

# Face – Mask – Avatar – Embodiment

3.10.-5.10. 2017, Fábrica Braço de Prata, Lisboa, Portugal



HUM<sup>+</sup>DRAMATECH



**CFCUL**  
Centre for Philosophy of Science  
of the University of Lisbon  
<http://cful.fc.ul.pt>

**Z** hdk

Zürcher Hochschule der Künste – Forschungsprojekte

**Actor and Avatar**

Institut für Theorie (ith)



**FCT**  
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia  
MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO E CIÊNCIA

A two days conference and Think Tank Meeting co-organized by the Philosophy of Human Technology Research Line of the CFCUL at University of Lisboa (Portugal), the Institute for Critical Theory and the Institute for Performing Arts and Film at the University of the Arts, Zurich in collaboration with EPI-Clinique Lengg, Zurich (Switzerland).

## Main Questions:

Would the encounter with your Avatar be about the similarities with you, or the differences, would it seem like an encounter with a ghost, or only an encounter with a mere thing, an uncanny technical object? Avatars, artificial persons, or graphic placeholders of a being become more and more specific, more and more personal and common in today's digital culture. They seem to replace the real body and to make an appearance in a self-chosen form. While the first generation of avatars has been able to act primarily in artificial worlds, the next generation will already interact with the real world, will establish relationships and produce unusual effects. With this, avatars approach what the actors are doing. But are these processes identical? What are the differences? What new perspectives does this development make possible in the context of the self-image and the external image, the recognition of one's own in a stranger? Is there a connection to the figure of the "mask", and can actor knowledge help to describe it? Does our brain deal with the emotional behaviour of avatars as well as that of real people? Does our brain even discern emotional similarities – or does the smile of an avatar simply encounter as a mere grimace? In which sense do we embody our masks, our expressions, or our emotional presence? Is it possible to simulate emotional expressions? What does it mean for us as human beings if we are unable to distinguish between the face of another and the surface of an artificial being? How can the relation between face, faciality, mask and embodiment be described? The German word for face 'Antlitz' includes the gaze of the other that looks back: in which sense do we become a *persona* within the encounter with the other?

## Conference/Think tank meeting

The conference/Think tank meeting brings together experts and invited guests from the projects "*Hacking Humans: Dramaturgies and Technologies of becoming Other*" (PI Dr. Alexander Gerner, CFCUL), and "*Actor and Avatar*" (Prof. Dieter Mersch, ith ZHdK, Prof. Anton Rey, IPF ZHdK and EPI-Clinique Zurich).

## with:

Prof. Anton Rey (Zurich)  
Prof. Mersch (Zurich)  
Prof. Stephan Günzel (Berlin)  
Dr. Jörg Sternagel (Zurich/Berlin)  
Miriam Loertscher (Zurich)  
Lorena Kegel (Zurich)  
Jorge Molder (Lisboa)

Prof. Maria Filomena Molder (Lisboa)  
Dr. Graça Corrêa (Lisboa)  
Prof. Nuno Nabais (Lisboa)  
Dr. Delfim Sardo (Lisboa)  
Vinicius Jonas (Lisboa)  
Dr. João Ribeiro (Lisboa)  
Mariana Gaivão(Lisboa)  
Dr. Alexander Gerner (Lisboa)

**General Venue:**

Fábrica Braço de Prata, Lisboa: <https://www.bracodeprata.com>  
Rua da Fábrica de Material de Guerra, nº1  
1950-128 Lisboa

**3.10**

***Internal session: 16h-18.00***

16h Opening Mersch / Gerner: Introduction

Ca. 16h15-17h00 Introduction **Actor-Avatar** Project ZdhK Zurich with Anton Rey, Dieter Mersch, Jörg Sternagel, Miriam Loetscher, Lorena Kegel.

Ca. 17h00-17h45 Introduction **HUM+DRAMATECH** Project (CFCUL) with Dr. João Ribeiro, Dr.med. Guilherme Bastos Martins, Dr. Graça Corrêa, Dr. Alexander Gerner, Vinicius Jonas, Dr. Mara Almeida, Lia Neves, Nanu Figueiredo, Prof. Nuno Nabais, Prof. Jorge Louça, Prof. Jorge Jesuino.

18h00-20h00 Dinner

***Public session: 20h-21h00***

20h00-21h00 "Faciality and Embodiment in Computer Games" Prof. Dr. Stephan Günzel (Berlin)

*21h-22h30 Music program (Fábrica; Concert of Julio Resende tbc)*

**4.10**

***Morning session: Showcases and Debates (internal) 11h00-13h00 (Fábrica)***

Research Groups: Actor & Avatar; Hum+Dramatech

*Coffee break*

13h00-14h00 lunch(Fábrica)

***Afternoon session (public) 14h00-20h00***

14h00-14h45 Prof. Nuno Nabais

14h45-15h30 Dr. Alexander Gerner

15h30-16h30 Prof. Anton Rey / Miriam Loertscher / Lorena Kegel

16h30-16h45 Coffee Break

16h45-17h30 Dr. Graça Corrêa

17h30-18h15 Prof. Dieter Mersch / Dr. Jörg Sternagel

18h15-18h30 Break

18h30-19h15 Prof. Maria Filomena Molder

19h15-20h00 Dialog with Jorge Molder and Dr. Delfim Sardo presented by Alexander Gerner

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20h30-21h15 Before Dinner Drink/Snack at Rua Silva Carvalho 149 R/c, Campo de Ourique, Lisboa (Alexander's and Mariana's small Terrace)

21h15 Dinner in Lisbon (Restaurante: Casa dos Passarinhos, Campo de Ourique, Rua Silva Carvalho 195, 1250-250 Lisboa)

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and walk to/through Bairro Alto (optional)

## **5.10**

Internal Morning Meeting (at CFCUL; Faculty of Science of the University of Lisbon, Campo Grande C4.2.33) 10h-12h. Zurich-Group / Lisboa-Group: Debate of thesis of the talks; Future collaborations, further topics, publication.

### **HOTEL:**

Hotel Alif am Campo Pequeno, Lissabon

<http://www.alifhotels.com/Hotel-Campo-Pequeno-Lisbon.aspx?lang=pt>