
Call For Contributions

Improvising Care Training School October 4-8, Montreal CA

Keynote Speakers

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TBA*

A training school pivoting on affairs of Care and Improvisation. Recent history, from COVID through climate change, massive displacements of people, a worrying increase in various forms of totalitarianism, unjust wars the rapid rise of neo-liberalism (one can easily multiply this list) has both placed a greater focus on, and need for, care, and at the same time radically reduced the structures from which care often operates. As traditional institutions of care are denuded of resources, and governments implement policies that make care simultaneously more difficult to enact, yet that much more needed, it is fair to say we are facing a crisis of care. How can art and artists implement care in their practices? How should society care for artists, and artists for each other, and how can art itself be a tool for care and how should artists interact with communities in caring ways? Given improvisation's ability to creatively and imaginatively find ways to modify existing structures, subvert norms and implement new forms of sociality, do we perhaps now more than ever need to improvise new models of care?

Under these premises, we invite papers, panels, performances, concert proposals, workshops, seminars, poster presentations, artistic submissions, artist talks, installations, and other interventions that address research and creative practice at the intersection of Care and Improvisation and vis-à-vis (not restrictive list):

Experimental musics
Adaptive creative technologies and interfaces
Crafts & Creative Practices
Installations
Aesthetics and ethics of care in creative arts
Critical/Speculative Design
Sci-fi / Future Studies
Indigenous Art and Post-colonialism
Transcending borders via digital art interfaces
Critical post-humanities
New materialisms in creative arts and crafts
Artistic-led/Design-led Research
Speculative fabulations
Collective Art Practices
Ecology / Ecosophy / Sustainability

The open call is directed to artists, scholars, philosophers, scientists, policy makers, lobbyists, designers, and creative practitioners. Please submit a 250-word description/abstract (including, if relevant, images or links to video/audio) for your proposed intervention/presentation. Use the PDF-file format for submission and render your text completely anonymous to allow for blind refereeing. Please send your title and abstract (and also state should you wish to apply for funding to:

m.koutsomichalis@cut.ac.cy and eric.lewis@McGill.Ca

DEADLINE IS AUGUST 5TH 2024.

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE WILL BE ON AUGUST 14TH 2024.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRAINING SCHOOL WILL BE PUBLISHED AFTER THE CONFERENCE

*Limited funding is available to individuals of any nationality or place of residency that are affiliated with an academic or other legal entity¹ in certain countries².

PLEASE STATE IT IN YOUR SUBMISSION EMAIL SHOULD YOU ALSO WISH TO APPLY FOR FUNDING.

VENUES/FACILITIES

Improvising Care Training School is hosted at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology (CIRMMT) and at La Sala Rosa. While we cannot guarantee availability in advance, you may want to submit a proposal for some particular CIRMMT facility; among others, a dome of 37 Genelec 8030 and 4 subwoofers (configured as a high order ambisonics rig), a 70-loudspeaker active enhancement system (Meyer Constellation), and miscellaneous other speciality labs. See <https://www.cirmmt.org/en/facilities> for more details.

This Training School is part of the COST³ (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)- funded project: TOOLKIT OF CARE (TOC) CA21102⁴



¹ Examples of such an affiliation (non-exhaustive list): work contract, enrolment in a PhD or Post-Doctoral programme, voluntary service in a NGO, emeritus professorship

² Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, the Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Jordan, Kosovo, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Republic of North Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine (government controlled territories), United Kingdom, as well as in one of the EU Member States Outermost Regions (French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin, Azores and Madeira, and the Canary Islands)

³ COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.

⁴ TOC is an international project led by an interdisciplinary group of creative practitioners, academics, researchers and arts organizations that specialize in creative technologies and that have considerable experience in the production and dissemination of this kind of knowledge across Europe and internationally, who have come together to form a "critical network of care". The network will collaborate to share their collective expertise and technical knowledge employed in creative ways to develop knowledge and methodologies of care. The main aim is to produce a well formulated and integrated TOOLKIT OF CARE comprising articles, prototypes, audiovisual documentation, technical manuals, theoretical analysis, prototypes, and data. It will act as a model of how to successfully share knowledge and expertise across different geographical regions and social groups.