

MIDLANDS CONFERENCE IN CRITICAL THOUGHT 2024

Centre for Policy, Citizenship and Society + Department of Social and Political Sciences, Nottingham Trent University

**Venue – Nottingham Conference Centre - Burton Street, Nottingham,
NG1 4BU**

April 5th to April 6th, 2024

Conference Program - (Short version without abstracts)

Welcome to the inaugural Midlands Conference in Critical Thought (MCCT). The MCCT is an offshoot of the highly successful London Conference in Critical Thought (LCCT), first established in 2011, the MCCT has taken onboard the LCCT ethos in that it is a free interdisciplinary conference in critical thought, providing a space for those who share theoretical approaches and interests but who may find themselves at the margins of their academic department or discipline. MCCT, in line with the LCCT, follows a non-hierarchical and decentralised model of organisation that undoes conventional academic distinctions between plenary lectures and break-out sessions, aiming instead to create opportunities for intellectual critical exchange regardless of participants' disciplinary field, institutional affiliation, or seniority. Following this decentralised, 'margins-at-the-centre' logic, both the MCCT and LCCT have no overarching or predetermined theme. Each year the conference's intellectual content and academic tone are set by thematic streams that are conceived, proposed and curated by a group of stream organisers. Each stream generates its own intellectual rationale and Call for Presentations, with conference participants responding to the accepted stream proposals.

Conference Streams 2024

Neoliberalism and Digital Societies: Rethinking the Relation between the Real and the Virtual

Antonio Cerella, Nottingham Trent University;
Luca Mavelli, University of Kent

Co-production in Research – The Emperor’s New Clothes?

Christopher R Matthews; Marit Hiemstra, Dee Yeagers, Nottingham Trent University

Critical Political Epistemology

Critical Political Epistemology Network

War, State Harm and Resistance

Hannah Wilkinson, University of Nottingham

Identity in Utopia

Jen Neller, & Kay Lalor Manchester Law School

Postcolonial and Decolonial Theory and Practice

Teodora Todorova, University of Warwick
Edward Wright, University of Nottingham

Apocalypse, crisis, and constructing our endings.

Dr Romain Chenet & Dr Bryan Brazeau
University of Warwick

Mental Health Commons: Fantasy, Utopia and Infrastructure

Raluca Soreanu & the FREEPSY team
freepsy.essex.ac.uk

Post-human social inquiry: ontology to method and back again

Dr Victoria Cluley, University of Nottingham
Professor Nick Fox, University of Huddersfield

Rethinking work and career; continued resistance to the neoliberal order

Ricky Gee, Nottingham Trent University;
Ranier Abengana, University College Dublin;
Anastasia Fjodorova, University of Stirling;
Louise Oldridge, Nottingham Trent University;

Media epistemologies: The formal, material, technical, infrastructural, and communicational conditions of knowledge

Thomas Sutherland (University of Lincoln)
Scott Wark (Goldsmiths College University of London)

Addressing the Underbellies of Neoliberal Academia

Dr Matko Krce-Ivančić

Transgressive Thought in the 21st century: Thinking the thought of the outside, the thought beyond the Law

GCAS College Dublin

Productivity or Process: What is the Value in Making?

Oliver Cloke (Questioner) and Patrick Loan (Instructor) VCAS - Vienna Contemporary Art Space

Gentle Gestures - To feel, touch, activate, brush, signal, indicate, host, carry, trust, blush, disrupt.

Alice Bell - University of Lincoln, Mark Kasumovic - De Montfort University, Danica Maier – Nottingham Trent University

Cultural Resistance in a Time of Economic Stagnation

Dr Hui-Ying Kerr, Nottingham Trent University

Critical Thought on Cities

Dr Francesco Proto, Oxford Brookes University
Dr Jenni Cauvain (Nottingham Trent University)
Dr Michele Grigolo (Nottingham Trent University)
Dr Yahya Lavaf-Pour (University of the West of England)
Dr Fidel Meraz (University of the West of England)

Friday 5th April

(Please note you can find a programme overview at the end of this document)

9:00-9:30 – Registration (Level 2 Foyer)

9:30 – 11:00 - Parallel Sessions 1

N28B Level 2 - Rethinking Work and Career: Continued resistance to the neoliberal order (panel 1): Exploitation in a post-industrial labour market

Constructing human capital by salariat and precariat: the neuroticization of immaterial workers in cognitive capitalism

Алиса Милецкая

“I’ve always felt passionate about not starving to death”: The neoliberal co-option of passion in the service of work and capitalism.

Anastasia Fjodorova

The Erinyes Within: The Entrepreneurship Concept in Post-Industrial Society

Tomáš Havlíček

N27A Level 2 - Addressing the Underbellies of Neoliberal Academia 1 - Co-opted University

Disobedient collaboration in civic space: Reclaiming the co-opted in the neoliberal university

Alexandra Reynolds

Rigged Academia

Matko Krce-Ivančić

Hooley Room - Neoliberalism & Digital Societies

Neoliberalism & Digital Societies: A Semiotic Framework for Analysis

Antonio Cerella & uca Mavelli

Making Meaning in the Big Tech Era

Niels Niessen

Big Tech, Neoliberalism and the Form of Twenty-First Century Fiction

Joel Evans

On What We Need To Know: The Necessity of Explainable AI in Legal decision-making

Andrej Krištofik

Adams Room - Gentle Gestures 1 – Panel 1 -Enacting Ephemeral Places of Discovery

Touched by Sound: The Being-Together-Being in Movement Art

Lars Koens & JuJu Kusanagi

The gesture of push in drawing – a tango with other

Sarah Tutt

Beyond Words: Exploring the Silent Dialogue Between a Musicalized Body and Linguistic Expression

Yuchen Li,

Kilpin Room - Mental Health Commons: Fantasy, Utopia & Infrastructure 1

'Writing Out of This World': Restoring Texts from the Archive of Psychosis

Matt ffytche

Dig a hole and step inside On collective wounds and artistic interventions in public sites

Magda Schmukalla

11:00-11:30 – Break

11:30-13:00 – Parallel Sessions 2

N28B Level 2 - Postcolonial and Decolonial Theory and Practice 1 - Postcolonial and Decolonial Practice

How do educators in primary schools understand and teach Britishness?

Alex Kosogorin

Muq: critical pedagogy experiences and museum as practice

Lucas Reitz and Gustavo Machado

N27A Level 2 - War, State Harm and Resistance 1 - War and Terror

Contextualising the Dead: The War on Terror, Casualty Recording and the Work of Iraq Body Count

Lily Hamourtziadou

The 'Legal Black-Hole': the impact of 'enemy combatant' status on resettled and repatriated Guantanamo Bay detainees'

Natalie Porter

Rising State Violence and Politics of Hate

Amr Marzouk & Hannah Wilkinson

N28A Level 2 - Identity in Utopia Panel 1 - Embodying Feminist Utopias

The Dialectic of Sex: An Existential Premise

Thomas Chesworth

Lolitas, Mountain Witches and Sexy Gals: Japanese Fashion as Rebellious Style in the Lost Decades.

Hui-Ying Kerr

Hooley Room - Critical Thought on Cities 1 – Social Theory

Safe Neighbourhoods, Contested Spaces

Yesmean Khalil

Cities as spaces of human rights: children's right to clothing in Nottingham

Michele Grigolo

Cities and climate change: towards local epistemic and social orders

Jenni Cauvain

Kilpin Room Mental Health Commons: Fantasy, Utopia & Infrastructure 2 - Figurations of Psychosis (1): Archives and Ethnographies

The movements of the listening: cartography of the psychosocial care offered to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

Gustavo da Silva Machado

Dispersed Transference: Francesc Tosquelles and the Saint-Alban Hospital

Candela Potente

13:00-14:00 – Break for lunch (food and drink not provided)

14:00 – 15:30 - Parallel Sessions 3

N28B Level 2 - Postcolonial and Decolonial Theory and Practice 2 - Harm, Postcolonial Theory and Decolonisation 2

Dismantling Narratives and Borders: Decolonising the Climate 'Refugee'

Irene Sacchetti

When all you've got is a hammer, everything looks like a nail: explaining the absence of race within the zemiological toolkit.

Edward Wright

N27A Level 2 - War, State Harm and Resistance 2 - State Harm, Activism and Resistance

Immigration raids, harm and violence in Britain

Monish Bhatia & Jon Burnett

Prefiguration and the post-representational politics of anti-deportation activism

Tom Kemp

Contemporary Environmental Activism; State Security Creep and Control of the Borders of Resistance

Laura Naegler, Amy French and Gabe Mythen, University of Liverpool, UK

N28A Level 2 - Identity in Utopia Panel Proposal 2 - Epistemologies of Transformation and Temporalities of Utopia

Affirmative refusals and different differences: Locating untimely futures of LGBTQI rights.

Kay Lalor, Manchester Metropolitan University

The (Epistemic) Politics of Indigeneity: Why the Past Matters for a New Tomorrow

Cristina Conesa

Dignity as a Utopian Methodology for Doing Difference Differently

Jen Neller

Hooley Room - Productivity or Process: What is the Value of Making 1 - 'Productivity, creation, and digital technologies'

"YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT"

Ziegi Boss

A conceptual framework for human-AI art creation: the Distributed Artificial Intelligence studies

Sun Park

Park Your Desire in the Platform Economy: Value for your Time

Avantika Tewari

Failure, Technology, and The Body

Catherine Bourne

Adams Room – Gentle Gestures 2 – Panel 2 - Embodied Spaces of Collective Care, Materialism, and Collaboration

Sojourn Project Space: subordinate labour and feminist gift practice

Assunta Ruocco with Chiara Dellerba, Zak Jones, Ellen Angus, Sumiko Eadon, Alison Lloyd

Sensing the Presentation in Dialogue: A Collective Wor[[]]ding of Non-Visual Culture.

Benjamin Jenner

Flirting with fun-ing: applying a playful and embodied educational approach to a Poetry workshop

Sarah Huxley

Kilpin Room - Mental Health Commons: Fantasy, Utopia & Infrastructure 3 - Figurations of Psychosis (2)

Conversations and Scraps: free clinic experience in a southern Brazilian city

Gustavo da Silva Machado, Dr, Fabiana Wolff Kogi, Isadora Sammi Clausen, Jade da Silveira Fraga, Kleriane Napp Ribas

Psychoanalysis and the politics of common.

Aline Rubin, Clarice Paulon and Augusto Coaracy

The boom of 'Social Clinics' of psychoanalysis in Brazil from 2017-2022: Current movements and their discourses

Paula Costa Camarão

15:30-16:00 – Break

16:00 – 17:30 – Parallel Session 4

N28B Level 2 - Postcolonial and Decolonial Theory and Practice 3 - Postcolonial and Decolonial Theory and Practice 3

Social justice in times of racial saturation

Gaspard Rey

(Re)presenting violence: a critical analysis of the desire to depict 'honour-based violence'

Hasret Cetinkaya

N28A Level 2 - Critical Political Epistemology 1

What is epistemic power? Toward a critical political epistemology

Solmu Anttila

A Functionalist Approach to Ignorance and its Relevance for Critical Political Epistemology

Sonja Riegler

Epistemic oppression and the division of epistemic labour

Karl Landström

Hooley Room - Productivity or Process: What is the Value of Making 2 – Electronic philosophies and molecular processes

Conceptualising the Process of Philosophy

Andrew Milward

You Should Be Doing It Wrong! Unintended Applied Ontology in (Sound) Art

Anthony Kroytor

Contemporary Molecular Politics in Creative Processes

Georgia Perkins

Adams Room - Gentle Gestures 3 – Workshop 1

Inspired by 8 Acts of Love, an interactive exhibition

Alice Bell & Carron Little

Kilpin Room - Mental Health Commons: Fantasy, Utopia & Infrastructure 4 - Reimagining Psychoanalytic Listening and the Commons

The Psychoanalytic Treatment of Psychosis: Towards a Psychosocial Ethnography and a Clinical Anthropology.

Alexander Miller

In Defense of Psychosis.

Kendra Terry

Jung's Approach to Psychosis – A Relevant Model for the Present Day

Andrew Howe

17:30 – Drinks Reception (Level 2 Foyer)

Sponsored by the Centre for Policy, Citizenship and Society

Saturday 6th April

(Please note you can find a programme overview at the end of this document)

9:00-9:30 – Registration (Level 2 Foyer)

9:30 – 11:00 - Parallel Sessions 5

N27A Level 2 - Co-production in Research – The Emperor’s New Clothes? 1

Scrutinising the “trendiness” of co-produced research – a zemiological approach

Marit Hiemstra and Christopher R. Matthews

Is Co-production possible in Ph.D.’s? Some reflections on a Col(l)abatory approach

Dee Yeagers

Coproduction in Healthcare for People with Learning Disabilities

Bojana Daw Srdanović, Daniel Goodley & Nikita Hayden

N28A Level 2 - Critical Political Epistemology 2

Climate change discourses in Central Asia: power dynamics in the vulnerable states

Alina Bychkova

Benjamin's “Political Characterology” as a critical reading of the Conservative Revolution

Mag.a Irene Salzmann

Hooley Room - Productivity or Process: What is the Value of Making 3 - Manifesting processes

Anti-Manifesto – for successful self-doubting in art.

Melina Steiner

A Shared Wooliness: Unearthing and propagating post-growth economic models through the Process of making with wool.

Grace Jackson

Is the creative process valued, or is the value only attributed to the finished object/ outcome

Oliver Cloke

Adams Room – Gentle Gestures 4 – Listening, Confusing, Upsetting as Performative and Disruptive Acts in Higher Education

Navigating Creative Ecologies: HE-Based Arts Providers' Role in Gentle Transitions

Burcu Güney Yilmaz

Holding the line and then crossing it

Emily Orley, Katja Hilevaara, Susannah Henry, Jo Chard, Gilly Roche

Confusion as Gesture: A lecture performance exploring the confusion's disruptive potential in the managed University

Joe O'Brien

Kilpin Room - Mental Health Commons: Fantasy, Utopia & Infrastructure 5 - Economies of Affect and Collective Mourning

Alone Together: A Brief Inquiry into Political Economy of Affect and Emotion

Rifki Akbar Pratama

Considerations on the Popular Teaching of Psychoanalysis

Luíza Girolamo Canato Magro

11:00-11:30 – Break

11:30 – 13:00 – Parallel Sessions 6

N28B Level 2 - Apocalypse, crisis, and constructing our endings

Aloof and flooded: Marie Redonnet's girl-places and their watery end

Maria Gil Ulldemolins

From Daytime Remnants to the Remnants of History: An Analysis of the Dreams of the Covid-19 Pandemic Jaquelyne Rosatto Melo and Ivan Estevão Ramos

At war with the future: The role of dystopias in terrorist manifestos

Andrew Fergus Wilson

N27A Level 2 - Co-production in Research – The Emperor's New Clothes? 2

The wheel of consent; a tool for refocusing on the balance of requests and benefits in the everyday of participatory research, and disrupting normative ways of thinking and working in academia (workshop proposal)

Hannah Gardiner

N28A Level 2 - Critical Political Epistemology 3

From "transidentity" to "we are trans people"

Maelle Roussel

Investigating Rhetorical-Epistemic Oppression by the example of trans* experiences

Flora Löffelmann

Hooley Room - Productivity or Process: What is the Value of Making 4 - Processing drawing

Filling in the Gaps - A Productivity Journey

Q_plus_I

Intervals Around the Sun

Carali McCall

An exploration of collaborative drawing: perfectionism, productivity, and wellbeing

Holly Mills

Adams Room – Gentle Gestures 5 – Workshop 2

Making bread with your feet: How do we learn to talk through gestural moments and speculative acts?

Maggie Ayliffe, Andrew Bracey, Jo Lee, Laura Onions

Kilpin Room - Critical Thought on Cities 2 – Architecture + Design

Psyche extended – Drawing towards the periphery

Lorens Holm

Re-defining the Generic City Today

Andrea Canclini

13:00-14:00 – Break for lunch (food and drink not provided)

14:00 – 15:30 – Parallel Sessions 7

N28B Level 2 - Rethinking Work and Career: Continued resistance to the neoliberal order 2- Work and identity

Constructing informal work and care(e)rs

Louise Oldridge

Decolonising career and employability and the part it plays in structural racism – a focus on the Health and Social Care Sectors

Ricky Gee, Amy Allen, Adam Barnard

Why should we want to abolish work? Revisiting the better-work/antiwork divide

Ranier Abengana

N27A Level 2 - Gentle Gestures 6 -Workshop 3

Touching Clay Workshop

Christine Stevens

N28A Level 2 - Transgressive Thought in the 21st century: Thinking the thought of the outside, the thought beyond the Law

The Law of 'the Human', de-humanism and possibility of political theory otherwise

Dr Liam Farrell

From Transgressive Acts to Artistic Transgression: Theorising Transgression in a Cultural Context

Oliver Kenny

Hooley Room - Media Epistemologies 1

Notes on a Deflationary Media Theory

Rob Coley

The qi of Cinema: Film Epistemology through Daoism

Kiki Tianqi Yu

Between Epistemology and Ascesis: Media theory as Ritual

Thomas Sutherland

Adams Room - Post-human social inquiry: ontology to method and back again 1

Rhizomatic review, minor science and materialist research evaluation

Nick J Fox

Bodied assemblages in research and performance: a rhizomatic anthology of practice-led adventures through creative bodies

Amanda (Millie) Light

Kilpin Room - Critical Thought on Cities 3 - images and film

The Blind Spot of the 'Smart' City

George Themistokleous

Slumdog Millionaire Cities- Evoking the Urban Through Cinema

Vishnu Prakash

15:30-16:00 – Break

16:00 – 17:30 – Parallel Sessions 8

N27A Level 2 - Addressing the Underbellies of Neoliberal Academia Stream 2 – Equality and Freedom in Academia

Academic freedom in Europe

Susanna Zellini

The neoliberal process in the Portuguese higher education system: causes and consequences

Luís Valentim Pereira Monteiro

Academic freedom under siege - how the social justice dogma is undermining science towards a new totalitarianism

Marta Nunes da Costa

N28A Level 2 - Cultural Resistance in a Time of Economic Stagnation

Data, resistance, and the global information crisis: a case study

Thomas A Wright

Immaterial Labour and its Discontents

Phil Burton-Cartledge

Navigating Resistance: Digital Realms, Urban Dynamics, and Embodied Struggles in the Tehran Protests

Nikoo Nikkar Esfahani

Hooley Room - Media epistemologies 2

Immersive Media and the Horizons of Ocularcentrism

Mandy Rose & Tom Livingstone

Valves, Tubes, and Transistors: Flows of Electricity as Cultural Techniques

Michał Dawid Żmuda

Beyond Black-Boxing: Exploring Techno-Epistemic Unfolding

Giulio Galimberti

The Empty Form of Content: A Media-Epistemological Critique of Online Cultural Production'

Scott Wark

Adams Room - Post-human social inquiry: ontology to method and back again 2 - The research assemblage

Using Posthuman concepts of multiplicity and becoming as a means to further the methodological potential of intersectionality.

Victoria Cluley

Quilting new materialist inquiry: entangling tools from systems thinking and realist evaluation into the research assemblage

Hannah Gardiner & Rebecca Sarah Ciarla

17:30 – Post-Conference Drinks, Playwright, Nottingham

MCCT – Program Overview

Hosted by Centre for Policy, Citizenship and Society + Department of Social and Political Sciences, Nottingham Trent University

Nottingham

Friday 5th April

	N28B Level 2	N27A Level 2	N28A Level 2	Hooley Room	Adams Room	Kilpin Room
9:00 am - Registration (Level 2 Foyer)						
09:30 – 11:00	Rethinking Work and Career: Continued resistance to the neoliberal order 1	Addressing the Underbellies of Neoliberal Academia Stream 1		Neoliberalism & Digital Societies	Gentle Gestures 1	Mental Health Commons: Fantasy, Utopia & Infrastructure 1
11:00-11:30 – Break						
11:30 – 13:00	Postcolonial and Decolonial Theory and Practice 1	War, State Harm and Resistance 1	Identity in Utopia Panel Proposal 1	Critical Thought on Cities 1		Mental Health Commons: Fantasy, Utopia & Infrastructure 2
13:00-14:00 – Break for lunch (food and drink not provided)						
14:00 – 15:30	Postcolonial and Decolonial Theory and Practice 2	War, State Harm and Resistance 2	Identity in Utopia Panel Proposal 2	Productivity or Process: What is the Value of Making 1	Gentle Gestures 2	Mental Health Commons: Fantasy, Utopia & Infrastructure 3
15:30-16:00 – Break						
16:00 – 17:30	Postcolonial and Decolonial Theory and Practice 3		Critical Political Epistemology - 1	Productivity or Process: What is the Value of Making 2	Gentle Gestures 3	Mental Health Commons: Fantasy, Utopia & Infrastructure 4
17:30 – Drinks Reception (Level 2 Foyer) Sponsored by the Centre for Policy, Citizenship and Society						

MCCT – Program Overview

Hosted by Centre for Policy, Citizenship and Society + Department of Social and Political Sciences, Nottingham Trent University

Nottingham

Saturday 6th April

	N28B Level 2	N27A Level 2	N28A Level 2	Hooley Room	Adams Room	Kilpin Room
9:00 am - Registration (Level 2 Foyer)						
09:30 - 11:00		Co-production in Research – The Emperor’s New Clothes? 1	Critical Political Epistemology 2	Productivity or Process: What is the Value of Making 3	Gentle Gestures 4	Mental Health Commons: Fantasy, Utopia & Infrastructure 5
11:00-11:30 – Break						
11:30 – 13:00	Apocalypse, crisis, and constructing our endings.	Co-production in Research – The Emperor’s New Clothes? 2	Critical Political Epistemology 3	Productivity or Process: What is the Value of Making 4	Gentle Gestures 5	Critical Thought on Cities 2
13:00-14:00 – Break for lunch (food and drink not provided)						
14:00 – 15:30	Rethinking Work and Career: Continued resistance to the neoliberal order 2	Gentle Gestures 6	Transgressive Thought in the 21st century: Thinking the thought of the outside, the thought beyond the Law	Media Epistemologies 1	Post-human social inquiry: ontology to method and back again 1	Critical Thought on Cities 3
15:30-16:00 – Break						
16:00 – 17:30		Addressing the Underbellies of Neoliberal Academia Stream 2	Cultural Resistance in a Time of Economic Stagnation	Media epistemologies 2	Post-human social inquiry: ontology to method and back again 2	
17:30 – Post-Conference Drinks – Playwright, Nottingham						