

M O V
Agency between Contestation
I N G
and Confirmation
N O R
Artistic Intervention
M A T I
9-11 May 2023
V I T Y

Uferstudios Berlin, Studio 14
Uferstr. 23, 13357 Berlin

In the lead-up to the conference “Moving Normativity – Agency between Confirmation and Contestation”, two additional events with artistic perspectives by Gulzat Egemberdieva and Choy Ka Fai will take place at the Uferstudios. A film screening and a performance lecture followed by talks with the artists and academics will explore and expand the thematic issues of the conference programme.

The two-day event presents a cooperation of the DFG Research Training Group 2638 “Normativity – Critique – Change” and the DFG Collaborative Research Centre “Intervening Arts”, both at the Freie Universität Berlin.

Participation for both events is free of charge and do not require a prior registration.

TUESDAY

May 9, 2023

19.00–21.00

Oral Histories as Artistic Archives – Central Asian Counter Narratives in the Me–

Film Screening of *Neither In The Mountain, Nor In The Field* (2023) and *Moscowtime* (2020) followed by talk with Gulzat Egemberdieva, moderated by Birgit Eusterschulte and Lisa Paland

Gulzat Egemberdieva's experimental documentary films *Neither in the Mountain, nor in the Field* (2023) and *Moscowtime* (2020) illustrate the importance of alternative historiography for the nomadic communities in central Asia. Oral traditions, family photographs and storytelling are woven into a poetic and very personal history. The films oscillate between documentary, autobiography, historical footage and video portraits, and convey a search for identity between past and present as well as national and regional borders in present-day Kyrgyzstan.

Gulzat Egemberdieva is an experimental documentary filmmaker, multimedia artist and researcher currently living in Berlin. Her work focuses on the pre- and post-Soviet cultural history of Central Asia, cultures of nomadism and remembrance between past and present as well as national and regional borders in present-day Kyrgyzstan.



Gulzat Egemberdieva, *Azmat* before a Soviet bus stop, 2021. Picture source: Gulzat Egemberdieva



Kök-Börü (horse game) in Pamir, 2017, photo: Abdilbait Khan, copyright: Gulzat Egemberdieva

WEDNESDAY

May 10, 2023

19.00–21.00

Negotiating Choreography between Knowledge Transmission and Colonization

Lecture and demonstration by Choy Ka Fai followed by talk with Choy Ka Fai and dance scholar Prof. Dr. André Lepecki (NYU), moderated by Prof. Dr. Kirsten Maar and Yon Natalie Mik

In *Ten Notes for Choy Ka Fai's Prospectus for a Future Body* (2011), performance scholar André Lepecki describes choreography as a “design and execution of pre-determined movements.” Cross-border experiences of learning and translating history, tradition, culture and knowledge are facilitated through digitality and telepresence in **Choy Ka Fai**’s work. A Lecture and demonstration by the artist followed by a dialogue with André Lepecki will address the relation between choreographic violence and a dancer’s agency. What kind of conditions impact the form of knowledge transmission and how can choreography negotiate the thin line between a colonizing violence and an emancipatory queering of different bodies? What is the generative potential of deviations, disturbances, and fractures that arise during the process of knowledge transmission?

Choy Ka Fai is a Berlin-based Singaporean artist. His multidisciplinary art practice situates itself at the intersection of dance, media art and performance. Through research expeditions, pseudo-scientific experiments and documentary performances, Ka Fai appropriates technologies and narratives to imagine new futures of the human body.



Profile by Choy Ka Fai



Unbearable Darkness performance
Choy Ka Fai, photo by Katja Illner



Unbearable Darkness performance
Choy Ka Fai, photo by Katja Illner

M O V
Agency between Contestation
 I N G
and Confirmation
 N O R
International Conference
 M A T I
11-12 May
 V I T Y

Uferstudios Berlin, Studio 14
 Uferstr. 23, 13357 Berlin

The interdisciplinary Research Training Group “Normativity, Critique, Change” hosts a conference to investigate agency as the site of a tension between contestation and confirmation across a range of disciplines in the arts, law, and humanities. In recent years, new ways of engaging with action and agency have emerged. Research has focused on the emancipation of historically marginalized subjects. We witness a provincializing of classical frameworks and a redefinition of rights around the embodied categories of sexuality, race, and class. The normativity of individual agency has expanded and condensed under these conditions. The conference sheds light on the various sites of tension inherent to agency, normative action and critique in four panels.

THURSDAY

May 11, 2023

Panel 1

Negotiating Normative Power. Identifying with, resisting against, and (re)shaping social standards

How is the normative power of action negotiated between multiple agents (norm authorities, role models, activists, artists, etc.) and in which way can marginalized groups participate in the negotiation process? Is participation in progress based on a subversive potential? How is this expressed and acted upon in religious, linguistic, and artistic practices?

Moderation by **Deborah Mühlebach**

9:30 **Opening**

10:00–10:45 **Ana Deumert**
(Linguistics)
Voice: Reflections on Expressive Insurgency

10:45–11:30 **Giulia Sissa**
(Religious Studies and Classics)
Equal rights versus Natural Law. An ongoing duel.

11:30–11:45 **Coffee Break**

11:45–12:30 **Sumi Madhok**
(Political Theory and Gender Studies)
Anti-Imperial Epistemic Justice, Agency and Critique: The Shifting Boundaries of Normative Agency and Action

12:30–13:15 **Panel discussion**

Panel 2

Social Movements, Blockade, and Contestation

In which sense can social change be shaped by social agents and movements which themselves have to rely on existing normative structures, for example in the form of rights? Can the grounding structures and bodily practices of contestation be understood as truly emancipatory, or do they rather tend to normalize subjects involved in practices of dissent, thus taming and neutralizing potentials of radical change?

Moderation by **Tobias Wieland**

15:00–15:45 **Tim Wihl**
(Jurisprudence)
Hegel and Spinoza: Towards an Integral Jurisprudence of Political Protest

15:45–16:30 **Daniel Loick**
(Philosophy)
Fugitive Freedom: Towards a Standpoint Theory of Normativity

16:30–16:45 **Coffee Break**

16:45–17:30 **Bojana Kunst**
(Dance and Performance Studies)
Contesting Through Care: On the Precarious Ecology of Social Action

17:30–18:15 **Panel discussion**

FRIDAY

May 12, 2023

Panel 3 Reshaping Norms Through Counter Memories

How does story-telling and the (re-)writing of history contribute to the constitution of both individual and collective agents? Is the contribution in question realized through a negation of social standards or through the re-affirmation of them? Might the reappropriation of forgotten or repressed memories, images, and myths of the past empower new imaginative spaces of the present and future?

Moderation by **Isabel Mehl**

Panel 4 Disabling/Enabling Agency through the negation of movement of body and mind

Given that movement is crucial to both understanding and representing human action, how does the choreography of body and mind change in situations of disruption, error or restriction? What are the generative potentials of the body or mind in pause or passivity? What are blocking and paralyzing factors that shape the movement of the body and the mind, and in which way can these factors open new spaces for agency?

Moderation by **Jochen Schuff**

9:30–10:15 **Jessica Ullrich**
(Art Studies and Aesthetics)
Exhibiting Animals: Decentering the Human in Art and Curating

10:15–11:00 **Massimiliano Tomba**
(Philosophy)
Anachrony, Revolution, and Restoration

11:00–11:15 Coffee Break

11:15–12:00 **Sarah Colvin**
(German Studies and Literature)
Literary Storytelling and Social Change: From Counter-Normativity to Reciprocity as Resistance

12:00–12:45 **Panel discussion**

12:45–14:00 Lunch Break

14:00–14:45 **Fiona McGovern**
(Art History)
Moving Away from the White Cube: On Museum's Norms and Attempts to Break them

14:45–15:30 **Francesca Raimondi**
(Philosophy)
Beckett's Nephews. Exhausted Repetition in Contemporary Art (Hassabi, Tarr)

15:30–15:45 Coffee Break

15:45–16:30 **André Lepecki**
(Performance Studies)
The Dispute over Movement and the Non-Time of the Struggle: Notes for a Performance on the Way

16:30–17:15 **Panel discussion**

Closing remarks