

Title:

Speculative Collage for More-Than-Now Futures in ASTS: An Ethnographic Experimentation

Author:

José Carlos Pinto da Costa

josepintodacosta@fcs.h.unl.pt

Short abstract:

This workshop enacts the more-than-now through collage as a speculative, participatory method in ASTS. Participants collaboratively cut, layer, and recompose texts, images, and artefacts to explore contingent socio-technical arrangements, more-than-human relations, and futures worth realizing today.

Long abstract:

Building on the EASST 2026 theme of the more-than-now, this workshop proposes collage as a speculative and participatory method for enacting alternative socio-technical futures in the present. Rather than approaching futures as distant projections, the session mobilizes material and aesthetic practices to rehearse how desired futures might begin today. Situated within Art, Science and Technology Studies (ASTS), the workshop draws on Stefano Harney and Fred Moten's concept of the undercommons and Alphonso Lingis' notion of a "community without commons" to frame collaboration as a plural, relational, and fragile epistemic gathering.

Collage functions as both method and metaphor. Through cutting, layering, and recomposing fragments of texts, diagrams, ecological imagery, and technological artefacts, participants expose the contingency of socio-technical arrangements while materially assembling speculative alternatives. From an anthropological standpoint, collage assembles partial perspectives and traces relations across human and non-human actors, foregrounding embodied, affective, and material modes of inquiry over predictive or extractive models of futures research.

Structured in three stages—conceptual framing, collective making, and reflective discussion—the workshop generates artefacts that operate as boundary objects and infrastructures for shared imagination. By transforming audiences into co-researchers, the session models STS as an active practice of world-making. In leaning into contemporary crises through collaborative experimentation, it enacts the more-than-now, demonstrating how fragmented, collective, and more-than-human engagements can help design and realize futures worth living in.