

PARTICIPANTS:

Fabienne Collignon is a Lecturer in Contemporary Literature at the University of Sheffield, and the author of *Rocket States: Atomic Weaponry and the Cultural Imagination* (Bloomsbury, 2014), as well as articles on Philip K. Dick, Thomas Pynchon and technology in literature and film.

Laurence Rickels is Professor of Art and Theory at the Academy of Fine Arts, Karlsruhe and Sigmund Freud Professor of Media and Philosophy at the European Graduate School. His books include *The Case of California* (University of Minnesota Press, 2001), *Nazi Psychoanalysis* (3 vols, 2002) and *I Think I Am: Philip K. Dick* (University of Minnesota Press, 2010).

Alexander Dunst is Assistant Professor of American Studies at the University of Paderborn. His monograph, *Psychopolitics and Cold War Culture* is forthcoming with Routledge, and he is the editor, with Stephen Schlessing, of *The World According to Philip K. Dick* (Macmillan, 2015).

James Burton is a fellow at ICI Berlin. He has published papers on the philosophy of fiction, memory and ecology, and is the author of *The Philosophy of Science Fiction: Henri Bergson and the Fabulations of Philip K. Dick* (Bloomsbury, 2015).

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Workshop and Discussion – 24 September 2015, 16:00 – 21:00, in English

Becoming Post-Android

Philip K. Dick's
Errant Ontology

with
James Burton,
Fabienne Collignon,
Alexander Dunst,
and
Laurence A. Rickels

Organised by
James Burton (ICI Berlin) and
Alexander Dunst (University of Paderborn).

An ICI Berlin event in cooperation with
the University of Paderborn.

The work of Philip K. Dick, best known as a master of ontologically and psychologically unsettling science fiction, has had a wide-ranging if sporadic influence on modern cultural theory. In this one-day symposium, comprising a workshop and panel discussion, four Dick scholars address his continuing significance for the contemporary rethinking of subjectivity, the (post)human, and ontology.

The event begins with a workshop focusing on the immense body of writing undertaken by Dick in the last eight years of his life, which he called his “Exegesis.” Beginning as an attempt to understand a series of visions that he experienced in 1974, which Dick believed were a form of communication from a divine, alien or artificial intelligence, the text grew into an uncategorizable work that can simultaneously be considered a philosophico-theological investigation, an account of religious experience, a chronicle of mental breakdown, and a textual collage of fragments of 1970s counterculture and esotericism.

The workshop is followed by a panel in which three Dick scholars will discuss his continuing significance for contemporary posthumanism and its ethical, ontological and political stakes. More generally, we will address the enduring and growing cultural interest in Dick’s work, and its relation, along with that of science fiction in general, to other modes of thought (e.g. critical, philosophical, political).

Following the event there will be a reception and book launch announcing new publications in Philip K. Dick scholarship featuring work by the participants.

Please note: there is no need to register for this public event, but the workshop session will discuss short excerpts from Dick’s Exegesis (10-15 pages) and a critical essay by Richard Doyle. Please contact [info@ici-berlin.org] if you would like to receive these excerpts in advance.

THURSDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER 2015

16.00

INTRODUCTION

16.15

WORKSHOP
ERRANT ONTOLOGY:
EXEGESIS AND NONHUMAN BEING

18.30

COFFEE BREAK

19.30

PANEL DISCUSSION
STUMBLING ON THE POSTHUMAN

21.00

RECEPTION AND BOOK LAUNCH