

# Global Economy of Contribution – a Workshop

*Final Programme, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 2009*

The contemporary crisis of neo-liberalism is at the same time a crisis of consumer capitalism. Capitalism seems no longer able to provide the means of credit in order to finance what has become the increasingly compulsive consumption on which it depends. Such compulsive consumption in the *commodity* economy has a set of consequences for the *libidinal* economy: namely drives are unable to convert – and this is a cultural conversion - into desire. There is a deficit in long-term libidinal investment in cultural objects and relations. This sort of investment – and hence a possible way out of the crisis in both the economy of goods and libido - would entail a shift from consumer capitalism to an *economy of contribution*. Such an 'economy of contribution' may already be emerging, especially through new communications technologies. The social relations embedded in such technologies incorporate more than the exchange of goods against money. At stake instead is an economy more akin to gift-giving; creating positive externalities; integrating amateurs and new forms of co-production and exchange. This economy of contribution is often consolidated into communities, networks and valuation-systems based less in economic achievement than social worth. Here – as in for example the open source economy – there is creation of new forms of value: in the exchange of financial goods; of services; of cultural and political goods.

Are we living in a transition period from consumer capitalism towards an economy of contribution? Are movements such as Open Source and Wikipedia just detached phenomena, or are they the pioneers of such a new economy? How does this play out in a global context? How do specific localities and regions shape different economies of contribution? What are the new power relations and new forms of exploitation? How can we use and shape this economy of contribution? Is this evolution constituting a new kind of modernity? Can this be a re-opening of a global process of modernization, previously closed in neo-liberalism's apparently future-less possessive individualism?

Such an economy of contribution has important implications for the future of a range of cultural practices and objects, from the museum, to architecture and urban space, for the economic choices we make, the places we work in and the media more generally. This workshop will address this economy of contribution in the light of joint future projects.

The idea is to explore possibilities for collaborative research among the participants, in the context of a global reflection on modernization, in large part via the technologies of contribution themselves. Outcomes could be coordinated funding proposals to national research councils, to industry or FP7 coalitions. It could also be exhibitions or a joint initiative for the Shanghai 2010 World Expo. Or even other possibilities yet to find. We are keen to not only develop research about the economy of contribution, but also to take part in it – for example in collaborative projects with museums, with architects and designers, with planners, with industry. But this workshop which may address the pragmatics of funding, is primarily about the dissemination of ideas.

The workshop will be hosted at the Centre for Cultural Studies, Goldsmiths College, London, on **Feb 10<sup>th</sup> (full day) and the morning of Feb 11<sup>th</sup>**. The venue is Goldsmiths College, Deptford Town Hall, Room 109 on 10 Feb and Ben Pimlott Building, Room 3/4 on 11 Feb (map at the end of this document). There will be two presentations of 15-20 min length per session. A 'discussant' will summarise arising research questions.

Scott Lash, Bernard Stiegler, Robert Zimmer, Nina Wakeford, Götz Bachmann.

Goldsmiths gratefully acknowledges the support by Intel Research.

## **Tuesday, 10 February**

### **9:00 – 9.30 Intro**

Chair's Intro: Scott Lash, CCS

Coordinator's Introduction: Bernard Stiegler, Centre Pompidou, CCS

### **9:30 - 11:00 Museum of Contribution**

This session will comprise 15-20 minute presentations by Tate Modern and by Centre Pompidou

Jennifer Mundy, Tate Collection Research

Anna Cutler, Tate Learning

James Davis, Tate Online Collections

Sheena Wagstaff, Tate Exhibitions and Displays

Vincent Puig, Centre Pompidou

Yves Marie L'Hour, Centre Pompidou

Nicolas Sauret, Centre Pompidou

Discussant: Bernard Stiegler

### **11:00 - 11:30 Coffee/tea**

### **11:30 - 13:00 Art/Media**

Presentations by

Graham Harwood, CCS

Bronac Ferran, Royal College of Art

Additional Input by

Juan Insua, Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona

Nina Wakeford, Sociology

Suhail Malik, Visual Arts

Discussant: Scott Lash

### **13:00 - 14:00 Lunch (served sandwiches)**

Lunch screening of Neil Cummings film, 'Museum Futures'

### **14:00 - 15:30 Relations and Networks**

Presentations by

Neil Cummings, Chelsea College

Lucy Kimbell, Saïd Business School, Oxford

Additional Input by

Celia Lury, Sociology

David Oswell, Sociology

Goetz Bachmann, CCS

Noortje Marres, Sociology

Nigel Llewellyn, Tate Research

Discussant: Goetz Bachmann

### **15:30 - 16:00 Coffee/tea**

**16:00 - 17:30 Software of Contribution**

Presentations by

Matt Fuller, Cultural Studies

Pavel Sedlak, Prague, International Centre for Art and New Technologies

Additional Input by

Robert Zimmer, Computing

Olga Goriunova, CCS

Discussant: Robert Zimmer

**17:30 - 18:00 General Implications for Research**

**18:00 Pub**

**20:00 Dinner - Strada, London Bridge**

**Wednesday, 11 February**

**9:00 - 10:30 Design of Contribution**

Presentation by

David Garcia, Chelsea College of Art and Design

Bas Rajimakers/Geke Van Dijk, STBY, London

Additional Input by

Tobie Kerridge, Design

Nicolas Aurey, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications, Paris

Discussant: Ishida Hidetaka

**10:30 - 10:45 Coffee/tea**

**10:45 - 12:15 Media Theory**

Presentations by

Hidetaka Ishida, Tokyo University

Scott Lash, CCS

Additional Input by

Yuk Hui, CCS

Christian Licoppe, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunication, Paris

Discussant: Juan Insua

**12:15 - 12:45 Conclusions**

**Other Participants**

Laurene Vaughan, RMIT University, Melbourne

Joanna Zylinska, Media Comms

Maria Bezaitis, Intel PaPR, Portland

Jennifer Bajorek, CCS

Clive Grinyer, Cisco Systems

Olivier Landau, France Telecom (in future)

Lu Xinghua (in future)

Eric Kluitenberg, De Balie, Amsterdam (in future)

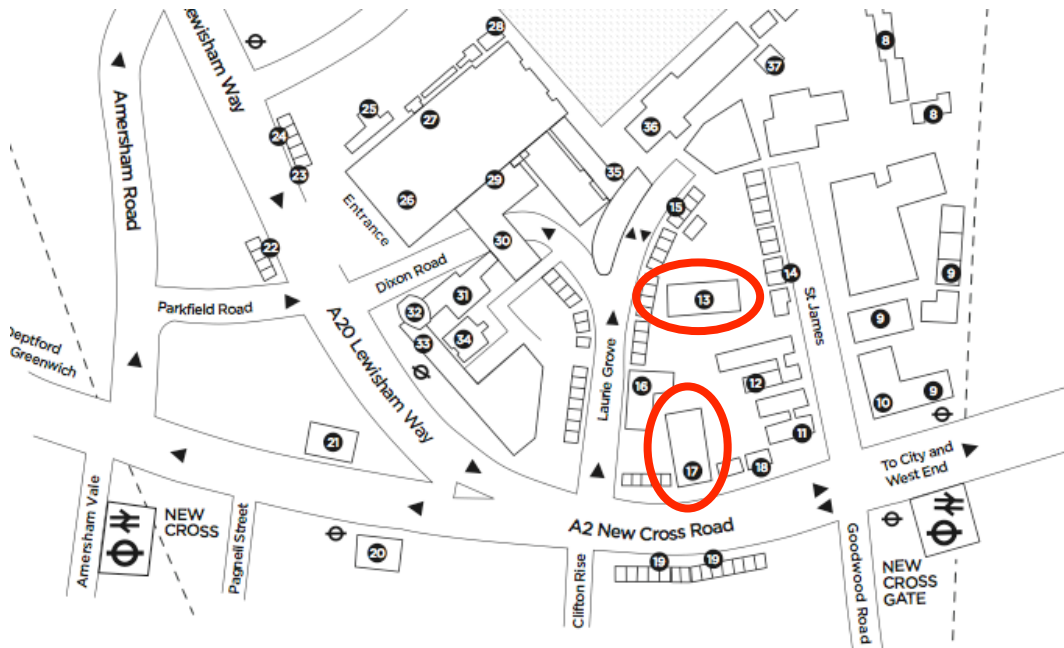
Stefan Beck, Humboldt University Berlin (in future)

Steven Bogнар, Hungarian Film Biennale (in future)

## Venues

Feb 10<sup>th</sup>: Goldsmiths College, Deptford Town Hall, Room 109 - see 17 in map below

Feb 11<sup>th</sup>: Goldsmiths College, Ben Pimlott Building, Room 3/4 - see 13 in map below



Restaurant Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 8PM: La Strada 2 More London Place, The Riverside, SE1 2JP

