



WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

30.11.2022, 17:00 Uhr, HS-C

IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

Özgün Eylül İçsen (ICI Berlin)

Black Box Allegories of Gulf Futurism: The Irreducible Other of Logistical Capitalism



Özgün Eylül İçsen is an research fellow at the ICI Berlin, and she teaches in the media studies department at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. She holds a PhD in computational media, arts and cultures from Duke University. İçsen's dissertation examined the geopolitical aesthetic of computational media as an imperial apparatus within the context of the Middle East. Her most recent research critically unpacks the cultural politics of futurity and smart urbanism.

kommende Termine

07.12.2022 **Stefan Tarnowski**
*The Logics and Logistics of Stabilisation:
Beyond the Borders of Humanitarian
Reason*

11.01.2023 **Jaanika Vider**
*On the tracks of Maria Czaplicka: An Ethno-
graphy of a Collection*

This talk presents a unique transnational perspective on the racial politics of Dubai's smart urbanism to examine how it relies on the coupling of automation technology with a repressive labor regime, which relies on the systematic exploitation of non-citizen labor via the Kafala (sponsorship) system. Yet, it demonstrates how anti-racist and feminist mobilizations for abolishing the Kafala envision alternatives to the futurity that contemporary Gulf Futurism propels. Indeed, the two oppositional realms of cultural production – racial difference and anti-racist future – contest as much as facilitate Dubai's growth as a logistical space. To this end, this talk compares the profit-driven, high-tech futuristic spectacles of Dubai to Beirut, an example of the war-torn and toxic cities spreading in the rest of the region, while focusing on counter-spectacles arising from both cities. Therefore, the domain of cultural politics and its accompanying aesthetic regimes comes forth as a site of political struggle for transforming the spatial and social divisions that logistical capitalism reproduces and profits off. Ultimately, the analysis to be presented affirms cultural politics in the process of being made in the streets across borders.
