

The Multifaceted Relationship between Fear and Technology

International Workshop at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development

10–12 October 2018



Convenors:

Bettina Hitzer (Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin)

Alexander Gall (Deutsches Museum, Munich)

Martina Heßler (Helmut-Schmidt-Universität, Hamburg)

Karena Kalmbach (Technische Universität Eindhoven)

Anne Schmidt (Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin)

Andreas Spahn (Technische Universität Eindhoven)



Max-Planck-Institut für Bildungsforschung
Max Planck Institute for Human Development





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Program

Wednesday, 10 October 2018

from 5:00 pm Registration

6:00–9:00 pm **Public Keynote**

Margaret Morris (University of Washington):
Challenging Fears of Technology and Isolation

Moderator: Anne Schmidt (Max Planck Institute for Human
Development, Berlin)

following reception

Thursday, 11 October 2018

9:30 am **Welcome and Introduction**

Bettina Hitzer (Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin)
Martina Heßler (Helmut-Schmidt-Universität, Hamburg)

10:30 am Short Coffee Break

10:45 am **Panel 1: “Causing Fears”**

Zachary Loeb (University of Pennsylvania):
*You Should Be Afraid: Erich Fromm and Lewis Mumford on the
Fearsome Dangers of Technology*

Olga Galanova (Ruhr-Universität Bochum / Fachhochschule für
öffentliche Verwaltung, Bielefeld):

Stasi-Surveillance of Everyday Communication in the Private Sphere

Comment: Andreas Spahn (TU Eindhoven)

12:15 pm Lunch Break

1:30 pm **Panel 2: “Cultivating Fears”**

Daniel White (FU Berlin):
*The Mechanics of Fear: Re-envisioning Anxiety through Emerging
Technologies of Affect*

Astha Jaiswal (Central University of Gujarat):
*The Hype of Cord Blood Banking in India: Understanding the Fear
Based Discourse*

Comment: Anne Schmidt (MPI for Human Development)

3:00 pm Coffee Break



Thursday, 11 October 2018 (cont.)

- 3:30 pm **Panel 3: “Contesting Fears”**
Christian Götter (Deutsches Museum München):
Fears and Fission: An Analysis of Four Variations of Fear around Nuclear Power
Serenity Sutherland (SUNY Oswego):
The Rhetoric of Artificial Intelligence: Fear, Fiction and Forewarning
Comment: Alexander Gall (Deutsches Museum München)
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- 5:00 pm Short Coffee Break
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- 5:15 pm **Lecture**
Karena Kalmbach (TU Eindhoven):
Nothing to Fear but Technology itself? A Historical Study into Fears as Drivers of Technological Innovation and Implementation
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- 6:15 pm End of Sessions
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- 7:15 pm Dinner with Dinner Talk

Friday, 12 October 2018

- 10:00 am **Panel 4: “Enduring Fears”**
Thomas Zeller (University of Maryland):
Loving the Automobile to Death? Injuries, Mortality, Fear, and the Automobility in West Germany and the United States, 1950–2000
Artemis Yagou (Deutsches Museum München):
Robots and Bricks: Using Play to Cope with a Menacing Technological Future
Wesley Shrum (Louisiana State University):
Zbola at Large: Fear and Epidemic Exposure in the Internet Era
Comment: Bettina Hitzer (MPI for Human Development)
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- 12.00 pm Lunch Break
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- 1:00 pm **Panel 5: “Fighting Fears”**
Ginevra Sanvitale (TU Eindhoven):
Tell Me Your Computer Attitude and I'll Tell You Who You Will Be: Fear and Computing in the Making of Future Society
Andie Rothenhäusler (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology):
What Is Technology and Is it Possible to be Afraid of it? The Debate on “Technikfeindlichkeit” in West Germany
Comment: Martina Heßler (Helmut Schmidt Universität Hamburg)
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- 2:30 pm **Final Discussion**
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- 3:30 pm End of Conference



Convenors

Bettina Hitzer is Minerva Research Group Leader at the Center for the History of Emotions at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin.

Alexander Gall is Researcher at the Research Institute for the History of Science and Technology at Deutsches Museum, Munich.

Martina Heßler is Professor at the Helmut-Schmidt-Universität/Universität der Bundeswehr, Hamburg, Chair for Modern Social, Economic and Technical History.

Karena Kalmbach is Assistant Professor for History at the Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, Department of Industrial Engineering and Innovation Sciences.

Anne Schmidt is Adjunct Researcher at the Center for the History of Emotions at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin.

Andreas Spahn is Assistant Professor for Philosophy and Ethics at the Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, Department of Industrial Engineering and Innovation Sciences.

Interested in attending this workshop?

Please note that all talks start precisely at the advertised time (ST not CT).

Venue: Max Planck Institute for Human Development
94 Lentzeallee
14195 Berlin
Small conference hall
(closest station Breitenbachplatz)

No registration required if you only wish to attend the public keynote held by Prof. Dr. Margaret Morris.

Those who are interested in any session in addition to the public keynote **MUST** be registered to attend.

There is no registration fee but seating is limited.

To register please send an e-mail to rockmann@mpib-berlin.mpg.de by **4 October 2018**. We kindly ask you to inform us about your affiliation and the area of your research focus.

We send you a confirmation of your registration as soon as possible.