# KULTURTECHNIKEN 4.0: CREATING IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



**September 23, 2020 – Updated October 12, 2020**

**Artificial intelligence (AI) is changing the way we communicate, how we are being creative and how we experience and understand our world. *Kulturtechniken 4.0*, a project from Goethe-Institut in Australia, invites artists, experts and other creatives to take part in this important discussion.**

Traditional skills like reading, writing, composing, making music and drawing make cultural and social participation possible. These skills have been developed over hundreds, if not thousands, of years and determine how we communicate with each other, how we express ourselves and how we experience the world on a personal level.

At the same time, the rapid development of AI is having an increased influence on creative, cognitive and manual skills that used to be the unique domain of humans. "We're probably the last generation that knows how to read a map because we outsource that to machines: not looking at maps, not remembering things and just relying on devices, will change us," says renowned AI researcher Toby Walsh, one of the contributors to the project.

As artificial intelligence already permeates many aspects of our online and offline lives, *Kulturtechniken 4.0* is also interested in the social and ethical implications of AI. We ask how artists like Caroline Sinders and Joy Buolamwini are taking up the fight against discriminatory algorithms and discuss with leading thinkers the parameters of how we want to communicate and work creatively in the future.

Time and again we are told not to simply leave the important developments in artificial intelligence merely to tech giants and IT-experts. *Kulturtechniken 4.0* therefore aims to enrich debate and make the downsides and possibilities of AI accessible to a broader audience.

"Algorithms which either imitate or manipulate our human capabilities are relevant to all of us," says Sonja Griegoschewski, Director of the Goethe-Institut in Sydney. "For this reason we want to use our international network to help shape the discussion around artificial intelligence, art, culture and language."

Due to COVID-19 this project is initially focused on a website, a printed magazine and a series of talks in Sydney. Details on other events and announcements will be made available as soon as possible.

**FACTS IN SUMMARY**

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| **Project** | *Kulturtechniken 4.0*: Creating in the Age of AI |
| **Initiator** | Goethe-Institut in Australia |
| **Start date** | 22nd September 2020 |
| **Topic/Aims** | Are we ready? Artificial Intelligence will change the way we communicate, create and experience our world. *Kulturtechniken 4.0* invites artists, thinkers and creative minds to participate in one of the most important discussions of our time |
| **Website** | https://www.goethe.de/creativeAI<br>Features, guest essays and interviews accompanied on social media with regular posts under the hashtag #creativeAI |
| **Contributions (selection)** | Making the invisible visible: Art meets AI. Guest essay from Hans Ulrich Obrist, Curator, Serpentine Gallery London<br>https://www.goethe.de/prj/k40/en/kun/ooo.html<br><br>How artists are hacking bias in algorithms<br>Feature including Marnie Benney, Founder of AIArtists.org<br>https://www.goethe.de/prj/k40/en/kun/aia.html<br><br>"We do things better by allowing machines to help us" Interview with Toby Walsh, Author and AI expert, UNSW, Sydney<br>https://www.goethe.de/prj/k40/en/eth/wal.html<br><br>What does the future of feminist AI look like?<br>Guest essay from Neema Iyer, Artist and founder of pollicy.org, a tech organisation in Uganda which encourages civil participation<br>https://www.goethe.de/prj/k40/en/eth/fem.html |

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| **Publication** | Annual print magazine *kultur*, with focus on *Kulturtechniken 4.0* project<br>https://issuu.com/goetheaustralia/docs/kulturmagazine30 |
| **Talk series** | 23 October 2020, Sydney and online: Humans & AI<br>27 November 2020, Sydney and online: Music & AI<br>February 2021, Melbourne: Film & AI<br>For event details: https://www.goethe.de/ins/au/en/ver.cfm |
| **Workshops** | "Indigenous Protocols and Artificial Intelligence Incubator".<br>February/March 2021, Sydney. Details to follow soon<br>October 2020 |
| **Exhibition** | 25 June – 9 October 2021: Future U<br>RMIT Gallery, Melbourne, including German artists Mario Klingemann<br>and Christian Mio Loclair https://rmitgallery.com/exhibitions/future-u/ |
| **Installation** | The *AI Oracle* from the *no:topia collective* is due to be brought to<br>Australia in 2021. It's the further development of an art installation from<br>the Futurium in Berlin: https://ai-oracle.info |

**About the Goethe-Institut**

*The Goethe-Institut is the cultural liaison between Germany and Australia. We are a not-for-profit, independent cultural organisation with a global reach. Our mandate is to promote the study of the German language abroad, and to encourage and facilitate international cultural exchange. The Goethe-Institut has 157 branches in 98 countries. Our branch in Melbourne was founded in 1972, followed by the Sydney branch in 1974. We work with partners and networks across Australia.*

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