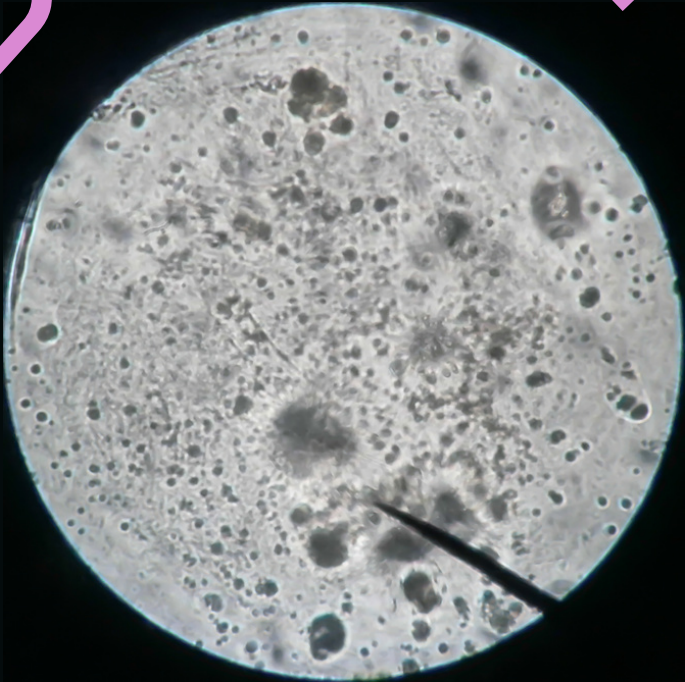# Three-Day Online Workshop

DOUBLE CAPTURE

How Scale Matters in Comprehending Environment

13-15 March 2024

PROGRAMME

In her "Virus Touch" (2023), Bishnupriya Ghosh offers a theory of epidemic media that points to the way in which each epidemic has in its wake refocused attention to "life", in particular since the late twentieth-century viral storms. As she explains: "Life becomes immanently valuable as a particular configuration of matter during epidemics precisely because new processes and relations challenge that configuration" (5). An emergent infectious disease provokes a remaking of multispecies relations constitutive of life, previously taken for granted, to "elaborate infection as fluctuating relations between two discrete entities" (5): virus and host. Ghosh conceives of those epistemic objects as resulting from motivated scientific-cultural performances, which she analyzes in detail in her book. However, such events which disturb "normal" practices of knowing and lifeworlds are by no means limited to emerging infectious diseases in the late Anthropocene. We have witnessed more and more such motivated scientific-cultural performances that either brought about new unprecedented epistemic objects or visibly morphed others. However, they not only challenge our take on reality that surrounds us. They also throw into sharp relief various layers and workings of those scientific-cultural performances that matter in comprehending environment in its historical contingency—the ones upon which our (livable) futures may depend.

There is a reason for Ghosh's referring in this context to the oft-cited Isabelle Stenger's notion of "reciprocal capture" as a pointer to an event in which a microbe and a(n) human/animal/plant emerge with each other. In her "Cosmopolitics I" (2010), Stengers emphasizes that "we can speak of reciprocal capture whenever a dual process of identity construction is produced" (36). However, she focuses mainly on "identities that coinvent one another" and "each integrate[s] a reference to the other for their own benefit" (36). Following Ghosh's and Stenger's argument, the present workshop is centered around a slightly different notion of reciprocal capture. Understanding ecology in its dual—scientific and political—meaning, it shifts the focus from multispecies entanglements to the issue of (a master) scale which—as has been increasingly debated in various fields—plays a vital role in scientific-cultural performances of those entanglements and in their much-needed reconfigurations. The key notion of the workshop has been changed to "double capture" to highlight the dynamic and emergent nature of capturing in which identities not only coinvent one another (as Stengers would have it) but are also captured in the monoscalar system of Western knowledge production. Looking closely at multi-scalar complexity of today's eco-predicament, all planned presentations demonstrate that divergent scales are always at work in comprehending environment, amplifying, contradicting, distorting and confirming one another. Therefore, they have to be taken into account when reflecting upon environment in the past, today and in the future.
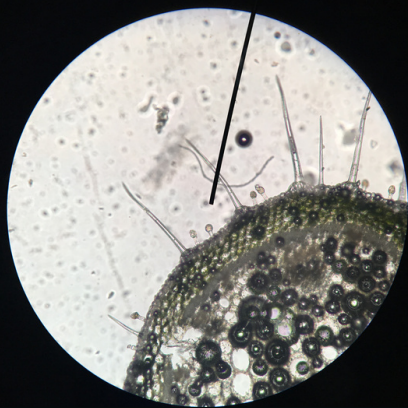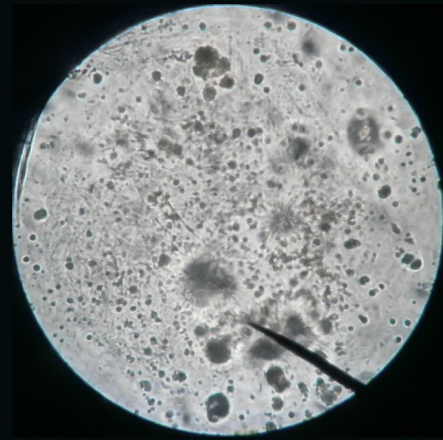
Day 1
(Wednesday, March 13)

11:00—13:00 (GMT+1)
Short Film Presentation
"**Constant**" (2022), directed by
Sasha Litvintseva in collaboration
with Beny Wagner (40 min.).
Streaming live followed by a Q&A
session with the artists. For
registered participants only.
**Register by March 10 via email:
mateusz.chaberski@uj.edu.pl**

15:00—17:00 (GTM+1)
**Mateusz BOROWSKI
(Jagiellonian University)**
"Scaling as a Mattering of
Relationships: Comprehending
Environments Through Speculative
Documentaries"
Justyna STĘPIEŃ (University of Łódź)
"Virtual (Re)Scaling of the Wetlands in
Jakob Kudsk Steensen's Immersive
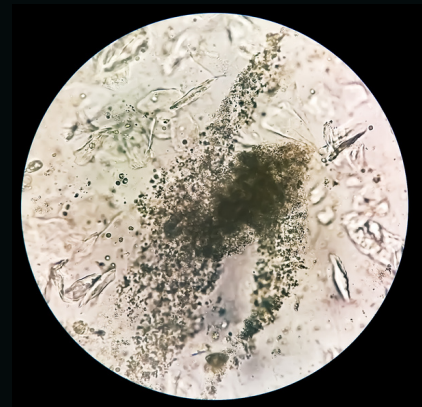Installation Berl-Berl"

ZOOM
LINK

17:30—18:30 (GTM+1)
**Katarzyna TRZECIAK
(Jagiellonian University)**
"Undoing Fictions of Developments
by Staying with Plastics? Plasticity,
Anachronism, and Queer Futural
Forms"

10:00—13:00 (GTM+1)

**Fabienne LIPTAY
(University of Zurich)**
"After Forecasting"
Alice CARLILL (Goldsmiths, University of London)
"'The core delusion is that I am here and you are there': Transscalarity as Survival Strategy in Weather (Offill 2020) and The High House (Greengrass 2021)
Agata KOWALEWSKA (Jagiellonian University)
"The slippery scale of the Baltic Sea"

14:30—17:30 (GTM+1)
Mateusz CHABERSKI (Jagiellonian University)
"Spoiling the Anthropocene Scales: What Relations Come to Matter in Post-Extractivist Landscapes"
Adam SEARLE (University of Nottingham), Jonathon TURNBULL (University of Oxford)
"Climate Cattle: Metabolic Interventions and Scaling the Good Anthropocene"
Klaudia WĘGRZYN (University of Silesia)
"Mastering the Art of the Catastrophe: The Chthulucene of Zdzisław Beksiński"

18:00—19:30 (GTM+1)
Keynote Lecture
Melanie ARMSTRONG (University of Wyoming)
"Microbes in Captivity: Politics of Wild Life at the US National Elk Refuge"

Day 3
(Thursday, March 15)

10:00—13:00 (GTM+1)
Maria WODZIŃSKA
"Technological futures of interspecies cooperation"
Louise JAMMET (AREP, Paris)
"Scales of Post-Oil Urban Futures"
Filip RYBA (Jagiellonian University)
"Scapes and Scales of the Catastrophe: Analysing the Stories About the Explosion in the Beirut Port"

ZOOM
LINK

14:30—17:30 (GTM+1)
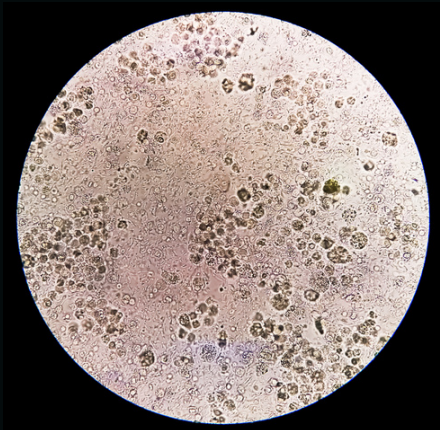**Marta TOMCZOK, Paweł TOMCZOK (University of Silesia)**
"The Art of Variable Scale"
Sebastian PORZUCZEK (Jagiellonian University)
"Capturing Catastrophe(s) within the Eco-Horror Genre: Towards the Liminal Invasive Environments"
Małgorzata SUGIERA (Jagiellonian University)
"Rescaling Pandemic in Deep Time and Cosmic Perspective"

18:00—19:30 (GTM+1)
Keynote Lecture
Bishnupriya GHOSH (University of California, Santa Barbara)
"Of Double Capture and Phylogenetic Trees: Visualizing Multispecies Histories"