SomeTimes

From the editors of SomeTimes

The leaves of the trees have turned to mush upon the streets and the cold and wet of winter has begun to set in. This issue of SomeTimes is the final one of 2023. With this in mind, we have looked back upon the past few months, at the activities and events that have gone on in and around Varia whilst simultaneously looking forward to the future. The tumultous times of 2023 will not and should not be easily forgotten and as we move forward into a year of 'Seasonal Computing' (our working theme for 2024), we will be embracing the complexity of what it means to be resourceful. We want to deal with questions around sustainability and low-impact approaches, our own working conditions and the conditions of our audiences. We want to test and experiment with what the refusal of always being available and productive might mean for us within our collective, as well as in the different environments we are engaged and invested in. We understand this Seasonal Computing approach as a testing ground, as a method and research trajectory for fruitful exploration, which will also help us to define for ourselves and our ways of working, what Seasonal Computing could mean. We hope to see you in the coming year and look forward to the changing of the seasons.

Digital Discomfort: Read-Write-Chaos

from https://varia.zone/en/digital-discomfort.html

Date: Friday, 19 January 2023
Location: Varia

Participation: is limited, to join please send an email to info@varia.zone with [Digital Discomfort] in the subject.

The **Digital Discomfort Working Group** proposes a one-day gathering to collectively engage with the questions and praxis of discomfort aesthetics as a potential form of contemporary (techno)political resistance.

As a tentative situation, we propose read-write-chaos as a method, in order to provide ourselves and others with a spacetime for attending to the emisions, erasures, receptions and recursions of a multiplicity of computationally mundane inscriptions, semiotics and poethics. Digital Discomfort can be understood in many ways (geopolitically, somatically, informatically), but on this occasion we propose to stay close to the aesthetic component of it. Or in other words: to explore discomfort as a queer aesthetics with potential of performing resistance, underwhelmedness and resilience, that is perhaps capable of adding up to what circulates as sensible matter as well as what gets to be experienced by means of friction, slowness, fun difficulty and/or surprising obliqueness in a too linear, too seamless, tending-to-flattenness digital everyday. Read-write chaotic struggle for awlessness might emerge in the midst of spreadsheets, in the making of complex diagrams, in the mess of collective text annotation or in the middle of mumbling discussions.

Cared for by Cristina Cochior, Karl Moubarak and Jara Rocha, the open-ended research on Digital Discomfort learns, dialogues, and experiments with ways to refuse compliance with what science and technology scholar and ecofeminist Donna Haraway calls the "informatics of domination," and what could be referred to as "totalitarian innovation."

Doing the Dishes and then Revolution

from https://varia.zone/en/doing-the-dishes-and-then-revolution.html

Date: Saturday, 9 December 2023
Location: Varia

"The sourball of every revolution: after the revolution, who's going to pick up the garbage on Monday morning?" - Mierle Laderman Ukeles

"Everybody wants to be in a collective but nobody wants to do the dishes" - A meme on Instagram

How to do things collectively? How to work together? How to deal with the different cultural backgrounds and different (precarious) living situations? How to set up a collective that works within the current sociopolitical forces and its demands? Working together in a collective such as Varia can be chaotic, uncomfortable and slow, but it can also create communal moments of conviviality and belonging. As Varia, we would like to think about these questions by spending time with other collectives and one invited guest during a one-day programme.

Doing the Dishes and then Revolution is an event in two parts: a private 'Dishes' moment with other collectives - Feministas en Rotterdam (https://m.facebook.com/FeministasEnRotterdam/), Hackers & Designers (https://hackersanddesigners.nl/), Sarmad (https://sarmadmagazine.com/) and SOUPSPOON Collective (https://www.instagram.com/soupspoon.collective/) - and a public evening where we share our

collective 'Revolutions' in conversation with an audience and a guest speaker, the software artist and writer Marloes de Valk (https://www.bleu255.com/~marloes/). Marloes will share her research 'The Damaged Earth Catalog' [https://damaged.bleu255.com/], which responds to digital urgencies of climate breakdown. She will present her work whilst responding to the day's events.

A meme created during a collective meme-making session as part of Doing the Dishes and then Revolution

Biotope Charlois: Winter Walk

from https://varia.zone/en/biotoop1.html

Date: Sunday, December 3 2023
Starting point: Varia

Get to know the **Biotope of Charlois;** from the rats in the Maas to the bats in your cavity walls. Together we will investigate how nature makes good use of Rotterdam's urban planning and technological infrastructure to make the city their home. Ecologist **André de Baerdemaeker** (https://natuurlijkestad.nl/andre-de-baerdemaeker/) will guide us through Charlois and its surrounding area, from the derelict Wielewaal to the docks of the Waalhaven, to see what thrives between the asphalt and concrete.

Biotoop Charlois is the first edition of a new event series organized by **Varia**, in which we take a critical look at the cross-connections between biology and technology in Rotterdam.

Extratonal Infrastructure #9: Rebetiko Against The Machine, athinx, Illusory Essay of Noise, Riviera Taylor, The Salty Sebastians and dj broodje

from https://varia.zone/en/extratonal9.html

Date: Saturday, 18 November 2023
Location: Varia

'Extravagant', 'extragalactic', 'extralogical' or 'extratonal'; by adding the prefix 'extra' we indicate something 'non-ordinary'. Get ready for another exceptional evening in Rotterdam Charlois with performances that go beyond our common understanding!

+ **Rebetiko Against The Machine** https://www.instagram.com/rebetiko.against/
+ **Illusory Essay of Noise:** https://cemaltinoz.com/
+ **Riviera Taylor** https://rivierataylor.info/
+ **The Salty Sebastians**
+ **dj broodje**

PrePostPrint Local Meetup

from https://varia.zone/en/PrePostPrint-local-meetup.html

Dates: Friday 24 & Saturday 25 November 2023
Location: Varia

F/LOSS publishing tool users unite! On Friday 24 + Saturday 25 of November we're organising a gathering in Varia to:

- come together
- meet new peers
- discuss, explore each other's preferred tools or ways of working
- and work on **PrePostPrint**

If you're curious to explore Free/Libre and Open Source Software (F/LOSS) to make publications and layouts with, or have already worked with these tools and are looking for ways to exchange with others, please join us!

PrePostPrint (PPP) began in 2018 to bring a community of practice together around F/LOSS design tools. Since 2022, PPP has been run by a maintainers group, who reimagines what this formation could do in the upcoming years and how it can be run collectively. The current maintainers group is coming together in Rotterdam during these two days to work on this all, and invites peers to think along.

PrePostPrint NL Signal Group

Scan this code to join!

Palestine Cinema Days - Stitching Palestine

from https://varia.zone/en/palestine-cinema-stitching-palestine.html

Date: Thursday, 02 November 2023
Location: Varia

Film Lab Palestine are not able to host their yearly festival this year; "Palestine Cinema Days", so the film festival will instead be hosted all over the world through different groups.

November 2nd marks the day the Balfour Declaration was signed, and in an effort to amplify Palestinian voices, we are screening **Stitching Palestine** directed by Carol Mansour at 8:00 p.m. at Varia, Gouwstraat 3, Rotterdam.

Stitching Palestine By Carol Mansour, 2017

Twelve resilient, determined and articulate women from disparate walks of life: lawyers, artists, housewives, activists, architects, and politicians stitch together the story of their homeland, of their dispossession, and of their unwavering determination that justice will prevail. Through their stories, the individual weaves into the collective, yet remaining distinctly personal. Twelve women, twelve life-spans and stories from Palestine; a land whose position was fixed on the map of the world, but is now embroidered on its face.

Poster by https://www.maspaz.co/

Sometimes Not Available

from https://varia.zone/en/sometimes-not-available-transfeminist-digital-care-network.html

from https://varia.zone/en/sometimes-not-available-la-bekka.html

In 2022, 6 organisations came together in 6 different sessions in the project A Traversal Networks of Feminist Servers (ATNOFS) to think and work collaboratively on notions around feminist servers, experimental publishing, convivial server administration, alternative social media, secure modes of sharing digital knowledge, all while sharing collective practices that each organisation has been developing.

Continuing these threads, Sometimes Not Available considers the need for interrelation and support for existing feminist server efforts, and for connecting around collective practices of developing, hosting and implementing tools and methods that reflect local needs, interests and conditions.

How can the labour behind hosting be made inclusive, convivial, shared, visible not only in moments when things go wrong? In what ways does the language embedded in server administration influence the practices and interactions around it? How can servers be pedagogical spaces for experimentation for those with different knowledges?

feat. Transfeminist Digital Care Network

Date: Thursday, 30 November 2023
Location: Varia and online

The **Transfeminist Digital Care Network** works to diversify voices/bodies/practices/methodologies of care to empower women, trans and LGBTQIAPN+ people to be protagonists in technologies and affect change through solidarity and trusting relationships with human rights groups and activists.

They realize the urgency of investing in the multiplication and decentralization of knowledge in digital security and feminist infrastructures, encouraging more trainers who respect the territorial, cultural specificity of causes, struggles and realities through feminist and anti-racist methodologies throughout Brazil, specifically in North, Northeast and Central-West Regions.

feat. la_bekka

Date: Thursday, 23 November 2023
Location: Varia and online

la_bekka was the feminist hacklab of the Eskalera Karakola (EKKA), a transfeminist public house in the city of Madrid, between 2016 and 2018.

Inés Binder is an activist and researches with a background in community radio, feminist technologies and technological sovereignty. She is a member of the Radio Production Center (Buenos Aires) and the hackfeminist space la_bekka (online, formerly in Madrid).

Martu Isla is a specialist in computer systems administration and digital protection, graduate in Social Work, master on Gender Studies and Equality Policies, groups trainer and expert on gender-based cyber-violence.

HTML Zine Club

from https://varia.zone/en/html-zine-club.html

Date: Saturday, 11 November 2023
Location: Varia

HTML Zine Club is a workshop making a personal-scope of web publication. Webzines, like print zines, are personal, story-based publications, but can also be made interactive and nonlinear through code, using basic programming languages such as HTML, CSS, and a bit of JavaScript (if you like!). In this workshop, an artist Nami Kim will lead participants who have little to no coding experience on how to craft their own webzines, centred around programming with care. Viewing the web browser as a free canvas and unraveling one's own personal elements in it, the workshop can be an opportunity to diagnose a prevalent digital design aesthetics, as well as a concept like ''you learn code to get a job'.

There will be a HTML & CSS skill-sharing session by Nami Kim, followed by a guided DIY webzine-making session. Participants are encouraged to bring personal writings, pictures, or audio files that they may want to incorporate in their work. For examples on webzines and how they can look like (there

are countless ways, and no wrong answers), please visit this link: https://htmlzineclub.usersentimentalexperience.net/htmlzineclub

If you'd like to explore making hand-coded webzines with your small, but powerful stories, please join the program!

Nami Kim is a web publisher and a lecturer who explores the relation between amateur coding culture and user experience discourse.

Colonial Infrastructures Worksession with Yasmine Boudiaf and film screening with Riar Rizaldi, Simnikiwe Buhlungu and Tessa Mars

from https://varia.zone/en/colonial-infrastructures-23.html

Date: Friday, 27 October 2023
Location: Varia

On this day we will be joined by creative technologist and researcher Yasmine Boudiaf. In the morning Yasmine will present a series of artistic research projects exploring cultural (dis)connections across time and geography using AI and anti-colonial methods. As an Algerian and a creative technologist, Yasmine explores how she and other displaced peoples could reconnect with intangible heritage, reviving and contextualising shared cultural memories as well as building new collective approaches to AI practice.

In the afternoon we will interrogate themes from the presentation using 2D Listening Structures Yasmine developed as tools for collective imagining.

Our worksession will close with the open screening of selection of artist films that respond to themes of the day. We will share artist and filmmaker Riar Rizaldi's 'Fossilis' and 'How Many _____ Does It Take?' by Simnikiwe Buhlungu and Tessa Mars.

'What separates the Earth, mind, body and machines?' Probably nothing' argued a future archaeolo-

gist [...] a paleo-media-ontologist digs [...] the imagination of the past to recontextualise and reflect what it is called fossil relic in their time; a mountain of invisible electronic waste buried in a tropical landscape of the South'. [Fossilis]

Taking a cue from Not In Between, a chapter in Fred Moten's book Black and Blur (2017), 'How Many _____ Does It Take?' tells the story of Dédée Bazile, a heroine within Haiti, and Imvo Zabanstundu a newspaper in South Africa.

Dysfluent Issue 2 Magazine Launch

from https://varia.zone/en/dysfluent-magazine-launch.html

Date: Saturday 21 October 2023 (the day before International Stammering Awareness Day ✨)
Location: Varia

"The prouder I get, the more change happens."

Dysfluent is a magazine about people who stammer. It explores the lived experience of stammering through interviews and essays, facilitating contrasting and challenging views. Stammering pride has emerged as a compelling movement in the cause for self-affirmation, dignity and equality for people who stammer. But what does it mean to be proud of something you associate with struggle and pain? Dysfluent Issue 2 is a 110+ page compilation of interviews and visual artwork celebrating and challenging stammering pride.

This event will be a blend of a magazine launch, art exhibition and a social gathering – with drinks and snacks, of course. Copies of the magazine and risograph posters will be available for purchase too.

Extratonal Education #2: Demystifying the Æther with Matthias Hurtl (MTHS)

from https://vvvvvvaria.org/en/feeds/varia.zone/en/extratonaleducation2.html

Date: Friday, 13 October 2023
Location: Varia

This workshop explores the world of electromagnetic waves and their omnipresence in our lives. By taking the visible infrastructure as a starting point, sound artist Matthias Hurtl will introduce the participants to the notion of Hertzian space and to the activities conducted within (broadcasting, telephony, aerospace, military, trading, and surveillance...) After being introduced to dedicated hardware and Software Defined Radio, together participants will acquire radio signals from different frequency bands – not only as a raw material for sound and image – but also to explore and understand the socio-political dimension of this space from a citizen perspective. By doing so, participants delve into the narratives of the invisible signals around us that illustrate the expansive, systemic, and geological attributes of the Technosphere.

https://drowning.in/aether/

Extratonal Infrastructure #8: Christof Migone, Matthias Hurtl (MTHS) and the Postpeople

from https://varia.zone/en/extratonal8.html

Date: Friday, 13 October 2023
Location: Varia

The question of extronality concerns not only 'how', but also 'where'. With both eyes open, this extratonal event will focus on acoustic tools to locate sonic oddities and performative gestures, from endoscope cameras to satellite receivers.

+ **Christof Migone** https://christofmigone.com/TheReleaseIntoMotion/

+ **Matthias Hurtl (MTHS)** https://drowning.in/aether/

+ **The Postpeople** https://www.instagram.com/the.postpeople/

Extratonal Infrastructure #7: So-Fi, Joris Anne, Lyckle de Jong and DJ Thor Kissing

from https://varia.zone/en/extratonal7.html

Date: Saturday, 23 September 2023
Location: Varia

Extratonal Infrastructure is back from the holidays. With a freshly charged battery, we continue the second half of our extratonal program of 2023. This time our event is dedicated to the New Dutch Naïvity, which means Dutch-language pop music for a new era!

+ So-Fi https://so-fi.nl/
+ Joris Anne https://petrolcandy.bandcamp.com/album/hartendief
+ Lyckle de Jong https://hetgeneriek.bandcamp.com/track/is-het-nu-over
+ DJ Thor Kissing https://petrolcandy.bandcamp.com/album/salmiak

Varia Afhaal: Stock Exchange

from https://vvvvvvaria.org/en/feeds/varia.zone/en/varia-afhaal-stock-exchange.html

Date: Friday, 15 September 2023
Location: Varia

Varia Afhaal are thematic gatherings based around the common experiences, everyday technologies and home economics of food preparation. With Varia Afhaal we create a context in which we can collectively develop a deeper understanding of sometimes abstract socio-economic and political topics by learning with and from each other through discussions, sketching, research, cooking and eating.

The second session, STOCK EXCHANGE, will bring up conversations on exchange value, extrac-

tion, commodities, economics, self-sufficiency and survival, while exploring the possibilities around making, sharing and storing stock.

Varia Afhaal is organised by Varia members Alice Strete, Yoana Buzova and Simon Browne.

Open Tap

Open Tap is a drip-feed of brief announcements, shout-outs, activities and other leakages from the members of Varia and their friends.

💧 crunk presented Varia at https://www.fiber-space.nl/permacomputingsymposium/ on the 2nd of December

💧 simoon & decentral1se organised the PrePostPrint Local Meetup. Many people came from FR, BE and other parts of NL, to meet over conversations around F/LOSS design and publishing https://varia.zone/en/PrePostPrint-local-meetup.html

💧 A call for new maintainers of PrePostPrint has been published https://prepostprint.org/maintenance/2023-2024-call.html

💧 Varia has been selected as fellows at Het Nieuwe Instituut! https://nieuweinstituut.nl/en/projects/research/call-for-fellows-2023-jury-report

💧 Varia had a stall at Zinecamp, on 4 November: https://zinecamp2023.hotglue.me/

💧 Naz and Cristina made a Pocketpower souvenir together with Titipi for The Hmm's Data Center Tour https://thehmm.nl/event/the-hmms-data-centre-tour/
The Hmm also published an audio recording from the day https://live.thehmm.nl/the-hmm-s-data-centre-tour

💧 We wrote a letter to decline an invitation from the organisers of the symposium "Collective Communities/The Autonomous Fabric of Rotterdam". Read why here: https://varia.zone/en/pages/opinions.html

💧 Sofia, Cristina and amy's work 'author' is back online with a little help from Max Franklin. Find our strangely categorised library here: https://www.who-is-the-author.me/

💧 decentral1se was alternative clouding at DISCO Slovenia 2023 - Digital Sovereignty Conference. Check the interview here: https://disco.si/speaker-interview-luke-murphy/ and more can be found in the livestream: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gAdhm7S2R0

💧 Simoon, strt and decentral1se went to teach some of the people from the ˄ Artists Collective, and take part in the Irish Design Week. Read more here: https://www.dcci.ie/events/artist-led-server-networks/

💧 Simoon is part of Open Source Publishing http://osp.kitchen now!

💧 bnjmn is showing new work at the Huis van de Nijmeegse Geschiedenis as part of Stichting Link's 'Pluralities of Scale' exhibition http://www.stichtinglink.nl/

💧 Cristina is showing Block Networks, a work on Romanian micro-ISPs, at the 'Turn Signals: Design is Not a Dashboard' exhibition in Timisoara http://brightcityscapes.eu/en/events/turn-signals-design-is-not-a-dashboard

💧 bnjmn presented his work on 'coding-in-situ' at Dutch Design Week as part of the Stimuleringsfonds Talent Platform show