THE NATURE OF EXPERIMENT: INTELLIGENCE, LIFE, AND THE HUMAN

Monday, April 8th 2019

This year is the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. We live in an age of breakthroughs in AI and bioengineering. It is time to think again about the human implications of experiment.  Poets, engineers, scholars, entrepreneurs, and scientists all conduct experiments, and have done so for centuries. This conference gathers practitioners in various fields to reflect on what it means to “experiment.”  
  
What are the new zones of experiment?  How is social media feeding into new forms of “intelligence”?  What are the philosophical grounds of experimentation?  What are the ethics of experimentation?

*University affiliation is University of Waterloo unless otherwise noted*

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 9:30 Coffee and Pastries  9:45 Welcome and opening address (HH 2107) Alice Kuzniar and James Skidmore (German)   10:00-11:45 Session 1 (HH 2107) *Speculation and Theory in Experimentation*  1. Michael Barnett-Cowan (Kinesiology) *Using brains to study brains: What it means to “experiment”* 2. John Savarese (English) *Experimental, innovative, speculative: Enlightenment keywords in science and literature* 3. Tilottama Rajan (English, Western University) *The Laboratory of nature: Series and folds in Schelling’s “First Outline of a System of the Philosophy of Nature” (1799)*  4. Doreen Fraser (Philosophy) *The use of analogies to theorize about electrical experiments in the nineteenth century*  11:45-12 Break  12:00-1:00 *Keynote Address*  Jocelyn Holland (Comparative Literature, Cal Tech) *Experimental projections: Dimensionality and virtuality in the history of thought experiments*    1:00-2:00   Catered Lunch  2:00-3:30 Session 2a (HH 2104) *Ethical Questioning*    1. Ben Thompson (Optometry and Vision Science) *My experience leading a randomized clinical trial* 2. Carla Fehr (Philosophy*) For the love of dog: The ethical dimensions of canine cognition research* 3. Vijay Ganesh (Electrical and Computer Engineering) *The promise and pitfalls of AI*  Session 2b (HH 2107) *Agency, Emotion, Performance*  1. Jesse Hoey (Computer Science) *The science of artificial intelligence* 2. Fraser Easton (English) *Paralinguistic experiment, 1759-1798* 3. Jason Lajoie (English) *Experimentations through queer media making* | | |

3:30-4:00 Coffee Break

4:00-5:30 (HH 1108) *Roundtable: The Nature of Experiment*

Alice Kuzniar, Chair (German), Joan Steigerwald (Humanities, York University), Jasmin Habib (Political Science), Igor Grossmann (Psychology), Mark Hancock (Management Science)

For more information and registration: <https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-german-studies/events/nature-experiment>

Sponsored by the Waterloo Centre for German Studies, Faculty of Arts, Department of Philosophy, and Department of English Language and Literature.