



# EKODATI ECODATA

**RIX**©

ART SCIENCE FESTIVAL  
08.10. - 10.10.2020

# ECODATA

## THE OPEN FIELDS 2020

### Conference

08.10.-10.10.2020

Online from Riga, Latvia / Zoom / Youtube Live Stream

<http://festival2020.rixc.org>

**Conference Program and Abstracts . . . . . pp. 4–63**

### Exhibition

08.10.-17.11.2020

The National Library of Latvia, Riga / RIXC Gallery

<http://ecodata.rixc.org>

**Exhibition Catalogue . . . . . pp. 54–72**

## ECODATA

OPEN FIELDS 2020, The 5th International Art-Science Conference / RIXC Festival

October 8-10, 2020

Online / The National Library of Latvia, Riga

### The Conference Chairs and Exhibition Curators:

Dr. Yvonne VOLKART, Dozentin / Senior Researcher / Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW / Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst / Institut Ästhetische Praxis und Theorie, Basel, Switzerland

Dr. Rasa SMITE, RIXC Art-Science Center, Riga, Latvia / Prof. of New Media Art at Liepaja University / Researcher at The Institute of Aesthetic Practice and Theory, HGK FHNW, Basel, Switzerland / Visiting Lecturer at MIT Art, Culture and Technology Program, Boston, USA

Dr. Raitis SMITS, RIXC Art-Science Center, Riga, Latvia / Assoc. Prof. at the Art Academy of Latvia, Riga / Visiting Lecturer at MIT Art, Culture and Technology Program, Boston, USA

### OPEN FIELDS 2020 Conference Organizational Board:

Dr. Jens HAUSER, media studies scholar and art curator, Paris, France

Prof. Helena SEDERHOLM, Biofilia, Aalto University, Helsinki Finland

Prof. Kristin BERGAUST, OsloMET - Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway

Prof. Marko PELJHAN, Chair of Media Arts and Technology Program at University of California Santa Barbara, USA / Projekt Atol, Ljubljana, Slovenia

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Mg. Art Maija DEMITERE, Lecturer and Assistant of Program Director of New Media and Audiovisual Art MA Program at RISEBA and Liepaja University, Latvia

Mg. Art Anna PRIEDOLA, Head of Art Research Lab, Program Director of New Media Art BA program, Liepaja University, Latvia

Dr. Oksana CHEPELYK, leading researcher of The New Technologies Department at The Modern Art Research Institute of Ukraine

Assoc. Prof., Dr.art. Solvita ZARINA, the Faculty of Computing, University of Latvia, lead researcher at the Laboratory of Innovative Information Technologies FC UL

**Partners:** The Exhibition and Conference is a collaboration with "Ecodata-Ecomedia-Ecoaesthetics" research project funded by The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), hosted by The Institute of Aesthetic Practice and Theory IAeP at FHNW Academy of Art and Design, Basel (Switzerland), in cooperation with Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL.

**Organizers:** The Festival takes place in the framework of **GREEN Revisited. Encountering Emerging Naturecultures** co-project, co-financed by EU Creative Europe program, organized by **RIXC Art-Science Center in Riga, Latvia**, in collaboration with **MPLab – Art Reserch Lab of Liepaja University**, and other partners.

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# ECODATA

## RIXC Art Science Festival, ECODATA Exhibition Opening and Open Fields 2020 Conference

October 8 - 10, 2020

Riga, Latvia and Online

The RIXC Art-Science Festival: ECODATA and the Open Fields 2020 conference takes place from October 8–10, 2020, in Riga, Latvia and online, exploring the '*ecosystematic perspective*'. More than just rising awareness that living organisms are highly interdependent on each other and their environments, this year's festival edition aims to reveal *a web of connections* that interweaves biological, social and techno-scientific systems, living and digital data, artistic and scientific approaches.

This year's festival is a collaboration with "Ecodata–Ecomedia–Ecoaesthetics" research group of The Institute of Aesthetic Practice and Theory at HGK FHNW in Basel, Switzerland. "Ecodata–Ecomedia–Ecoaesthetics" is the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) funded project that explores the role and significance of new media, technologies and technoscientific methods in the arts for the perception and awareness of the ecological.

The ECODATA festival also takes place in the framework of Creative Europe's project "GREEN Revisited" that facilitates a space for art-science collaborations, artistic interventions and critical discussions on '*encountering emerging naturecultures*'. The broad festival program aims to gather together international scholars, artists and scientists who are engaged with ecosystematic approach, use techno-scientific tools and create new aesthetics to deal with the challenges of our time and envision the future for '*terrestrial coexistence*'.

The festival program features the Ecodata EXHIBITION opening taking place in the The National Library of Latvia and RIXC Gallery in Riga. It is followed by a two-day Open Fields 2020 Online CONFERENCE, and complemented by a 'hybrid' program of online and onsite activities – artistic interventions, keynote sessions, screenings, immersive screening programme by young artists and live concerts.

<http://festival2020.rixc.org>

# Programme (short summary)

## Thursday / October 8, 2020

**10.00 – 11.30 Press conference** (in Latvian, subtitles in English)

*Location: The National Library of Latvia + Live Stream: Youtube*

**14.00 – 15.20 ECODATA Opening Keynote Session: Art and Science Discussion**

Ecodata–Ecomedia–Ecoaesthetics research project team

**15.30 – 16.45 ECODATA Artist Talks**

*Zoom + Live Stream: Youtube*

**17.00 – 17.50 ECODATA and A/I (artistic intelligence): Opening Performance by the Digital Dramaturgy Lab<sup>squared</sup> (Toronto)**

*Zoom + Live Stream: Youtube*

**18.00 – 20.00 ECODATA Exhibition Opening**

*Location: The National Library of Latvia + Live Stream: Youtube*

## Friday / October 9, 2020

**10.00 – 17.00 Day 1 Panel Sessions (1–4):**

Session 1: Technologies of the Ecological / Session 2: BioPolitics and BioDigital Poetics (1) / Session 3: BioSensing and Ecosystematic Perspective (1) / Session 4: EcoAesthetics / Thematic Session 5.: Atmospheric Experience

*Zoom + Live Stream: Youtube*

**17.00 – 18.00 ECODATA Thematic Keynote:** Jacopo RASMI. All That is Solid Melts into Air. Atmosphere As a Living Space and Visual Field.

*Zoom + Live Stream: Youtube*

**19.00 – ECODATA Exhibition Opening: ATMOSPHERIC FOREST**

*Location: RIXC Gallery, Lencu iela 2, Riga + Live Stream: Youtube*

**20.00 – ATMOSPHERIC FOREST online video screening program**

## Saturday / October 10

**10.00 – 17.00 Panel Sessions (6-10):** Sessions 6: BioPolitics and BioDigital Poetics (2) / Session 7: BioSensing and Ecosystematic Perspective (2) / Session 8: EcoAesthetics (2) / Session 9: Living Data and AI / Closing Session 10: GREEN Revisited: Encountering Emerging Naturecultures

*Zoom + Live Stream: Youtube*

**17.00 – 18.00 ECODATA Closing Keynote:** Marko PELJHAN. Sensing Remotely - A Systemics Arsenal

*Zoom + Live Stream: Youtube*

**20.00 – 22.00 Closing Program: PLA(N)Tform, screening of immersive artworks and concert**

*Location: The National Library of Latvia (exhibition + conference) + Live Stream: Youtube*

OPEN FIELDS 2020: ECODATA

October 8–10, 2020

**CONFERENCE**

**PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS**

Online and Riga, Latvia, 2020

# CONFERENCE

## Open Fields 2020: Ecodata

October 9–10, 2020,

Online / The National Library of Latvia

Open Fields conference is the RIXC's festival-based annual gathering bringing together international scholars and artists to discuss topics related to artistic research, the changing role of art in societies, and art and science collaboration. The conference will be thematically related with the exhibition and onsite program of the RIXC festival, thus extending a space for discussions on ecological, socio-cultural and techno-scientific challenges of our time and the role of art in dealing with them.

The ECODATA exhibition and RIXC Festival Opening program on October 8th will be followed by the two-day Open Fields conference taking place on October 9-10 with participation of 40 speakers from all over the world, and an online audience of over 100 of attendees. The conference will be held via Zoom, and all festival events will be streamed live simultaneously on Youtube.

### Topics:

Technologies of the Ecological  
BioPolitics / BioDigital Poetics  
BioSensing / Ecosystematic Perspective  
EcoAesthetics / Data Visualization  
Green Revisited / Encountering Emerging Naturecultures  
Living Data / AI

### Keynotes:

Jacopo RASMI (FR), Marko PELJHAN (SI/US), Yvonne VOLKART (CH), Marcus MAEDER (CH)  
Rasa SMITE (LV), Kaisa RISSANEN (FI/CA), Jens HAUSER (FR/DE), Kristin BERGAUST (NO)

### Artist Talks:

Ursula BIEMANN (CH), Sarah BURGER (CH), Susana SOARES (PT), Leena and Oula A. VALKEAPÄÄ (FI).

### Conference Speakers:

Adesola AKINLEYE, Sandra ALVARO, Laura BELOFF, Karla BRUNET, Felipe CASTELBLANCO, Fernando CAVALCANTE, Oksana CHEPELYK, Maija DEMITERE, Tiziano DERME, Juan Carlos DUARTE REGINO, Desiree FOERSTER, Stelios GIANNOULAKIS, José GARCIA, Kyriaki GONI, Adnan HADZISELIMOVIC, John KAZIOR, Raivo KELOMEES, Michal KINDERNAY, Diana KNĚŽÍNKOVÁ, Martin KRUPA, Carlos LENTINI, Amanda LEWIS, Eva-Maria LOPEZ, Mia MAKELA, Sally MCINTYRE, Margarida MENDES, Lina MICHELKEVICE, Vytautas MICHELKEVIČIUS, Michal MITRO, Toni OLIVEIRA, Jakub 'Preppikoma' PALM, Ji Yun PARK, Matteo PIZZOLANTE, Gonzalo PRECIADO-AZANZA, Anna PRIEDOLA, Daina PUPKEVIČIŪTĒ, Tivon RICE, Byron RICH, Paul ROSERO CONTRERAS, Ellen RØED, Vincenzo SANSONE, André SIER, Eva SJUVE, Karolina SOBECKA, Christina STADLBAUER.

This year the RIXC Riga-Online conference and festival offers free registration. The Youtube stream will be available via the festival website:

<http://festival2020.rixc.org>

**Sally MCINTYRE**

## **A Small Radius of Listening Within the Dead Silence of the Static Archive: Re:collecting Andreas Reischek**

This paper focuses on a series of sound and radio art works I have been performing and exhibiting since 2012, which strategically utilise early recording and transmitting media such as wax cylinders, music boxes, and small-radius radio, to reveal a haunted poetics of the post-colonial landscape of Aotearoa/New Zealand. Investigations are conducted on the border between empirical fieldwork and performative site-specific art practice, in which radio and sound function as a set of tools through which to enact a sonic repatriation of particular locatable extinction histories and silences. The materiality of modernist sound and transmission technologies is also approached as a haunted landscape, one whose afterlives can function critically to overlay the visible in order to elucidate memory, hauntings and presences otherwise empirically intangible within sites. Drawing on the collections of Andreas Reischek, an Austrian taxidermist who spent 12 years traveling in Aotearoa/New Zealand between 1877 to 1889, amassing a “near complete” collection of New Zealand bird specimens, including many now-extinct species, now housed in the Natural History Museum in Vienna, these works trace the haunted spaces of the colonial-era encounter and economic relation between Aotearoa/New Zealand and Europe, as well as that between the contemporary museum collection and the field, unpacking the uncanny traces of colonial-era extinctions that occur as buried narratives within both the museum, and invisibly as absences within contemporary ecological sites. These extinction narratives are re-connected to their sites in both Aotearoa and Europe, in order to listen-in to particular acts of ecocide.

**Sally Ann McIntyre** is a New Zealand/Australian radio and sound artist and writer currently based in Melbourne. Working in the space between radio transmission and sound recording technologies, she conducts research around repressed, erased, lost and forgotten sonic narratives, seeking the poetics of the half-remembered, the missing and unavailable. Her work asks questions about the politics and materiality of archives, the empiricism of scientific observation and its relation to recording technologies, how the spectral returns to haunt cultural myths of nature, how absence attends presence, and how noise is an integral part of signal. In her radio art practice, small scale transmission becomes a medium that focuses down on the relation of landscapes to their depiction in sonic representation. Radio becomes a deciphering device, conflicting productively with storage media, with work emerging in the tension between recorded and transmitted media modalities, and the relation of both to memory.

**Gonzalo PRECIADO-AZANZA, Adesola AKINLEYE**

## **Dancing the digital beyond-body and the ecological connected-body**

This presentation shares some of our choreographic methods for exploring the moving body in and across the digital and physical environment. As artists, we notice many human beings feel cut off from their natural environment as their body is physically in attendance while their mind feels more presence in the digital. For us, this has underlined the dichotomy and opportunity that the new ‘stage’ of Web 2.0 poses. The interconnectedness of dance exemplifies the relationship between sensing body and environment which is challenged by



the pixel. By dancing through the digital and physical we use choreography to explore layers of connectedness as a metaphor for exploring how we own our presence in the ecosystem. We have started to focus on the notion of fractal geometry, a natural phenomenon, as an infinite concatenation that connects us. Previously, we suggested in our article, Dance and the Digital Age: a choreographic survey of the new technologies in the choreographic process (2020), that new technology challenges where the human body begins, ends and is visible. We explore the digital age's unification of art and science through our choreographic practices working with the dancing digital beyond-body and the ecological connected-body.

**Dr. Adesola Akinleye:** Choreographer, artist-scholar. She began her career dancing with Dance Theatre of Harlem later working in UK Companies. She is a Theatrum Mundi Fellow & a Senior Lecturer at Middlesex University. She creates works, from live performance to film, to text. She has won awards internationally for her dance works, as well as published in the areas of dance and cultural studies. [www.dancingstrong.com](http://www.dancingstrong.com)

**Gonzalo Preciado-Azanza:** International dancer, choreographer, researcher & author. Gonzalo is a member of The Latvian National Ballet in Riga since 2015. He graduated in Dance at Middlesex University in 2018 and currently, he is pursuing an MA in Cultural Management at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya. [www.gonzalopreciadoazanza.com](http://www.gonzalopreciadoazanza.com)

**Friday / October 9, 2020**

**13.05 – 14.35**

## **Session 3: BioSensing and Ecosystematic Perspective (1)**

Moderator: Maija DEMITERE

**Juan Carlos DUARTE REGINO**

### **"I" : Environmental Media Interface for Sonic Interaction**

"I" is an Interface for the real-time sound synthesis of eco data collected in situ, in this paper - talk I will present the design features of the device, including the future scenarios that will enable the use in field recordings on remote locations. Moreover the possibility for use with radio systems to sense electromagnetic fields and use them as a medium to transfer data and other acoustic signals found in specific environments. The interface is designed in collaboration with the Mexican sound artist Mario de Vega, the project emerged as a platform to develop a long term project for an Instrument that takes multiple forms of use and interpretation for sound performance and installation.

Likewise, the interest of "I" as a platform for collaboration between artists and scientists is to enable a common space to explore the materialities of sound connected to planetary energies and signals, space qualities, and resonance. The system proposes a cybernetic approach, enhancing a medium that is deeply intertwined with planetary cycles and the sonic experience with environmental agencies.

**Juan Duarte Regino:** Media Artist. Creative Technologist. Mexican-born media artist Juan Duarte Regino works on interaction as a tool for generative art experiments. He is part of Pixelache - art and