

Workshop: Stieglerian Infraculture: Possibility and being in a contributory economy

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Intended Audience

Academics and learners seeking actionable therapy for the Anthropocene through new arrangements of economic, technological, and social systems and entities, developed and valued for a functioning, creative “not just the arts” community or society. Academics and learners interested in breaking down and applying the work of Bernard Stiegler.

Workshop description

This workshop models and explains Stiegler’s proposal that the entropic limits of the Anthropocene be overturned through developing a “contributory economy.” The contributory economy develops the value of new possibilities for individuals, expectancies, and expressions of the art of living. The workshop models a contributory economy through its dialogical relational space, use of time, anticipation of profit, collective participatory experience, play on knowledge, interpretation of the technological, and emphasis on care.

You will use Stieglerian ideas to create shared artefacts. These can be posted to a handcrafted/cozy web page, in support of sustainability, eco-pedagogy, and data ownership/privacy. Explanations of how the workshop could be extended to include AI as a supplement can be covered on request.

Participant engagement

You are introduced to key concepts of Stiegler’s “contributory economy.” You will think through the “contribution” of knowledge techniques not in terms of production or consumption but in terms of creative arrangements for new lines of credit. How is your community experience being abstracted and calculated, at whose/what cost?

You are guided through extended individual reflection, given a key idea prompt, and will iterate a post-card length illustration/diagnosis of a key idea. This is followed by: contributory group work involving play, social interaction, and critical making of an artefact (with the possibility to upload it to a webpage). 1-2 artefacts will be viewed/shared. Discussion. Questions.

Participant outcomes

You gain experience integrating Stieglerian theory both individually and in groups, experimenting with rearranging relations of production and consumption and measuring valoration. Note: This does not mean creating a new economic model but thinking through spaces for extension and adaptation. Experience gained in this workshop can assist you in your own networked learning analysis and practice.

Workshop alignment with conference themes

Depending on participants’ interests and how the workshop unfolds, the workshop has the potential to align with all of the conference themes. These are referenced (in bold) and expanded in terms of the specific workshop content:

- **Digital futures and environmental renaissance:** well-being issues and perspectives in networked learning, infraculture, sustainability, humble geographies, slow scholarship, unlearning
- **Artificial intelligence, learning analytics and emergent digital technologies:** disautomatizing vs. AI, handcrafted/cozy web
- **Ethical and responsible innovation and research:** inclusive design, criticality, equity and social justice, relational pedagogies, co-participatory eco-pedagogies, humble pedagogy, knowledge reconstitution, agentic data, horizons of possibility

- **Spaces, places and modalities for networked learning:** blended, hybrid, ongoing, asynchronous, experimental
- **Networked learning in formal, non-formal and informal contexts of learning and development:** community, transgenerational, transdisciplinary collaboration (academic-political-economic-popular), co-individuating, local and international
- **Theory and theorisation advancing the field of networked learning:** Stiegler, infraculture, humble geographies, slow scholarship, unlearning, knowledge reconstitution, poetic design, transgenerational, local and international, coindividuation, re-presencing objects, infrastructural transformation, poetic infrastructure
- **Philosophies, theories, methodologies, and research designs for networked learning:** postdigitality, phenomenography, phenomenology, hermeneutics, process reality, inter-/trans-cultural studies, science and technology studies, post-/trans-disciplinary studies, Stieglerian practice

Workshop processes/activities

Stieglerian ideas ‘play out’ in the group through design that calls on a variety of emerging pedagogical approaches for support. These may include some or all of the following: infraculture, critical making, re-presencing networks, infrastructures as terms for transition, unlearning, and poetic, slow scholarship to map out humble geographies (see bibliography). Knowledge of these approaches is not required and are explained only where in support of the workshop’s key ideas. The activities roughly unfold as follows:

- 1 Definition of and introduction to the Stieglerian “contributory economy”. Note: Stiegler’s ideas are known to be terse. This is a guided talk through a few key ideas that may be exemplified through already existing practices and approaches such as “infraculture,” which are used to structure the workshop.
- 2 You are provided with excerpts from the host’s *Encyclopedia of Postdigital Science and Education* entry on Stiegler, highlighting ideas from the introduction.
- 3 Poetic, guided individual contemplation, accompanied by note-taking or doodling with the help of associational prompt-cards and using the encyclopedia entry if desired.
- 4 Relational group exercise: With the help of prompt-card notes and the encyclopedia entry, groups review and share ideas.
- 5 Critical collective making: Groups make an artefact. What is a snapshot of the strains of your community experience or what you want it to be? At whose/what cost? (If described, participants can use TRU Collector (WP) – a handcrafted/cozy/free-licensed web tool – to upload a picture.) Artefacts, which can be hand-drawn during the workshop, illustrate creative not always artistic strains/care for the community in which you live. These might not align with the goals of the initial research – cf. humble geography unlearning. Groups share 1-2 (uploaded) artefacts.
- 6 Discussion. Further lines of consideration, actionability, experience.

References

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