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FENOMENOLOGIA INFORMACJI

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PHENOMENOLOGY OF INFORMATION

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Wystąpienia plenarne · Keynote speeches

Isto Huvila

Uppsala University, Department of ALM (Archives, Libraries and Museums)

Language of the presentation: English

Against context: information habitats and what it takes for something to inform

Information science has begun to take more-than-human information practices seriously, largely through relational ontologies imported from science and technology studies. That vocabulary is good at asserting that non-humans participate in informational undertakings, and poor at explaining how anything comes to inform anyone at all. Without such an account, the more-than-human claim risks resting on assertion, and information habitats collapse back into contexts, containers within which informing happens. Proceeding from the notions of making and taking information and situational appropriation, I discuss in this talk how Uexküll's notion of *Umwelt*, Merleau-Ponty's habit and Husserl's *Auffassung als* can productively nuance the understanding of both the information habitat where information practices in general and making and taking information in particular take place, and how it happens in practice. My suggestion is that context is an unproductive abstraction. It names as a container what is in fact constituted in the same movement as the informing it is supposed to explain. Informativeness cannot be secured in advance by whoever makes a record, and habitats cannot be described independently of their inhabitants. The argument is developed through examples drawn from empirical work on archaeological information practices and closes by asking what an information infrastructure would look like if it were designed for habitats rather than for transmission.

Jenna Hartel

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information

Language of the presentation: English

Toward a Phenomenology of Balloon Animals

What might balloon animal twisting reveal about information? Drawing upon an unusual graduate course in Information Studies, this keynote takes a playful practice seriously as a site of information phenomena. Balloon animal twisting brings bodies, materials, documents, people, animals, and institutions into curious relation, inviting reflection on where information resides

and how it is experienced. Rather than simply describing this vision, the keynote will convene a very abbreviated version of it. Participants should come prepared for the first day of class.

Piotr Augustyniak

*Instytut Filozofii, Kolegium GAP Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego w Krakowie
Institute of Philosophy, College of Economy and Public Administration (GAP), Krakow University of Economics*

Język wystąpienia: polski

Cyfrowy świat informacji jako spełnienie istoty techniki. Perspektywa Heideggerowska

Celem referatu jest rekapitulacja i krytyczna dyskusja Heideggerowskiej wykładni istoty techniki. Wybrane współczesne aspekty funkcjonowania świata informacji zostaną zderzone z podstawowymi tezami Heideggera, dotyczącymi istoty techniki, w szczególności z jego analizą „ze-stawu” [*Ge-stell*] i technicznego sposobu ujmowania świata jako zasobu. Pozwoli to zapytać, na ile cyfrowy świat informacji – opisany po Heideggerowsku jako przestrzeń, w której wszystkie zjawiska ujmowane są jako dane podlegające gromadzeniu, porządkowaniu, przetwarzaniu i optymalizacji – może być rozumiany jako radykalizacja zapomnienia bycia, którego zwieńczeniem jest epoka techniki.

Language of the presentation: Polish

The Digital World of Information as the Fulfilment of the Essence of Technology: A Heideggerian Perspective

The aim of this paper is to recapitulate and critically discuss Heidegger's interpretation of the essence of technology. Selected contemporary aspects of how the world of information functions will be confronted with Heidegger's basic theses on the essence of technology. Particular attention will be paid to his analysis of enframing [*Ge-stell*] and to the technological way of grasping the world as standing-reserve. In Heideggerian terms, the digital world of information is a space in which all phenomena are grasped as data. These data are collected, ordered, processed and optimised. The paper asks to what extent this world can be understood as a radicalisation of the forgetting of Being. The age of technology is the culmination of this forgetting.

Andrzej Leder

*Instytut Filozofii i Socjologii Polskiej Akademii Nauk
Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences*

Language of the presentation: English

A matter of Representation...

This speech attempts to demonstrate that the failure to recognize real conflicts and bring them to representation is the chief yet highly inconspicuous reason behind the regression of ways in which we understand and describe today's reality. Crucially, this shortcoming has helped to elevate the language of economics to the rank of the basic idiom for the development of mutual representations. As my analyses show, the language of economy has become the principal medium of representation for communities separated by great distances and unable to recognize

each other's existence as rooted in their respective realities, despite the fact that they are deeply interconnected. For this reason, although global dependence and conflict, including exploitation and exclusion, remain faceless, they do find some expression in symbolic indices of anonymous capital flows, represented and made legible in streams of numbers.