

Call for Papers / Practices

Atlas der Datenkörper 2

Bart, M Breuer, J Freier, A L (2024): Atlas der Datenkörper 2.
transcript Verlag: Bielefeld.

The atlas of databodies sees itself as a cartography of a landscape of recent body concepts and the techniques of their production. Practical projects from art, design and other empirical sciences stand alongside theoretical reflections from cultural, image and media studies. The atlas as a method seeks to delineate the phenomenon of databodies through emergent interactions between diverse, transdisciplinary positions. For the second edition, we are looking for both practical projects (works) from art and design as well as theoretical (written) reflections from cultural, image and media studies. Submissions should relate to one or more of the following main topics (next page):

The official **deadline for abstracts is 31 May 2023.**

Abstracts or descriptions of works should be 500 to 750 words in length. Please send a short biography, contact details and your abstract to the editors. For works, please also include images or sketches.

The official **deadline for completed articles is 30 September 2023.**

Articles can be either in German or English language and should be between 1000 and 2500 words in length.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the editors by email:

mail@atlasderdatenkoerper.de

Topics:

Section 1: Bauhaus as Interface: Located in the transition to modernity, the Bauhaus set itself the programmatic task of designing for the "new human". To what extent is this approach still valid today? We are looking for current practical projects in the field of human-technology interaction as well as contributions that highlight the relationship between current design practices and the historical Bauhaus.

Keywords: Design research, human-technology interaction, artistic research, materials, craftsmanship, industrial production, individuality vs. universality, 'new human', machine

Section 3: Functionalism: Psychological functionalism has its roots in the second half of the 19th century and describes the body as analogous to a machine. This mechanistic conception of the body can also be found in the design of post-war modernism. In the recent discourse of human-computer interaction, functionalism is experiencing a renaissance within discourse around usability. For this section, we are looking for contributions that deal with 'functional' objects. At what cost do we order, systematise and typify ourselves and others as databodies?

Keywords: Functionalism in art, architecture and design history, nature, usability and HCI, aesthetics, function, modernism, post-modernism

Section 2: Body Politics: What happens when the human body becomes a projection surface for political ideas? If we look at European and especially German history, we can see all the horror that can arise from this. In the 21st century, to what extent have we really left behind the body objectification, stigmatisation and subjective delineations between sick, healthy, normal or abnormal? For this section, we are looking for submissions that relate the digital databody to historical phenomena.

Keywords: German history, standardisation, healthy and sick, individual and collective, queering, colonialism, atlases, speculative design

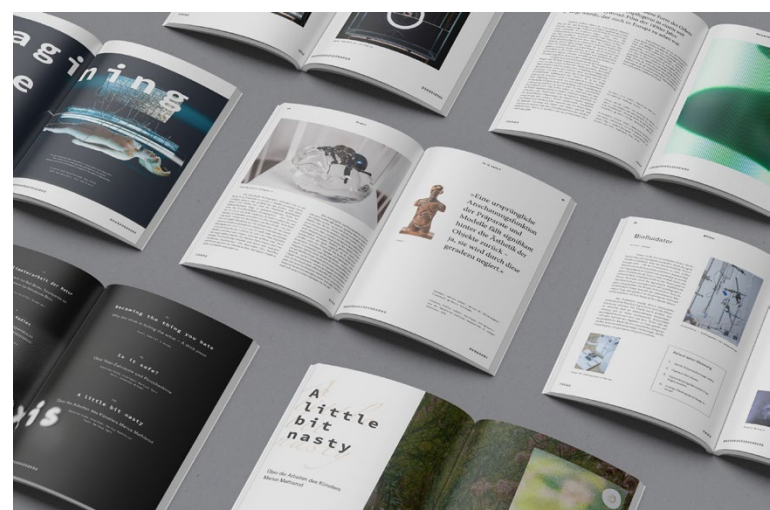
Section 4: Body Mysticism: Mystical traditions in Western culture go back deep into the Christian-influenced Middle Ages. Through technical images, black boxing and digitally shaped environments, everyday phenomena often remain unexplained – often only the reference to abstract digital powers that rule in the background remains. For this section, we are looking for contributions that deal with the databody and digital mysticism. Where can we find references to historical mysticism and concepts of transcendence within contemporary engagement with the digital or databody?

Keywords: Feminist philosophy of science, technical image, self-tracking, artificial intelligence, image studies, media anthropology, cyborgs, science fiction, blackboxing

The book series

The project was founded by Marlene Bart, Johannes Breuer and Alex Leo Freier in 2020. The series is peer-reviewed and published open access.

<https://www.transcript-verlag.de/978-3-8376-6178-1/atlas-der-datenkoerper-1/>



Images of the first edition of the atlas of databodies