»Camera Studies: Rebellious Devices«
Closing-Conference of the DFG-Network »Camera Studies«
Potsdam, December 9–11, 2026

Camera Studies examines specific recording dispositives. The focus is on the interplay between the camera and the body, orientation and technology, economics/law, and usage. The project also examines cameras and camera-related technologies, their usage, and their influence on the cultures of use.
The theme of ‘rebellious devices’ deliberately focuses on practices in which the camera does not disappear during use or is bypassed in the final result, but remains perceptible – either because , for example, it is heavy or broken, or because its impact on the environment becomes visible. The conference will feature film programs, discussions and papers on modified apparatuses and the hacking of cameras. Ecological and material aspects, as well as recent developments, will also be addressed.
‘Rebellious Devices’ is the concluding conference of the DFG-funded ‘Camera Studies’ network, which has been discussing these issues over the past three years. Taking cameras as technical objects as its starting point – the network’s aim is to systematically examine their use, their economic and legal effects and their concrete influence on the productions created with them. The network is led by Winfried Gerling and Florian Krautkrämer.

Program

Wednesday, December 9
Filmmuseum Potsdam

17:00–19:00
Opening: *The Camera – Friend or Foe?*
with contributions by Sturla Brandth Grøvlen
in conversation with Martin Jehle

Thursday, December 10
Theaterwerkstatt FHP & Filmmuseum Potsdam

10:00–12:00
Displacement/Rewiring: Camera Futures
with Estelle Blaschke, Ruth Horak and Ali Shobeiri
moderated by Katja Müller-Helle
Theaterwerkstatt

14:00–18:00
Hacking the Apparatus
with Helena Nikonole
moderated by Elisa Linseisen
Theaterwerkstatt

from 19:00
Screening: Time Bending Media
with contributions by Johann Lurf, Martin Reinhart and Michael Wesely
in conversation with Volker Pantenburg
Filmmuseum

Friday, December 11
Theaterwerkstatt FHP

10:00–12:00
Experimental Constructions
with Johann Lurf, Martin Reinhart and Michael Wesely
moderated by Volker Pantenburg

14:00–16:00
Materialities/Infrastructures
with Su Yu Hsin and Boaz Levin
moderated by Ute Holl

16:30–18:30
Opening the Device
with Joel Schlemowitz and Benoît Turquety
moderated by Isabel Krek

19:00–20:00
Farewell
Winfried Gerling and Florian Krautkrämer

Locations

Filmmuseum Potsdam
Institut der Filmuniversität Babelsberg KONRAD WOLF
Breite Straße 1a / Marstall
14467 Potsdam
www.filmmuseum-potsdam.de

Theaterwerkstatt FH Potsdam
H.1.24 (Hauptgebäude/Main Building)
Kiepenheuerallee 5
14469 Potsdam Brandenburg
www.fh-potsdam.de

Mercure-Hotel Potsdam City
Lange Brücke
14467 Potsdam
all.accor.com/hotel/1582/index.de.shtml

How to get there

Fachhochschule Potsdam can be reached from Potsdam Hauptbahnhof or Alter Markt/Landtag by taking tram line 92 towards Kirschallee or tram line 96 towards Campus Jungfernsee. The Theaterwerkstatt is located on the first floor of the main building and can be accessed via the main staircase or the elevator in the foyer.

The **Mercure-Hotel Potsdam City** can be reached from Potsdam Central Station in 10 minutes on foot or in 5 minutes by tram (lines 92, 93, 96) to the Alter Markt/Landtag stop. Check-in is from 3:00 PM, and check-out is by 12:00 PM.

The **Filmmuseum Potsdam** is located almost directly opposite, on the other side of the street, towards Potsdam's city center.

camera-studies.emw.eu