



## Transnationalisms

### *Bodies, Borders, and Technology*

Conference

[aksioma.org/transnationalisms](http://aksioma.org/transnationalisms)

Curated by: James Bridle

24 – 25 April, 2018

**Kino Šiška, Ljubljana**

Trg prekomorskih brigad 3, Ljubljana

Tolerance against fundamentalism, transparency against opacity, globalization against nationalism and balkanization: these are just some of the contradictions and paradoxes of contemporary society. And it is at borders that they manifest more explicitly: the borders between nation states, and between the physical and digital, which demarcate different zones of possibility and expression. Curated by British artist **James Bridle**, *Transnationalisms* is a traveling group exhibition and series of conversations which acknowledges and even celebrates these contradictions, while insisting on the transformative possibilities of digital tools and networks on historical forms of nationalism, citizenship, and rights. *Transnationalisms* explores alternative models and protocols of citizenship, identity, and nationhood as they are prototyped, tested and distributed by artists, designers and researchers.

#### Speakers:

James Bridle, Marco Ferrari, Denis Maksimov, Mojca Pajnik, Eleanor Saitta, The Peng! Collective

## Registration:

[Please fill in the registration form by April 23rd, 2018](#)

# Schedule

## Day 1

Tuesday, April 24, 2018

17:00 - 19:30

Kino Šiška, Trg prekomorskih brigad 3, Ljubljana

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17:00–17:45

**James Bridle:** *The Real Name Game*

New technologies are allowing new forms of identity and community to flourish and be recognised, from virtual citizenships to digital nations, and gender identities to non-human actors. At the same time, systems of power and governance attempt to corral and suppress identity within geographical borders and database schema. James Bridle explores the uses and abuses of identity in his own practice, and the work of others.



**James Bridle** is an artist and writer working across technologies and disciplines. His artworks and installations have been exhibited in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australia, and have been viewed by hundreds of thousands of visitors online. He has been commissioned by organisations including the Victoria & Albert Museum, the Barbican, Artangel, the Oslo Architecture Triennale, the Istanbul Design Biennial, and been honoured by Ars Electronica, the Japan Media Arts Festival, and the Design Museum, London. His writing on

literature, culture and networks has appeared in magazines and newspapers including Frieze, Wired, Domus, Cabinet, the Atlantic, the New Statesman, and many others, in print and online, and he has written a regular column for the Observer. "New Dark Age", his book about technology, knowledge, and the end of the future, is forthcoming from Verso (UK & US) in 2018. He lectures regularly on radio, at conferences, universities, and other events, including SXSW, Lift, the Global Art Forum, Re:Publica and TED. He was been a resident at Lighthouse, Brighton, the White Building, London, and Eyebeam, New York, and an Adjunct Professor on the Interactive Telecommunications Programme at New York University. His work can be found at <http://jamesbridle.com>

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17:45–18:15

**Mojca Pajnik:** *Reclaiming Humanity: The Utopias of World Citizenship*

The transnational reality of living in contemporary global societies poses several challenges for contemporary societies. Second-class citizenships, inhuman border regimes and fake security have

robbed millions of individuals of their humanity, and fed populist rage against migrants. New forms of "world citizenship" are needed to reclaim humanity from "the globalization of indifference".



**Mojca Pajnik** is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana and a senior research advisor at the Peace Institute in Ljubljana. She has undertaken inter-disciplinary research, coupled with public interventions on topics from fields of political science and communications such as citizenship, populism, racism, migration, alternative media and gender.

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18:30–19:00

**Marco Ferrari:** *Italian Limes: Mapping the Shifting Border across Alpine Glaciers*

Italy's northern borders traverse snowfields and ice sheets at high altitudes, mostly following the path of the Alpine watershed. As global warming melts the glaciers, so the border shifts, tracked by a network of sensors installed by Studio Folder. Marco Ferrari will discuss the genesis of the project and studio's ongoing research on the history of Italian border surveys.



**Marco Ferrari** is an architect, co-founder (together with Elisa Pasqual) of Studio Folder, a design and visual research agency based in Milan, Italy. His main research interests pivot around the understanding of the relationships between cartography and politics, working across a diverse range of outcomes and methodologies. He has been Creative Director of Domus magazine between 2011 and 2013, and a regular graphics editor for Abitare magazine between 2007 and 2011. He has been teaching 'Methods and Tools for Representation' at ISIA in

Urbino since 2010, and led an Information Design research laboratory at the MA Communication Design at IUAV University in Venice, between 2013 and 2016.

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20:30

*Transnationalisms – Part I*

EXHIBITION OPENING | Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova, Maistrova 3, Ljubljana

Artists: Studio Folder

Open through May 18, 2018



## Day 2

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

17:00 - 19:30

Kino Šiška, Trg prekomorskih brigad 3, Ljubljana

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17:00–17:45

**Eleanor Saitta:** *Performing States*

We have built our concept of the nation on the ideas of institutions, of fixed points on maps, in time, and in law. We're also somewhat aware that this is fiction? Here, we'll explore how we might re-understand what we call a "nation".



**Eleanor Saitta** is an independent security and privacy architecture and strategy consultant with media, finance, healthcare, infrastructure, and software clients across the US and Europe. She is also a hacker, designer, artist, writer, and barbarian. She makes a living and a vocation of understanding how complex systems and stories operate and redesigning them to work, or at least fail, better.

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17:45–18:15

**Denis Maksimov:** *steit əv nəʊlənd [State of Noland]: On potent futures post-sovereignty, nationalism & imperialism*

The nation state is a modern fiction, but despite all the criticism of it, it is still regarded as a fundamental component of the political order, a tabula rasa for (re)structuring power. State of Noland proposes a

different 'state of mind', not aligned with any geopolitical entity, and a 'state-after-state' as a constellation of practices that functionally replace nation-state monopoly.



**Denis Maksimov** FRSA is a curator, writer and political scientist. His work is focused on genesis, legitimisation and transformation of aesthetico-political phenomena such as mythology, ideology and regimes of power. Together with Timo Tuominen he is co-founder of Avenir Institute, a think tank at the intersection of epistemology, politics, technology and aesthetics with a focus on critical analysis of potentiality in futures.

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18:30–19:00

**Jean Peters (Peng! Collective):** *Hacking politics with subversion, civil disobedience and law*

Peng!'s art functions as a burning barricade in the media biosphere. What are the challenges to this position when working across national boundaries? Something apparently edgy in Germany might be illegal in Poland or the UK. In Europe, freedom of art is of greatest importance; in the US, freedom of speech. In the midst of questions of left-wing censorship and right-wing subversion, Peng! share their tactics for disrupting both sides of the debate.



**Jean Peters** works for a major international publishing house that should not be named here. She is quick in thought, elegant in gestures, romantic in morals and deep in eye-to-eye looks. Instead of finishing her business degree at the University of Alabama Business School, she chose to invest her time into repeated public humiliation of the local Ku Klux Klan. When they finally dissolved, she migrated to Europe and landed up in Berlin heading up the Peng! Division on bureaucracy.

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20:30

*Transnationalisms – Part II*

EXHIBITION OPENING | Aksioma Project Space, Komenskega 18, Ljubljana

Artists: Raphael Fabre, Jeremy Hutchison, They Are Here, Julian Oliver, Daniela Ortiz, Jonas Staal

Open through May 25, 2018

[Click here for the list of artists' works and biographies](#)

## Credits

PRODUCTION: [Aksioma – Institute for Contemporary Art](#), Ljubljana; [Drugo more](#), Rijeka, 2018



COPRODUCTION: [Kino Šiška](#)



CONFERENCE SERIES: [Tactics & Practice](#)



PARTNER: [Museum of Contemporary Art Metelkova](#)

**MG+MSUM**

SPONSOR: Best proof prints for the project *Movables* by Jeremy Hutchison has been made possible by [Dnevnik d.d.](#)

**DNEVNIK**

*Transnationalisms* is realized in the framework of [State Machines](#), a joint project by Aksioma (SI), Drugo more (HR), Furtherfield (UK), Institute of Network Cultures (NL) and NeMe (CY).

STATE MACHINES

SUPPORTED BY: the Creative Europe programme of the European Union, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, the Municipality of Ljubljana.



MEDIA SPONSOR: Radio Študent, TAM-TAM



**TAM TAM**

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This communication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.