

TRANSITIONING

Art, Politics & Technologies of Gender Change

Disruption Network Lab Conference June 17–19 2022



On June 17–19, the LGBTQIA+ conference *TRANSITIONING: Art, Politics & Technologies of Gender Change* will take place at Kunstquartier Bethanien. The 27th conference of the Berlin Disruption Network Lab is dedicated to the dimensions of gender transitioning from the perspectives of politics, medicine, technology, culture and art. Over three days, experts, activists and artists from Europe, Asia and the USA will network with the Berlin community in panels, keynotes, workshops, film screenings and meetups.

**"The body is our final frontier,
but the body can be hacked."**

Shu Lea Chang, Filmregisseurin

Gender transitioning is the process of changing one's gender identity and/or sexuality. It is a very private, personal and individual process that involves a profound engagement with community and society as a whole. It's a topic of high cultural and social interest internationally and is increasingly being discussed in Germany. As more and more young people experiment with this practice from puberty onwards, this debate is becoming central to the future of civil society.



The Disruption Network Lab's programme *TRANSITIONING: Politics & Technologies of Gender Change* aims to address the complexities of gender transition for both young people and those who have long fought for this right, and to present the implications of this practice in the realms of art, culture, society and human rights. The programme series includes a conference, film screenings, two community meet-ups and a community workshop. The series explores designs of identity and sexuality both in the online environment and in everyday life. It brings into dialogue artists, activists, performers, transgender rights advocates, medical experts, and the grassroots of international and Berlin's LGBTQIA+ community. By monitoring political, social and legislative developments, the conference explores techniques and technologies to self-determine the gender people feel on the inside, empowering a younger generation for a more confident and safer path of transition.

The *TRANSITIONING* programme aims to discuss the perception of one's own body and the extent to which it can go beyond fixed boundaries, investigating gender as an artistic practice (Diane Torr) as well as the ethical, cultural and political significance of transitioning.

On one hand, the events aim to provide a critical response to hormonal control and pharmacological techniques over the transgender body by governments and other institutions. On the other hand, it explores this issue on a

subjective level by inviting speakers who experience this challenge in their daily lives. The artistic and technological potential of gender transitioning is at the heart of the conference. Speakers reflect on how art and technology can respond to this new challenge by contributing to fight for more rights and respect for gender diversity.

The conference programme includes a performative talk on legacies of violence in times of conflict by **Dahlia Damoiselle**, a queer, transgender writer of Vietnamese heritage and U.S. military veteran, who reckons with the consequences of American wars in Afghanistan and Vietnam; Ukrainian transgender activist **Anastasiia Yeva Domani** will discuss the current worsening of medical care for trans people in Ukraine as well as the human rights situation and especially the problem of trans women leaving the country; gender, tech and (counter)power researcher **Os Keyes**, who will speak about the politics of scientific research into trans healthcare; Berlin performer **Bridge Markland** who will cross gender boundaries exploring the artistic potential of transitioning through role-play and transformation. The programme will be opened and followed by film screenings of the work of **artist Diane Torr** (1948-2017), a central force in the drag king scene in the USA, Europe, Istanbul and New Delhi. The screening will mark the first time that the early video archive of Torr's performances on gender identity and transition will be presented on an international scale. This conference event was developed in collaboration with her, and is therefore dedicated to her.

Conference Programme

FRIDAY JUNE 17 2022

16:30 · Doors Open

17:00—17:10 · INTRODUCTION

Tatiana Bazzichelli (Artistic Director, Disruption Network Lab, IT/DE)

17:10—18:15 · PANEL

Anaïs Héraud-Louisadat (Artist & Art Therapist, FR/DE), in conversation with **Stephen Bottoms** (Professor of Contemporary Theatre and Performance, University of Manchester, UK).

18:30—20:00 · KEYNOTE

Dahlia Damoiselle (U.S. Military Veteran, Educator, Sex Worker, US). Moderated by **Jay Bernard** (Writer & Activist, UK/DE).

20:15—21:15 · PERFORMANCE

21:15—21:45 · Q&A

Bridge Markland (Performance Artist, DE). Moderated by **Nancy Lund** (Drag Performer, UK/DE).

SATURDAY JUNE 18 2022

16:00 · Doors Open

16:30—17:30 · INSIGHT

Anastasiia Yeva Domani (Executive Director Cohort NGO, UA). Translated and moderated by **Filip Noubel** (Managing Editor at Global Voices, UA/CZ/DE).

17:45—19:15 · KEYNOTE

Os Keyes (Researcher, Writer & Activist, University of Washington, USA), **Mallory Moore** (Activist & Researcher, UK).

19:30—21:30 · PANEL

Helena Velena (Hacktivist, Artist & Technologist, IT), **Shu Lea Cheang** (Artist & Filmmaker, TW/USA/FR), **Jira Duguid** (Artist & Member of Fantasia Malware, AU/DE). Moderated by **Margherita Pevere** (Artist & Researcher, IT/DE).

SUNDAY JUNE 19 2022

17:30 · Doors Open

18:00—19:45 · FILM SCREENING · Free! · Not Streamed

A Selection of Videos from the Early Archive of **Diane Torr**. Introduced by **Anaïs Héraud-Louisadat** (Artist & Art Therapist, FR/DE).

19:45—20:30 · Q&A · Free! · Not Streamed

Bartholomew Sammut (Founder & Co-director, XPOSED Queer Film Festival Berlin, DE), **Stephen Bottoms** (Professor of Contemporary Theatre and Performance, University of Manchester, UK), **Helen Varley Jamieson** (Artist, Producer & Performer, NZ/DE), a.o.. Moderated by **Anaïs Héraud-Louisadat** (Artist & Art Therapist)

Full Conference Programme: www.disruptionlab.org/transitioning

Konference Language: English

Press Contact: buero doering / Tom Müller-Heuser / presse@buero-doering.de / +49-176 - 457 47 052

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