change. Our aim is to understand how such transformations provoke epistemic shifts that challenge existing systems of power, identity, and knowledge.

**We welcome both traditional paper presentations and performative or practice-based forms of knowledge production, including:**

Performances / Screenings / Workshops / Poster or Prototype Presentations / Small-scale Installations

**We welcome contributions engaging with topics such as:**

- **Performativity of Data and Algorithmic Knowledge**  
How do art and science use data to reshape our understanding of knowledge (e.g., truth, agency, intelligence, memory, trust)? How do algorithms and AI mediate our experiences and representations of the world? What are their implications for the future of research and education?
- **Regional Transformation and Situated Knowledges**  
How do historical transitions – postsocialist, postcolonial, or at borderlands – produce alternative epistemologies or reconfigure knowledge systems? How can artistic and collaborative research engage with local histories and global entanglements to challenge dominant narratives of transformation?
- **Disruptive or Reproductive?**  
Do artistic research practices actively challenge or inadvertently uphold existing structures of power, identity, and knowledge? In an age of populist disruption and systemic crisis, how can marginalized epistemologies – feminist, migrant, queer, decolonial – reshape research practices and academic structures?
- **Artistic Research Infrastructures**  
What possibilities and challenges arise when artistic research is embedded in scientific institutions, especially amid rising economic and political pressures on arts and cultures? What historical precedents offer insight into blending art, science, and technology? How can these insights inform alternative pedagogies and institutional models?
- **Speculative Imaginaries and Design as Performativity**  
How do artistic and design-based methods explore the unknown and envision technological and planetary futures? How can media and performance arts reshape relationships among disciplines, publics, and the more-than-human worlds?

The conference is organized by the established infrastructures for artistic research at TU Dresden – a collaboration between the [SchauflerLab@TU Dresden](#), [TUDISC](#), the [Interactive Science Lab](#), the [Emerging Field Societal Change](#) and [S+T+ARTS Ec\(h\)o](#), artistic residency program hosted by [the Office for Academic Heritage \(Kustodie\)](#). The conference is also supported in part by the Walter De Gruyter Foundation.

We invite interested parties to submit **abstracts of up to 500 words** by **June 20, 2025**, to [tudisc@tu-dresden.de](mailto:tudisc@tu-dresden.de). Please specify the format you would like to use for your presentation, along with any equipment and facility requirements. Proposals can be submitted in either English or German. While English is the main language of the conference, some panels and workshops will also be held in German. Please specify your preferred language for the contribution. We have a limited budget to support travel and accommodation for participants without institutional funding. Kindly indicate your interest when submitting your abstract.

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