

Arts-Sciences-Citizenship Summer School

25-29.08.2025 | Creative labs

29.08.2025 | Public presentation
Institut Polytechnique de Paris | Palaiseau

04-06.09.2025 | Public weekend Centre
Wallonie-Bruxelles | Paris

 Call for applications

Atmosphere, atmospheres



Useful Fictions • 5

Useful Fictions • 5

Fifth edition of the summer school launched by the [Chaire arts & sciences](#), “Useful Fictions” is now supported by the program [Useful Fictions Lab](#) from the interdisciplinary center [SPIRAL](#) (Science, People, Imagination, Research, All Linked !) of the Institut Polytechnique of Paris (IP Paris), with the support of the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation.

Partners :

- Centre SPIRAL | IP Paris
- Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles | Paris
- Laboratoire d'Hydrodynamique (LadHyX), CNRS, École polytechnique | IP Paris
- ENSTA | IP Paris
- École des Arts Décoratifs Paris (EnsAD)
- SIANA, Vers de nouveaux imaginaires
- Université d'Évry Paris-Saclay
- X-Novation Center

With the support of the Daniel and Nina Carasso Foundation.

Videos from previous editions :

[Useful Fictions • 1 : Prendre la mesure | 2019](#)

[Useful Fictions • 2 : Prendre racine | 2021](#)

[Useful Fictions • 3 : Symbiose\(s\) | 2023](#)

[Useful Fictions • 4 : Faire Corps | 2024](#)

Bringing together citizen issues, academia, and artistic practices.

Exploring the interdependence of our living and technological environments.

An international arts-sciences-citizens summer school

- An international call for applications for around twenty participants selected by an interdisciplinary committee
- 5 research-creation labs supervised by artist/scientist pairs
- **An intensive week of creation** on the campus of the Institut Polytechnique de Paris | Palaiseau
- **A public weekend of exhibitions**, performances and conferences at Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles | Paris

The opportunity for participants and supervisors to combine their know-how and disciplines within Creative Labs, to benefit from the campus' fablabs and tools in order to create an innovative device that will be presented to the public at the Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles, a contemporary art venue in the heart of Paris.

Registration procedures & practical information :

The call for applications is open to anyone motivated and curious, regardless of age or educational background, to form multidisciplinary and gender-balanced teams. The number of places is limited to four participants per Lab. Each candidate can apply to a maximum of two Labs.

Accommodation, breakfasts, and dinners are fully covered by the Summer School from Monday, August 25th to Friday, August 29th morning; transportation and lunch are the responsibility of the participants. Accommodation in Paris on Thursday, September 4th to Friday, September 5th is covered for non-Parisian residents. Transportation assistance is available to non-Parisian and international candidates upon request.

File to be completed online: [APPLICATION](#)

Application deadline : Monday, June 16, midnigh UTC+2

Useful Fictions • 5

“Atmosphere, atmospheres”

5 labs on the campus of the
IP Paris | Palaiseau

How does the dialogue between arts, design, science and society allow us to question the interdependent links between living and technological, human and non-human environments? What narratives can be used to invent and bring about desirable, shared futures that respect our planet and its limits?

By combining research and creation, educational innovations, and public events, the Useful Fictions Summer School series is part of a desire for broad and cooperative reflection on these topics. Useful Fictions prioritizes sensory experience, hands-on learning, multidisciplinary projects and meetings, as well as original formats that renew relationships with audiences. The question of the compatibility of societal models with planetary resources and that of respect for biodiversity are integral parts of the innovation and creation protocols implemented to design ways of being in the world and narratives of futures that are both sustainable and desirable.

For its fifth edition, Useful Fictions will explore meaning, the senses, the essence of atmosphere.

Public weekend at Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles | Paris

For a week, around twenty participants supervised by pairs of researchers and artists will question the contemporary atmosphere and its relationship to social atmospheres, to invent an ephemeral device - artistic installations, performances, interactive workshops - to, for the duration of a weekend, open and share this sensitive and creative debate. Atmospheric metabios, infrasound, granularity, conversational waves, meteors heavy with omens, fallen from above like small drops of water, climate of shared laughter, volatility of freedoms, cacophony of lame ducks to share the same air, the same look for two or more, or to find the direction from which the wind hums my song.

In a “DIWO” (Do It With Others) spirit, 5 interdisciplinary thematic Labs will be proposed to deploy a sensitive dialogue at the crossroads of arts and sciences: installations, robotics, interactive workshops, poetic writing, performances... All the achievements will be presented during a weekend of exhibitions, performances, conferences and participatory workshops. The public will then be invited to experience perception, to create conversations with chimerical bodies, to question the notion of atmosphere, which of us breathes the other, to participate in collective performances involving in a single atmosphere of sharing multiple bodies, plants or machines and thus weave new links of desired interdependence with the Earth, sustainable relationships by design !

Public weekend at [Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles | Paris](#)

Friday, September 5: 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday, September 6: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Atmosphere, atmospheres

The atmosphere, whether taken in the meteorological sense or the metaphorical sense of ambiance, is for Gernot Böhme the primary object of our sensory system, the first thing we sense. On Earth, the atmosphere is everywhere; it is one of the sine qua non conditions of life, and although invisible to our eyes, we feel it at every moment on and in our bodies.

Despite this quality as a primary sensory object, the atmosphere is by no means devoid of meaning. As David Abram notes in "The Spell of the Sensuous," spoken words are structured breath, and the meaning of a spoken sentence can only be perceived through the atmosphere as a medium. Beyond the spoken word, every sign also requires the air of the atmosphere as a vector. There is therefore a profound connection between this air and the activity of signification, and the sign is never immune, fortunately, to being influenced by the atmosphere.

In this continuum, which finds numerous instances when we study the composition of the atmosphere in a given place, perhaps, to decenter ourselves even further, we could see ourselves as atmospheric precipitates. When we are invaded by the affects of a given atmosphere, we may at certain times become nothing more than its vectors.

Conversely, if there is a profound link between atmosphere and meaning, it would be fascinating to imagine the meaning of the atmosphere beyond those who experience it. Is the atmosphere going somewhere ? Is it trying to signify something to us ?

What is the meaning of atmosphere ?

The atmosphere, a current of tide and ebb, bathes the shores of our bodies. The air passes through us, pierces us, and binds us into a single paving. It unites us to the fragmented surface of the ocean, to the ice and humus of the soil, to the solar wind beyond the lunar orbit. What is the nature of this fluid that inhabits us and that we inhabit in return ? A single atmosphere, a single planet, a single infinitely multiple breath, but today wandering in search of meaning, head over heels.

For this edition, whose theme encompasses the atmosphere/ environment/climate issues, a visit with a lecture is planned at SIRTÀ.



5 research-creation Labs

4 candidates selected by Lab

LAB 1

Respirer l'esprit des mondes (Anamosphère/Breathalytics)



Supervisors :

Paul Vanouse Researcher | Coalesce Center for Biological Art | University at Buffalo, Buffalo, USA

Jean-Marc Chomaz Research Teacher, Artist Physicist | Hydrodynamics Laboratory (LadHyX), CNRS | École polytechnique - IP Paris

Yves Mechulam Researcher | Biochemistry Laboratory, CNRS-École polytechnique | IP Paris, Palaiseau, France

Bilingual Lab FR/ENG

Who inspires whom ? Who traps the other between the atmosphere and living beings ? String game, game of go, mirror game or role-playing game, Red, Odd and Lack, nothing is going right.

"Respirer l'esprit des mondes (Anamosphère/Breathalytics)" is an experimental workshop that addresses aspects of metabolic simulation, particularly respiration. The simulation of living processes has many historical antecedents, sometimes at the interface of the arts and sciences, such as Luigi Galvani's experiments on bioelectricity, in vitro cell culture, bioreactors, the Robogut (designed to replicate the conditions of the human colon), artificial mouth systems, and many others. In this workshop, we will combine/modify various blowing or breathing installations developed in the Arts & Sciences program of the Hydrodynamics Laboratory (LadHyX), bioreactors from the Biology Laboratory, and custom in vitro equipment developed by Paul Vanouse to simulate and experiment with certain aspects of human respiration. We will then use various analysis tools and sensors to evaluate the results: expiratory volume, humidity, O2 and CO2 content, audio frequency spectrum, ... of the machines or the public... or, in a final anamorphosis, of the Atmosphere.

Keywords : #respiration #analysis #simulation #odors #biotope

LAB 2

Zoïmorphisme : interactions



Supervisors :

Antoine Desjardins Artist and teacher | Reflective Interaction, EnsadLab - École des Arts Décoratifs, Paris

Giancarlo Rizza Researcher | Irradiated Solids Laboratory (LSI), Institut Polytechnique de Paris, CEA/DRF/IRAMIS, CNRS, Palaiseau

Guillaume Morel Researcher | Institute of Intelligent Systems and Robotics (ISIR) | CNRS/INSERM/Sorbonne Université, Paris, France

The "Zoimorphism" project, derived from the Greek words zoi (living being) and morphism (transformation), questions the boundaries between the inorganic and the living. It explores three central artistic questions : can inanimate objects be endowed with artificial life ? Can they interact with each other like organic entities ? And how does the public react to these non-biological forms that nevertheless manifest a form of agency ?

Unlike robotics, where bijectivity guarantees a deterministic correspondence between action (activation) and reaction (response), "Zoimorphism" explores a new paradigm of interaction. Here, movements and interactions are not governed by algorithms, but spontaneously result from the dynamic relationship between smart magnetoactive materials and a constantly evolving magnetic environment. The design and development of the objects aim to amplify the variable responses and random situations of interactions; the installation evolves unpredictably, yet remains fluid and natural, thus promoting the emergence of organic rather than mechanical behavior. The artistic visual approach is neither naturalistic nor illustrative. The forms produced and the layout solutions used must draw their relevance from their ability to move and unfold, drawing on their physical and material characteristics in the magnetic environment within the aqueous medium. To deepen the experience, sensors are integrated into the installation, allowing the public to activate and influence the system.

From a philosophical perspective, the project is inspired by Plato's Timaeus and the myth of the Demiurge, the divine artisan who gives order to the cosmos. In "Zoimorphism," the public takes on this demiurgic role, animating and orchestrating the artificial creatures. By guiding and coordinating these interactions, through the development of a polysemic vocabulary, where one action can correspond to different but interrelated reactions, spectators become an integral part of a choreography of emerging movements, blurring the line between the animate and the inanimate, between control and spontaneity. The desired profiles fall into two complementary fields. On the one hand, a technical profile, with mastery of robotics as well as skills in image analysis and processing, to enable the interaction of zoimorphs with an observer—whether the audience or a performer. On the other hand, an artistic profile, with solid experience and references in the field of sculpture and artistic form.

Keywords : #interaction #4D printing #motion sensors

LAB 3

Atmosphères musicales interactives

Supervisors :

Olivier Doaré Researcher | ENSTA Institut Polytechnique de Paris (IP Paris)
| Palaiseau, France

Marie-Eve Morissette Artist, associated with the UQAM | Montréal,
Québec, Canada

The Lab "Atmosphères musicales interactives" proposes an exploration of interactive musical creation through the design of an automaton capable of generating compositions in real time, in response to interactions with the audience. This project is part of an artistic and technological approach aimed at creating evolving sound atmospheres, inspired by variations in the environment and the emotions that the audience wishes to highlight. The main objective of this Lab is to develop an interactive musical device that evolves according to environmental data and human interactions. The music produced will take the form of sound atmospheres, playing with our cultural biases, reflecting varied emotions such as joy, sadness, anguish or appeasement. We will be invited to explore algorithmic musical composition techniques, while integrating sensors and actuators for an immersive and interactive experience.

Keywords : #sound #automaton #interactive #emotions

LAB 4

Il est bien sûr question d'habitabilité Corps cosmique, corps végétal

Supervisors :

Elise Morin Artist in residence | SIANA, Towards new imaginaries

Researcher | Radiology or space medicine, University of Evry Paris-Saclay

This Lab aims to explore the effects of cosmic radiation on the bodies of astronauts, linking them to a critique of space exploration. Numerous experiments will be conducted over the week : drawings, models, experimental protocols, observation notebooks of phenomena (Marcel Duchamp's notion of the "infrathin"), a mapping of the sensible, as well as work on light, sound, matter, and space.

The objective is to develop a transversal research on the body as an irradiated archive where radioactive fluxes become material for drifting and narrative. This research would extend her current work ("Spring Odyssey, Where the Sun Never Sets"), shifting the question of terrestrial radiation to the interstellar void, imagining forms of listening, translation, or resistance within the body itself.

The astronaut's body, exposed to cosmic radiation, becomes a space of radical transformation. Drawing inspiration from plant survival mechanisms (photosensitivity, dormancy, radiotolerance), can we imagine an irradiated body not as a degraded body, but as another, adaptive body, connected to non-human forms of knowledge ?

The Lab will be able to artistically explore the paths of a speculative herbarium of the plant-body: hybrid portraits of slowly vegetated bodies / atlases of uprooted bodies / diversion of spatial biomedical protocols: to invent new forms of sensitive reading of the body.

Keywords : #sun #invisible #territory #story #habitat

LAB 5

Imagin-aires འཇིགས་པ་

Imagined airs

Supervisors :

Sarah Bouttier Lecturer in English Literature | Department of Languages, Ecole polytechnique

Meghann Cassidy Lecturer in Philosophy and English Language and Literature | Department of Languages, Ecole polytechnique

Bilingual Lab FR/ENG

What movements, what encounters, what trajectories constitute and disrupt this "quasi-thing" that is the atmosphere in which we bathe ? This workshop aims to tell and bring to life stories that concern the atmosphere in its material composition and in its capacity to affect the human and non-human beings it accommodates. Through preparatory creative writing sessions and then the development of a performance and/or an installation, we will experiment with the character of atmospheres that are simultaneously observed, experienced and created (conceived). We will stage the consequences of a change, radical or not, of atmosphere (composition, sound, smell, humidity, etc.) in an environment, drawing on ecofeminist criticism. We will imagine the conditions for creating one or more atmospheres, whether physical or the object of a feeling, which allow us to shift our world towards more care.

Keywords : #writing #performance #ecofeminist

Calendar

Call for applications and constitution of Labs

- Launch of the call for applications : Monday, April 28
Deadline : Monday, June 16
- Selection of applications : July 2 to 4
- Announcement of successful candidates : Monday, July 7
- Online meeting of each Lab : during July or August

Intensive Week - Campus of the IP Paris | Palaiseau

- Reception of participants on campus : Monday, August 25 morning
- Research-creation labs : from Monday, August 25, 2025 to Friday, August 29
- Restitution on campus : Friday, August 29, afternoon

Public weekend - Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles | Paris

- Exhibition installation: Thursday, September 4, 2025
from noon until Friday, September 5, early afternoon
- Exhibition opening: Friday, September 5, 2025, 6 p.m.
- Exhibition closing: Saturday, September 6, 2025, 7 p.m.

Contact - infos

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