



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM



Symposium organized by the Meertens Institute (KNAW) and the University of Amsterdam, in relation to the Chair European Ethnology, under the title

Visionary Words & Worlds

Amsterdam, Thursday 24 November 2022

Visions, dreams, phantasies, and prophecies are intriguing expressions of inner experiences and reflections. When revealed by texts or images, they are often regarded by individuals and groups as harbingers of future events and as admonitions to adjust one's own behaviour. This field of signaling, guidance, warning, promises and possibilities forms the theme of the present symposium. While visions treat or deal with futurity, they remain constructions of the present. Hence, they mirror the culture of that moment in which people are longing for what lies ahead: from ambitions and ideals, to love, eating, traveling and so on. And in relation to this mind set of this future imaginary the everyday is reciprocally influenced by the words and worlds that visionaries, prophets, artists, and all of us, imagine and create. The aim of this symposium is to shed light on this interplay between expectations for the future and daily actions in a versatile and innovative way.

Academia represents a world of (big) data, research and interpretation. However, the symposium lecturers will not discuss futurology in generalized manner but will approach the topic from the perspective of ethnology and cultural sciences, and provide analysis of specific human practices. The international line up of scholars have been encouraged at the same time to be 'out of the box' and visionary in their own way, contributing with new research approaches that will advance our interdisciplinary understanding of visionary experiences and expressive forms.

Date: Thursday 24 November 2022

At two successive nearby locations in Amsterdam:

- 10.00-16:00 Tinbergen Hall, KNAW Trippenhuis, at Kloveniersburgwal 29.
- 17.00-18:00 Aula of the University of Amsterdam at Singel 411.
- Free food and beverages
- Everybody is welcome to participate (no conference fee), please register by sending an email to secretariaat@bb.huc.knaw.nl

10:00 – 10:10	Opening by chair Sophie Elpers (Meertens Amsterdam/U. of Antwerp)
10:10 – 10:40	Cristina Sanchez-Carretero (CSIC, Santiago de Compostela): Visions of Silent Transformations: Cognitive Dissonances and Heritage
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee
11:00 – 11:30	Charles Caspers (TBI Nijmegen): 'Out of the Mouths of Infants'.

Visions of Children.

- 11.30 – 12.00 Valdimar Hafstein (U. of Iceland): Visions of Microbes
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch
- Chair Rob van der Laarse (U. of Amsterdam)
- 13:30 – 14:00 Tine Damsholt (U. of Copenhagen), Practising Viable Futures in the Everyday Life
- 14:00 – 14:30 Daniel Wojcik (U. of Oregon): Visionary Art and Trauma
- 14.30 – 15.00 Coffee break
- 15.00 – 15.30 Monique Scheer (U. of Tübingen): Moving Visions
- 15:30 – 16:00 William Christian Jr. (Las Palmas): Around the World on Foot without a Penny, Globetrotters and the European Imagination
- 16.00 – 17.00 Break, including a transfer walk (10 min.) to the Aula of the University
- 17.00 – 18:00 Peter Jan Margry, Visionary Words & Worlds: Imaginations in Ethnology [valedictory lecture University of Amsterdam (in dutch & translation)]
- 18:00 – 19:00 Reception & drinks