

**Room for Collective Encounters**

akademirummet, kunstneres hus ( R.C.E. )  
09.11. - 17.11.2019

We need to talk about knowledge, 'cause it shouldn't machine-learn itself.  
We need to sit down in a room with all kinds of people and read aloud.  
We need to explore texts together.  
It would be nice to do it relaxed and freely, asking questions as we go along.

Let's try to have encounters of the third, or maybe sixth kind.  
To create awareness — about certain subjects and histories  
that have been in our periphery.  
Like the digital world and its history,  
and why you can't YouTube yourself to everything.

Let's try to dismantle the master's clockwork,  
figure out what colonial time is and how it has controlled the future.  
How African-Americans and Women-Rights-Activists  
have recorded their own histories.

Let's figure out what the fuck pharmacopower is,  
and why we have been treating our bodies like machines for centuries.

What kinda tools do we need to self-organize,  
and why should we even be doing that? Let's use jargon, and laugh.

The future is here, and it has probably failed us,  
or at least some of us.

So then what?

Maybe we should imagine the future through communities.  
What does a contemporary revolution even look like?

In these reading groups we will have all sorts of encounters,  
exploring time-travel with Octavia Butler to reacquaint us with the past;  
whilst being present with Rojava protecting democracy from Turkish invasion.

So let's meet and talk about pressing and depressing topics.  
Let's cast our doubts on the past and try to envision a future.

*Room for Collective Encounters* is dedicated to the fires in the world,  
often reaching us as detached digital images,  
making us alienated in our secure state of welfare.

So let's read and talk about that.  
Let's make our "we" with real humans, not A.I or biometric doubles.

The collective mind is stronger than the individual, no doubt

**Room for Collective Encounters**  
**( R.C.E. )**

**Room for Collective Encounters** is a nine day gathering of events, a reading camp of sorts exploring different methods of how to engage with text through the act of reading. We will explore reading collectively via **THE READERS**, live readings and performative ones (yes, there is a difference, you'll see), not to mention a provisional library and a reading room. **R.C.E.** will reside in Akademirommet, on the backside of Kunstnernes Hus. The **R.C.E.** library will house printed work from thinkers, activists, anthropologists, poets, and authors that work with notions of time, politics, speculative histories and or chronologies that operate outside of linear structures and systems. The Library will act as a living bibliography. All book titles and reading material of **R.C.E.** will be available through the Struktura website.

"Notes on Encounters" is a co-working document on **STRUKTURA'S** website which can be used for reflections during or after **R.C.E.** sessions. It's a space for recording our own history, in our own words, while perhaps being inspired by others.

**/ Room for Collective Encounters** does not accept monetary exchange.  
The venue is accessible for movement disabilities.

**// THE READERS** is a group initiated by Stacey de Voe that seeks to challenge dominant modes of reading, by collective reading aloud, focusing on texts as tactics for working across differences, to connect with others and our histories.

**/// STRUKTURA** is a cross-disciplinary initiative for research and practice within the framework of visual arts, media archeology, literature and philosophy. An exploration of how visual media and information technologies contribute to the ordering and production of time, where both past and future exist in a constantly malleable present. This five-month programme sprawls across virtual online environments and multiple physical venues in Oslo. It consists of exhibitions, film screenings, group readings, public event series and a club night. **STRUKTURA** is an independent project developed by Lesia Vasylenko.

[www.struktura-time.com](http://www.struktura-time.com)

**Room for Collective Encounters**  
( R.C.E. )

09.11.2019 - 17.11.2019

**Room for Collective Encounters ( R.C.E. ) Library**  
Open from 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

**November 9th**

**// 2.00 p.m.**

**Screening**  
**Black Quantum Futurism**  
**AllTime Local**

**THE READERS**  
//reading:

( 3.00 p.m. )\*

**Towards a conversation on Digital Resistance** - Ada A.

This text written in 2018 by Ada A. and published on the blog of Black Quantum Futurism poses a series of questions in order to engage with a working discourse on digital defense. Who are "we", given that digital identities are more than ever in continual flux, negotiation and re-definition? What is the digital world and what is its history? We will read this text and use it as a starting point for combative digital defense.

( 5.00 p.m. )

**DISMANTLING THE MASTER'S CLOCK[WORK] UNIVERSE** - Rasheedah Phillips

Where is the master clock? Who watches it and who keeps time? If the master clock stops, does time stop? Clocks chart hours minutes seconds, calendars, suns, planets and stars. More subtle are the ways in which time governs our social interactions, regulates are movements, frames our worldviews, informs our politics and leaks into our consciousness.

(8.00 p.m.)

Re-Reading of **Towards a conversation on Digital Resistance** and collective dinner.

\*(parenthesis) indicate approximate starting times, depending on the duration of the previous session, interruptions are encouraged.

**Room for Collective Encounters**  
akademirommet, kunstnernes hus ( R.C.E. )

09.11.2019 - 17.11.2019

**Room for Collective Encounters ( R.C.E. ) Library**  
Open from 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

**November 10th**

**THE READERS**

//reading:

// 2.00 p.m.

Selection of texts from *Writing with Scissors: American Scrapbooks from the Civil War to the Harlem Renaissance* Ellen Gruber Garvey

Men and women 150 years ago grappled with information overload by making scrapbooks—the ancestors of Google and blogging. From Abraham Lincoln to Susan B. Anthony, African American janitors to farm women, abolitionists to Confederates, people cut out and pasted down their reading. This book opens a new window into the feelings and thoughts of ordinary and extraordinary Americans. Like us, nineteenth-century readers spoke back to the media, and treasured what mattered to them. The book reveals a previously unexplored layer of American popular culture, where the proliferating cheap press touched the lives of activists and mourning parents, and all who yearned for a place in history. Scrapbook makers documented their feelings about momentous public events such as living through the Civil War, mediated through the newspapers. African Americans and women's rights activists collected, concentrated, and critiqued accounts from a press that they did not control to create "unwritten histories" in books they wrote with scissors. Whether scrapbook makers pasted their clippings into blank books, sermon collections, or the pre-gummed scrapbook that Mark Twain invented, they claimed ownership of their reading. They created their own democratic archives. The book argues that people have long had a strong personal relationship to media. Like newspaper editors who enthusiastically "scissorized" and reprinted attractive items from other newspapers, scrapbook makers passed their reading along to family and community. This book explains how their scrapbooks underlie our present-day ways of thinking about information, news, and what we do with it.

We will attempt to create our own scrapbook during this session.

**Room for Collective Encounters**

akademirommet, kunsternes hus ( R.C.E. )

09.11.2019 - 17.11.2019

**Room for Collective Encounters ( R.C.E. ) Library**  
Open from 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

**November 11th**

**THE READERS**

//reading:

// 3.00 p.m.

Chapter 8 Pharmacopower:

*Testo Junkie: Sex, Drugs, and Biopolitics in the Pharmacopornographic Era* - Paul B.Preciado

Testo Junkie is a testosterone fueled "body essay," a work of "auto-theory" that lays out contemporary understandings of biopolitics through a narrative lens of the author himself. Chapter 8 explores how systemic techno-pharma violence orders bodies through western technological power and a linear temporal regime. Power no longer operates as an external political architecture. Instead, pharmacopower moves through "a desire for infiltration, absorption, total occupation"

**November 12th**

**THE READERS**

//reading:

// 3.00 p.m.

Chapter 6: Fantasy in the Hold :

*The Undercommons: Fugitive Planning & Black Study* - Stefano Harney and Fred Moten

// 7.00 p.m.

Film Screening with Live Narration

**Hyphenic**

Tor-Finn Malum Fitje & Thomas Anthony Hill

Hyphenic is the name of a language that appears as patterns in common household mould, a discovery that was initially made in the early 1970s. How did these hypheas signs first evolve? Is it conceivable that such a primordial organism could have developed its own syntax, and if so, how would that reshape our ideas about the origins of language? The film is the result of an artistic research project at the intersection between linguistics and biology. Through collaborations with a large number of participants: from readers and actors to witness accounts and conspiracy theorists, the movie explores the obscure history of a language that has deliberately been withheld from the public eye. Hyphenic draws its speculative narrative from the field of biosemiotics, where the exchange of signs is understood as an inherent attribute of all living organisms.

**Room for Collective Encounters**

akademirommet, kunsternes hus ( R.C.E. )



09.11.2019 - 17.11.2019

**Room for Collective Encounters ( R.C.E. ) Library**

Open from 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

**November 13th**

**THE READERS** joined by Karin Keisu & Josse Thuresson

//reading:

// 4.00 p.m.

**Happy Futures Perhaps** - Sara Ahmed from *Queer times and Queer becomings* - E. L. McCallum and Mikko Tuhkanen

Queer Times, Queer Becomings explores queer articulations of time and becoming in literature, philosophy, film, and performance. Whether in the contexts of psychoanalysis, the nineteenth-century discourses of evolution and racial sciences, or the daily rhythms of contemporary, familially oriented communities, queerness has always been marked by a peculiar untimeliness, by a lack of proper orientation in terms of time as much as social norms. Yet it is the skewed relation to the temporal norm that also gives queerness its singular hope. This is demonstrated by the essays collected here as they consider the ways in which queer theory has acknowledged, resisted, appropriated, or refused divergent models of temporality.

**November 14th**

// 7 p.m.

**Performative Reading of**

**Theorizing queer temporalities - A roundtable discussion**

Karin Keisu and Josse Thuresson

"Theorizing queer temporalities - A roundtable discussion" is a moderated email conversation between nine theoreticians in queer theory assembled by Elizabeth Freeman, published in 2007. In the text they share and discuss their individual definitions of for example history, representation and identity in relation to time, rethinking and unlearning time as we know it.

The performative reading unfolds some notions from the text by taking a bite, tasting and chewing them slowly till they transform into more tangible matters. Queer temporalities criticize linear heteronormative reproductive structures and capitalistic ideas of efficiency. The staging, as well as the assembling of the performers, centers around the idea that this subject should concern everyone.

"Maybe we need to consider that you don't get 'from here to somewhere else.' Maybe we need to imagine anew, 'We're here, we're queer, get used to it,' not as the positive assertion of a marginalized identity but as the universal condition of the subject caught up in structural repetition." Lee Edelman

**Room for Collective Encounters**

akademirommet, kunstnernes hus ( R.C.E. )

09.11.2019 - 17.11.2019

**Room for Collective Encounters ( R.C.E. ) Library**

Open from 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

**November 15th**

**THE READERS**

//reading:

// 6.00 p.m.

Excerpts from *Kindred* - Octavia E. Butler

In the novels of Octavia E. Butler, we find a distinctive engagement with time that sometimes works to disrupt received temporal regimes; probes how we experience, interpret, and shape time; allows new understanding of time and power. In Butler's *Kindred* we see her use of time travel in order to explore slave narratives that have been muffled throughout previous recorded history in order to question the notion of chronological time. What is learned when questions of temporality, of relations with the past, and of forms of anticipating the future are pressed in analysis of narrative fiction?

**November 16th**

// 8 p.m.

**Extended Hours**

**Nikhil Vettukattil and John Andrew Wilhite-Hannisdal**

**Nikhil Vettukattil will present a new live performance work and listening session using sound, spoken word and the physical environment as a medium to experience the multiplicity and co-incidence of times. Using chopped and screwed re-mixing techniques, as well as the sonic appropriations of field recordings, music, and texts on the experience and nature of time. The work develops on and references forms of experiential immersion as means of forming counter-publics, such as expanded cinema, noise and psychadelia.**

**Room for Collective Encounters**

akademirommet, kunstnernes hus ( R.C.E. )

09.11.2019 - 17.11.2019

**Room for Collective Encounters ( R.C.E. ) Library**

Open from 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

**November 17th**

---

**THE READERS**

//reading:

// 12.00 p.m.

Excerpts from *A Small Key Can Open a Large Door: The Rojava Revolution - Strangers in a Tangled Wilderness*

What is autonomy, feminism, ecology, cooperative economics, and ethnic, linguistic, and religious pluralism. It's Rojava. Peace is now at war with terror. Let us understand the beauty of this community and protect it and its ideals.

( 4.00 p.m. )\*

Selection of texts from

*Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements -*

Edited by Adrienne Aaree Brown and Walidah Imarisha

Whenever we envision a world without war, without prisons, without capitalism, we are producing speculative fiction. Organizers and activists envision, and try to create, such worlds all the time. The visionary tales of Octavia's Brood span genres—sci-fi, fantasy, horror, magical realism—but all are united by an attempt to inject a healthy dose of imagination and innovation into our political practice and to try on new ways of understanding ourselves, the world around us, and all the selves and worlds that could be.

\*(parenthesis) indicate approximate starting times, depending on the duration of the previous session, interruptions are encouraged.

**Room for Collective Encounters**

akademirommet, kunstnernes hus ( R.C.E. )