

EMPATHY COLLOQUIUM

Anfiteatro FCIências.ID

6 October 2022

10.30 -16.30 hrs

10.30-10.40 – Opening remarks

10.40- Cristina Tavares, “Einführung e empatia como dimensões da experiência artística e estética”

11.00- Augusta Gaspar, “Developing empathy from pre-adolescence to adult life. An empirical study and some reflections”

11.20- Alexander Gerner, “Dramaturgies of “cold” machines, *cold persona*, and *loss of face* as technological (AI) other?”

11.40- Catarina Pombo Nabais, “Towards a critical and clinical approach on empathy”

12.00- Julia Bentz, “Getting to the heart of sustainability transformation - with art and story”

12.20- 13.00 – Audience questions & Roundtable Debate

13.00-14.15 – LUNCH at Restaurant-Bar C6, FCUL

14.15- Graça Corrêa, “Introduction to Eco-Empathy”

14.30- Diana Prata, “Neuroscience of empathy”

14.50- Ana Pais, “Narratives of passivity and modes of empathy in contemporary spectatorship”

15.10- Szabolcs Musca, “Migrant and radical: political migrant theatre and dramaturgies towards radical empathy”

15.30- Vicky Angelaki, “Empathy, Environment, Embodiment: Self and Cosmos in Contemporary British Theatre”

15.50- Sonja Graf, “Dancing our way to a more empathetic world: an interdisciplinary approach to the power of interpersonal motor coordination”

16.10-16.30 – Audience questions & Roundtable Debate

CRISTINA TAVARES

“Einführung e empatia como dimensões da experiência artística e estética”

Licentiate Degree in Philosophy (FLUL, 1979). Master of Arts (1984) and PhD (2000) in Contemporary Art History (FCSH-UNL). Vice-President of FBAUL-Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Lisboa; Associate Professor at FBAUL (CAP). She teaches in the doctoral programs of FBAUL, FCTAS and EA. Coordinator of the PD-FCTAS Doctoral Program and of the Masters in Arts Education FBAUL. Researcher at CFCUL and CIEBA. She publishes and writes on Contemporary Art History, Art Criticism, Curation and Aesthetics. She is a member of the Scientific Committee of the José-Augusto França Donation Museum, Contemporary Art Nucleus, Tomar.

AUGUSTA GASPAR

“Developing empathy from pre-adolescence to adult life. An empirical study and some reflections”

Augusta Gaspar is a Psychologist, with both a Masters in Ethology and in Educational Psychology, and a PhD in Biological Anthropology. She is currently Assistant Professor at Faculdade de Ciências Humanas, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, where she serves as Psychology Scientific Coordinator and member of the Board of the Católica Research Centre for Psychological, Social and Family Wellbeing. She is also a member of the Scientific Forum of the Portuguese Order of Psychologists. Her research is best described under Psychobiology, as she takes a cross-disciplinary multimethod approach to the study of emotions and expressive behaviour, addressing developmental, evolutionary and applied research questions. She has undertaken the first comparative study of chimpanzee and bonobo facial behaviour and compared it with human facial expression; she has studied the development of facial expression in children, facial behaviour in gorillas, facial behaviour and social attraction in young children, the perception of expressions in adolescents and adults, physiological reactions to facial expression, empathy development and empathy toward non-human animals. She has also worked in the development of informatic applications to treat social anxiety, phobias and to promote positive emotions and wellbeing. Her work is published in numerous international and Portuguese journals and books.

ALEXANDER GERNER

“Dramaturgies of “cold” machines, *cold persona*, and *loss of face* as technological (AI) other?”

Alexander Gerner (Ph.D. in History and Philosophy of Science at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, Post-Doc in Philosophy of Cognitive Enhancement), FCUL researcher in philosophy and theater dramaturg, is a member of the CFCUL and Vice-Head of its Research Group 3 (Philosophy of Technology, Human Sciences, Art and Society). He teaches philosophy of technology in a doctoral program, and *Computer and Society* as well as *History and Philosophy of Technology* at the University of Lisbon, focusing, among others, on ethical, social, and aesthetic questions of technology and on being a critic of algorithmic rationalities. His current research project, “Hacking Humans. Dramaturgies and Technologies of becoming Other,” is financed by national funds through FCT in the scientific field of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology.

CATARINA POMBO NABAIS

"Towards a critical and clinical approach on empathy"

Catarina Pombo Nabais has a degree in Philosophy (ULisbon) and completed her PhD in Philosophy (UParis 8), under the supervision of Jacques Rancière. Her first book *Gilles Deleuze: Philosophie et Littérature* (Harmattan, 2013) was prefaced by Rancière, translated by Ronald Bogue and published in the USA (Rowman & Littlefield, 2020). More recently, she co-signed with Boris Groys the book *Towards Self-design. Philosophical Conversations*, (FEAA/FLUC/IUC, 2022, in press) and organized the book *Creative Processes in Science and Arts. The issue of public participation* (Afrontamento, 2021). At ULisboa, she is a researcher and integrated member of the Center for Philosophy of Sciences (CFCUL) since 2006, in which she was a Post-Doc (2008-2019). At CFCUL, she supervises several doctoral theses, she is Vice-Head of the Research Group "Philosophy of Technology, Human Sciences, Art and Society" and created, in 2014, the Research Line "SAP Lab: Science-Art-Philosophy Lab". Postgraduate in Art Curatorship (FSCH/Nova), she works as a Curator. Invited Curator of the area "Science, Art and Philosophy" of the FICA International Festival, she is also the founder and curator of the art gallery Oficina Impossível (Lisbon), and guest curator of "Coletivo à Linha" (Cascais).

JULIA BENTZ

"Getting to the heart of sustainability transformation - with art and story"

Julia Bentz is a postdoc researcher at the Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences at the University Nova of Lisbon. With a background in interdisciplinary social sciences, she conducts research on social-ecological interactions in a variety of research fields and contexts including climate change resilience, adaptation and transformation. Through research and practice Julia has gathered extensive experience in science communication, public engagement and environmental education. As a PI of project ART FOR ADAPTATION (www.artforadaptation.com), she conducts research on the potential of art in education and communication about climate change, transformation, environmental justice and peace and conceptualises and realises educational projects at public schools, universities, church organisations, ecofestivals and in local communities. This research explores the educational potential of art, the co-creation of transformation processes through storytelling and the development of a sense of empowerment and agency through transdisciplinary approaches.

GRAÇA CORRÊA

"Introduction to Eco-Empathy"

Graça P. Corrêa is a FCUL researcher at Faculty of Sciences of University of Lisbon, DHFC-Department of History and Philosophy of Sciences, CFCUL-Center for Philosophy of Sciences, where she currently directs interdisciplinary research projects on Empathy in Theatre-Dramaturgy-Performance, within the correlation of art-science-philosophy. Ph.D. in Theatre Theory & Film Studies from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York as FCT scholar, MA in Directing from Emerson College in Boston as Fulbright Scholar and with Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation award, degree in Architecture-University of Lisbon and in Theatre-ESTC-IPL. Select publications: books *Gothic Theory and Aesthetics: Transdisciplinary Landscapes in Film, Theatre, Architecture and Literature* (2021) and *Sensory Landscapes in Harold Pinter: A Study in Ecocriticism and Symbolist Aesthetics* (2012); articles "Ecocentric empathy in documentary film and philosophy: on the necropolitics of contemporary human

uprootedness” (2022), “‘White people all over’: Refugee Performance, Fictional Aesthetics and Dramaturgies of Alterity-Empathy,” (with S.Musca, 2020), “Longing and Belonging through Migration: Otherness and Empathy in Theatre and Philosophy” (2019), and “Towards an Ecophilosophical Reading of Space and Landscape in Theatre, Drama and Performance” (2017). Alongside her academic career, she has presented works as a professional theatre director, playwright, dramaturg, stage designer and translator of drama, in both Portugal and the US.

DIANA PRATA

“Neurociência da empatia”

Diana Prata became a biologist in the University of Lisbon in 2002, but always felt divided between the cell and the psyche. She thus moved to the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience of King’s College London, as a Leonardo da Vinci fellow, where she started researching on the genetics of mental illness. Awarded an FCT fellowship, she completed therein a PhD in neuroimaging genetics in 2008, and coordinated a joint-venture between KCL and a pharmacogenetics company, Optimal Medicine, Ltd. She was awarded the prestigious NIHR (National Institute for Health Research, UK) post-doc fellowship to work on a multimodal biomarker of psychosis, and became a Lecturer at KCL. She was distinguished by King’s College London as a Top Early Career Researcher in the UK Research Excellence Framework assessment 2014. After 12 years in the UK, she founded her own research lab, the Biomedical Neuroscience Lab at the Institute of Biophysics and Biomedical Engineering of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon. She holds a state-sponsored FCT Principal Investigator Scientific Employment Stimulus contract award; remains a Visiting Lecturer at IoPPN of King’s College London; and Collaborator at CIS-ISCTE. In 2017, she won a Marie Curie Prize as “most promising researcher” in innovation and entrepreneurship; after being awarded a Marie Curie Career Integration Grant in 2014. Her lab’s mission is to understand how we evolved our social abilities, asking, for example, via what biological mechanisms we cooperate, predict each other’s intentions and perceive others’ feelings – so as to find clues to help treat social cognitive symptoms such as those found in autism, psychopathy or psychosis.

ANA PAIS

“Narratives of passivity and modes of empathy in contemporary spectatorship”

Ana Pais is theatre and performance scholar at CET-Centro de Estudos de Teatro, School of Arts and Humanities of the University of Lisbon (FLUL), dramaturge and curator. She was a FCT postdoctoral fellow from 2015 to 2021, and visiting scholar at NYU, PUC-São Paulo and UFBA-Bahia. She is the author of *Discourse of Complicity. Contemporary Dramaturgies* (Colibri 2004) and *Affective Rhythms in the Performing Arts* (Colibri 2018). She edited the volume *Performance in the Public Sphere* (2017, Orfeu Negro) with online version available at www.performativa.pt. Her last book *Who is afraid of Emotions?* is a public engagement publication on the performativity of affects in the pandemic. Her research addresses public feelings, cultural conditionings, embodied knowledge, affective atmospheres and public health. As a dramaturge, she has worked with theatre and dance professionals in Portugal (João Brites, Tiago Rodrigues, Sara de Castro, Rui Horta and Miguel Pereira). From 2005 to 2010, she was assistant professor at Escola Superior de Teatro e Cinema (Lisbon) and was also invited lecturer at the University of Évora (2010, 2015). She has also curated, coordinated and produced various discursive practice events, such as *The Power of*

Affect Lecture Series (Culturgest, February 2015), *Projecto P! Performance in the Public Sphere* (2017), and *In the Flow: Public feelings and practices of awareness* (2019). Please check the website www.performativa.pt for documentation on the two last projects.

SZABOLCS MUSCA

“Migrant and radical: political migrant theatre and dramaturgies towards radical empathy”

Szabolcs Musca is Senior Research Fellow (Humboldt) at the UNESCO Institute for Cultural Policy for the Arts in Development (University of Hildesheim) and Research Associate at the Universities of Bristol and of Lisbon. He is Board Director of Migrant Dramaturgies Network, currently leading an international research project on theatre and migration in Europe. Szabolcs holds a PhD from the University of Bristol and he worked as an academic and curator of arts & cultural projects both in the UK and continental Europe. He is guest-editor of *Performing Ethos*' special journal issue on 'Theatre and Migration between Ethics and Aesthetics' (2019) and his co-edited collection, *Redefining Theatre Communities. International Perspectives on Community-Conscious Theatre-Making* was published by Intellect (2019).

VICKY ANGELAKI

“Empathy, Environment, Embodiment: Self and Cosmos in Contemporary British Theatre”

Vicky Angelaki is Professor of English Literature at Mid Sweden University (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences). She was previously based in the United Kingdom for a number of years (Birmingham City University; University of Birmingham; University of Reading). Major publications include the monographs *Martin Crimp's Power Plays: Intertextuality, Sexuality, Desire* (2022), *Theatre & Environment* (2019), *Social and Political Theatre in 21st-Century Britain: Staging Crisis* (2017), *The Plays of Martin Crimp: Making Theatre Strange* (2012), and the edited collection *Contemporary British Theatre: Breaking New Ground* (2013; 2016). She is currently working on the research project *Performing Interspaces: Social Fluidities in Contemporary Theatre*, funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Sweden). The project will result in an open-access monograph contracted with Palgrave Macmillan / Springer.

SONJA GRAF

“Dancing our way to a more Empathetic world: an Interdisciplinary Approach to the Power of Interpersonal Motor Coordination”

Sonja Graf is a PhD candidate in Psychology at ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa and part of CIS's research groups: Psychology of Social Change, and Behavior, Emotion and Cognition. She has a bachelors in Culture and Philosophy from the University of Amsterdam and a masters in the Anthropology of Dance from the University of Limerick. She is also an avid social dancer. Sonja is part of Diana Prata's Biomedical Neuroscience lab and her doctoral research aims to understand how social dancing can increase prosocial and empathetic attitudes and behaviors within intergroup contexts. She has lived in the United States, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Ireland, Greece, Spain and Portugal. Her research looks at intercultural social integration in urban contexts, focusing on social dances in their power to connect people from different backgrounds. She researches the many layers of social integration down to the neurochemical level, focusing on touch, synchrony and oxytocin.