

Look at a photograph of your choice. What is the medium you are inspecting? What is proper to it? A longstanding, honourable tradition has viewed the direct connection between the shot and the instant, the experience in the present and its recording for any future time as its distinctive trait. Recent research has questioned this link. The advent of advanced digital techniques presents us with "photographs of the future", crafted by algorithms, and photogrammetric images that can be explored from various perspectives. Even predating the digital revolution, and irrespective of it, an extensive scientific domain contributes to unveiling an alternative perspective on the photographic. From the moment cameras pointed skyward, the awareness of the insurmountable gulf between the mechanical eye and the celestial expanse challenged the notion that photography inherently embodies the simultaneous presence of the observer and the observed. Astrophotography perennially navigates the delicate boundary between recording and visualization, as well as between the human and the posthuman. It challenges the operator to decipher visual traces, which extend far beyond conventional notions of representing celestial bodies and yet provide indispensable clues to unravelling their astrophysical identities. The "cultivation", measurement, and digitisation of these photo-signals from elsewhere historically became a female task. Women astronomers, often referred to as "computers", were a flesh-and-blood version of the calculating machines that were to become established in the following decades – they constitute an archaeology incarnate of the digital. Rediscovering their role, re-locating their figures somewhere between that of the art curator and the engineer, also means to explore a female archaeology of the postphotographic image. This conference, characterized by its interdisciplinary approach, unites media archaeologists, image theorists, historians and philosophers of science, women's studies scholars, and artists delving into the nexus of astrophotography and visual culture.

Università degli Studi di Milano
Sala Napoleonica
via Sant'Antonio, 12
20122 Milano

Università degli Studi di Milano
Room 211
via Festa del Perdono, 7
20122 Milano

Metro 3: Missori
Bus: 54, 60, 73, 84, 94 (via Larga)
Tram: 12, 14, 15, 16, 23, 24, 27 (via Larga)

Image Credits: Frame from *The Edge of All We Know* (2020), a film by Peter Galison. Detail. Courtesy of the author.

Curated by
Barbara Grespi and Luca Guzzardi
(Department of Philosophy "Piero Martinetti")

Scientific committee
Christa Blümlinger, Gabriele D'Autilia,
Rossella Catanese, Marilisa D'Amico,
Bernard Geoghegan, Giulia Giannini,
Jussi Parikka, Andrea Pinotti,
Antonio Somaini, Matteo Vagelli

Organising committee
Rosa Cinelli, Rossana Galimi,
Melania Mariconda

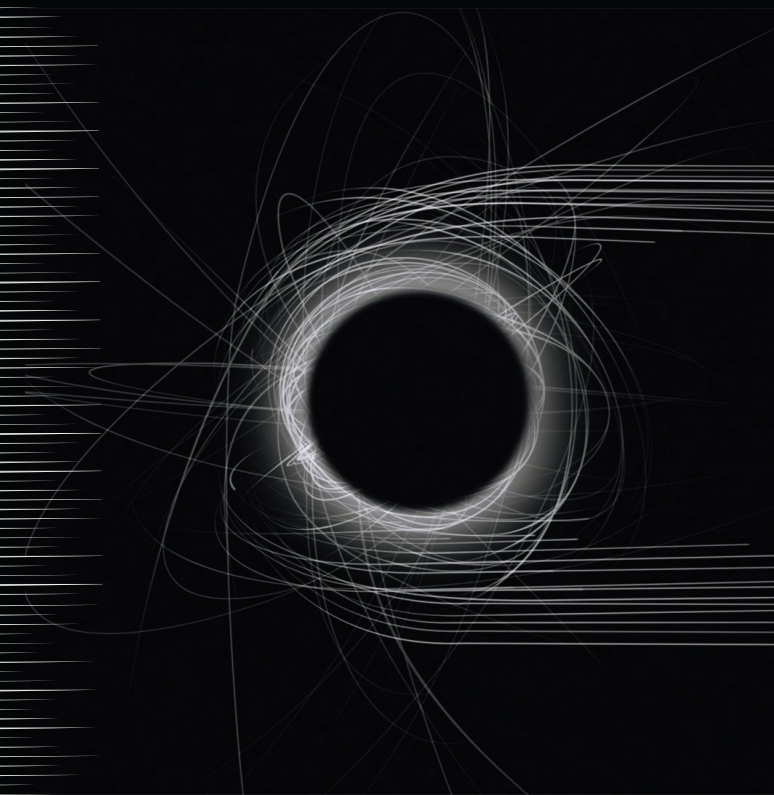
NECS MAA
Media Archaeology and the Arts



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI MILANO

Photographs from Outer Space

A Female Archaeology of Image-Data



International conference
11-13 December 2023

Sala Napoleonica - University of Milan

11 December

14:30 - 15:00 Welcome Coffee / Registration

15:00 - 15:15 Welcome address

Marilisa D'Amico | Vice-Rector for Legality, Transparency, and Equality of Rights, University of Milan

Marcello D'Agostino | Director of the Department of Philosophy "Piero Martinetti", University of Milan

Andrea Pinotti | Director of the Research Centre EXT (Extended Realities), University of Milan

15:15 - 15:30 A Conference Guide

Barbara Grespi, Luca Guzzardi

15:30 - 17:00 Panel 1 Archiving the stars

Guy Consolmagno | Director of the Vatican Observatory

The Sisters Computers of the Vatican Carte du Ciel Telescope

Brooke Belisle | Stony Brook University
Grasping the Moon, from Galileo to AI

Chair: Giancarlo Grossi | Catholic University of Milan

17:00 - 18:00 Artist Talk

Photographer Alberto Sinigaglia presents *Big Sky Hunting* (Italy, 2012-2014)

in dialogue with Rosa Cinelli | University of Milan

12 December

9:30 - 10:45 Keynote Speech

A. Sissel Aurora Hoel | Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Operational Objectivity: From Human Computers to Digital Twins

Chair: Barbara Grespi | University of Milan

10:45 - 11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 - 13:15 Panel 2

Photography and visualization

Sara Romani | Gerda-Henkel-Stiftung

The visualization of fleeting celestial phenomena: modes of vision in Giovanni Virginio Schiaparelli's notebooks (1875-1877)

Laura Follesa | University of Milan

Before Photography: "Imaging" the Universe around 1800

Joanna Zylinska | King's College

Outer Space, Rescaled: Photography in the Perception Machine

Chair: Pietro Conte | University of Milan

13:15 - 14:30 Light Lunch

14:30 - 16:30 Panel 3

Between art and science: art-based research

Abelardo Gil-Fournier | FAMU Prague

An inverted astronomy. On cultural techniques and planetarity

Maria Ida Bernabei | University of Turin

Audouin Dollfus' astronomical films: Science, Experimentation, Art

Margherita Fontana | University of Milan

Domes and Mirrors: Some hints about the cultural history of celestial immersivity in geodesic architecture

Chair: Fabrizia Bandi | University of Milan

16:30 - 17:00 Coffee break

17:15 - 19:30 Screenings with the Author

Room 211, via Festa del Perdono, University of Milan

Introduced by Luca Guzzardi | University of Milan

The Edge of All We Know, by Peter Galison, US 2020, 99'

Shattering Stars, by Peter Galison, US 2021, 13'

13 December

9:30 - 10:45 Keynote Speech

Peter Galison | Harvard University

Who gets to record, experiment, interpret, speculate, discover?

Chair: Luca Guzzardi | University of Milan

10:45 - 11:15 Coffee break

11:15 - 12:45 Panel 4

Black Holes and Their Revelations

Om Salafia | Brera Astronomical Observatory, INAF

The Event Horizon Telescope images of the M87 and Sagittarius A black holes*

Emilie K. Sunde | University of Melbourne

From Outer Space to Latent Space

Francesco Giarrusso | Catholic University of Milan

Deciphering the Invisible: Chirp and Algorithmic Photography of Black Hole M87

Chair: Roberto Lalli | Polytechnic University of Turin

12:45 - 14:00 Light Lunch

14:00 - 15:00 Artist Talk

Artist Ulrike Kuchner presents *Measuring Mistakes* (Austria, 2010-2014)

in dialogue with Rossana Galimi | University of Milan

15:00 - 16:45 Panel 5

Media Archaeology as Women's History

Miriam De Rosa | Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Snapshots from the stellar depth of knowledge. A desktop cinema Cosmogony

Sara Damiani | University of Bergamo

The Cosmic Woman: The Historical Work of Female Astronomers in Contemporary Art

Ilaria Ampollini | University of Milan

The astronomical observatory of Maria Short (Edinburgh, 19th century): science popularization and immersivity

Nicoletta Leonardi | Academy of Fine Arts of Brera

Messages from the outer world: radioactive energy, negative plates, and the role of women in science and psychic research at the turn of the 20th century

Chair: Carlotta Cossutta | University of Milan

16:45 - 17:00 Closing Remarks

Barbara Grespi, Luca Guzzardi

17:30 - 19:00 Book Presentations

The following presentations will be held in Italian

Maria Pia Abbraccio, Marilisa D'Amico, Donne nella scienza. La lunga strada verso la parità, Franco Angeli, Milano 2023

Introduced by Carlotta Cossutta | University of Milan

Anna Caterina Dalmasso, Barbara Grespi (eds.),

Mediarcheologia. I testi fondamentali, Raffaello Cortina, Milano 2023

Curators and Translators in dialogue with Enrico Campo, Luca Guzzardi, and the publisher

Full Program

