



# The Multifaceted Relationship between Fear and Technology

10 to 12 October 2018

## Program

### Wednesday, 10 October 2018

from 5:00 pm Registration

6:00–9:00 pm **Public Keynote**

Margaret Morris (University of Washington):  
*Challenging Fears of Technology and Isolation*

Moderator: Anne Schmidt (Max Planck Institute for Human  
Development, Berlin)

following reception

### Thursday, 11 October 2018

9:30 am **Welcome**

Ute Frevert (Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin)

**Introduction**

Bettina Hitzer (Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin)  
Martina Heßler (Helmut-Schmidt-Universität, Hamburg)

10:30 am Short Coffee Break

10:45 am **Panel 1: “Causing Fears”**

Zachary Loeb (University of Pennsylvania):  
*You Should Be Afraid: Erich Fromm and Lewis Mumford on the  
Fearsome Dangers of Technology*

Olga Galanova (Ruhr-Universität Bochum / Fachhochschule für  
öffentliche Verwaltung, Bielefeld):  
*Stasi-Surveillance of Everyday Communication in the Private Sphere*

Comment: Andreas Spahn (TU Eindhoven)

12:15 pm Lunch Break

1:30 pm **Panel 2: “Cultivating Fears”**

Daniel White (FU Berlin):  
*The Mechanics of Fear: Re-envisioning Anxiety through Emerging  
Technologies of Affect*

Astha Jaiswal (Central University of Gujarat):  
*The Hype of Cord Blood Banking in India: Understanding the Fear  
Based Discourse*

Comment: Anne Schmidt (MPI for Human Development)



## Thursday, 11 October 2018 (cont.)

3:00 pm	Coffee Break
3:30 pm	<b>Panel 3: “Contesting Fears”</b> Christian Götter (Deutsches Museum München): <i>Fears and Fission: An Analysis of Four Variations of Fear around Nuclear Power</i> Serenity Sutherland (SUNY Oswego): <i>The Rhetoric of Artificial Intelligence: Fear, Fiction and Forewarning</i> Comment: Alexander Gall (Deutsches Museum München)
5:00 pm	Short Coffee Break
5:15 pm	<b>Lecture</b> Karena Kalmbach (TU Eindhoven): <i>Nothing to Fear but Technology itself? A Historical Study into Fears as Drivers of Technological Innovation and Implementation</i>
6:15 pm	End of Sessions
7:15 pm	Dinner with Dinner Talk

## Friday, 12 October 2018

10:00 am	<b>Panel 4: “Enduring Fears”</b> Thomas Zeller (University of Maryland): <i>Loving the Automobile to Death? Injuries, Mortality, Fear, and Automobility in West Germany and the United States, 1950–2000</i> Artemis Yagou (Deutsches Museum München): <i>Robots and Bricks: Using Play to Cope with a Menacing Technological Future</i> Wesley Shrum (Louisiana State University): <i>Zbola at Large: Fear and Epidemic Exposure in the Internet Era</i> Comment: Bettina Hitzer (MPI for Human Development)
12:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:00 pm	<b>Panel 5: “Fighting Fears”</b> Ginevra Sanvitale (TU Eindhoven): <i>Tell Me Your Computer Attitude and I'll Tell You Who You Will Be: Fear and Computing in the Making of Future Society</i> Andie Rothenhäusler (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology): <i>What Is Technology and Is it Possible to be Afraid of it? The Debate on “Technikfeindlichkeit” in West Germany</i> Comment: Martina Heßler (Helmut Schmidt Universität Hamburg)
2:30 pm	<b>Final Discussion</b>
3:30 pm	End of Conference



## Convenors

**Bettina Hitzer** is Minerva Research Group Leader at the Center for the History of Emotions at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin.

**Alexander Gall** is Researcher at the Research Institute for the History of Science and Technology at Deutsches Museum, Munich.

**Martina Heßler** is Professor at the Helmut-Schmidt-Universität/Universität der Bundeswehr, Hamburg, Chair for Modern Social, Economic and Technical History.

**Karena Kalmbach** is Assistant Professor for History at the Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, Department of Industrial Engineering and Innovation Sciences.

**Anne Schmidt** is Adjunct Researcher at the Center for the History of Emotions at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin.

**Andreas Spahn** is Assistant Professor for Philosophy and Ethics at the Technische Universiteit Eindhoven, Department of Industrial Engineering and Innovation Sciences.

## Interested in attending this workshop?

Please note that all talks start precisely at the advertised time (ST not CT).

Venue: Max Planck Institute for Human Development  
94 Lentzeallee  
14195 Berlin  
Small conference hall  
(closest station Breitenbachplatz)

No registration required if you only wish to attend the public keynote held by Prof. Dr. Margaret Morris.

Those who are interested in any session in addition to the public keynote **MUST** be registered to attend.

There is no registration fee but seating is limited.

To register please send an e-mail to [rockmann@mpib-berlin.mpg.de](mailto:rockmann@mpib-berlin.mpg.de) by **4 October 2018**. We kindly ask you to inform us about your affiliation and the area of your research focus.

We send you a confirmation of your registration as soon as possible.