

# Future Affects: A Collaboratory on Art, Affect and Automation



Researchers and practitioners across a wide range of disciplines have increasingly recognized the importance of working collaboratively in order to tackle the complex challenges and cultural transformations produced by the emergence of a data society that is driven by algorithms, automated technologies and artificial intelligence. What new ways of thinking are emerging in response to these transformations? What new bodies of knowledge will help us make sense of the affective and perceptive dimensions of post- and non-human assemblages, and the new temporal and affective networks to which these are beginning to give rise? How is the future already affecting the present?

The arts, broadly understood, provide a vital site of cultural interpretation and (re)imagining of futures whose impacts are already being felt, but for which we do not yet have adequate conceptual frameworks. The present is continually shaped through future-facing exchanges, of potentiality and prediction. The arts act as an antenna for the incipient affects and aesthetics of the future in the present.

The aim of this collaboratory is to provide a discussion forum for the sharing of ideas and development of multi-disciplinary networks for those interested in these vital intersections of art, affect and automation. We invite 5-minute provocations and encourage discussants and participants from a wide range of disciplines to share their research and ideas. We encourage offerings of work-in-progress, ideas-in-formation and concepts-in-emergence. Our desire is to think future affects together.

*The event will be held Monday November 6 at The University of Queensland, in the IASH meeting room on level 4 of the Forgan Smith tower. Invited speakers include Anna Gibbs (Western Sydney University), Michael Richardson (University of New South Wales) and Karin Sellberg (University of Queensland). Provocateurs should submit a brief proposal of 150 words by Friday Sep 22. The emphasis of this event will be on networking and lively discussion, so participation by discussants who do not wish to formally present is also encouraged.*

*Submissions and questions should be sent to Elizabeth Stephens: [e.stephens@uq.edu.au](mailto:e.stephens@uq.edu.au).*

*The event is free, but space is limited, so please rsvp by October 31 via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/edit?eid=37481020742>*

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