

**Workshop – Friday, 19 January 2018, 16:00 - 19:30, in English**

The expression ‘organization of perception’ appears in one of the first paragraphs of Walter Benjamin’s essay ‘The Work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproducibility’ (1935-36), in a passage that highlights the historical determination of sensory perception. The idea of the historicity of perception – which Benjamin found in art historians such as Alois Riegl, Franz Wickhoff, and Heinrich Wölfflin – lies at the very center of what one can consider his ‘media theory’.

Yet the notion of an organization of perception also relates to the wider context of aesthetic theories and practices of the 1920s and 1930s, including a series of sensorial experiments exploring this link: Thus, in theorizing **rhythm**, the Soviet avantgarde negotiates between transgressions of a homogeneous, linear time regime and the industrial organization of movements and frequencies of body, speech, and thought.

**Projection**, on the other hand, structures the perception of light and redefines the materiality of perception in such a radical way that the very notion of materialism is challenged.

The workshop considers the relation of media and perception in terms of historicity, rhythm, and projection, thereby connecting to the current ICI Focus ‘ERRANS, in Time’. It brings together a number of scholars who have researched particular constellations of the historical, technical, and political organization of perception.

## PROGRAMME

### PART I

- 16:00 Welcome  
16:10 Antonio Somaini (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3)  
**Light as Medium**  
16:40 Elena Vogman (DFG project ‘Rhythm and Projection’ at FU Berlin)  
**Rhythm, Medium, Milieu: On the Memory of Forms**  
17:00 Gertrud Koch (Freie Universität Berlin)  
**Film Theory as Media Theory**  
17:20 Discussion  
17:50 Coffee break

### PART II

- 18:10 Ekaterina Tewes (DFG project ‘Rhythm and Projection’ at FU Berlin)  
**Rhythm, Organization, Form**  
18:30 Clara Masnatta (ICI Berlin)  
**Paradoxical Presence: Projecting Colors**  
18:50 Georg Witte (DFG project ‘Rhythm and Projection’ at FU Berlin)  
**Organization of Perception, Organization of Matter**  
19:10 Discussion

Organized by the DFG project ‘Rhythm and Projection’ at the Peter Szondi-Institut für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft, Freie Universität Berlin (rhythmusundprojektion.com) in collaboration with Clara Masnatta

Please register by 10 January 2018 if you would like to participate.

# ORGANIZATION OF PERCEPTION: RHYTHM AND PROJECTION

with

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Clara Masnatta  
Antonio Somaini  
Ekaterina Tewes  
Elena Vogman  
Georg Witte

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