

# Environmental Media & More-than-Human Infrastructures: Making Sense of Sensor Environments

Join us for an interactive workshop on air quality, sensing practices and society!

This 2-day living lab will connect citizens, artists, policymakers and scientists with the goal of jointly developing sensor and sensing literacy.

Sensor-generated data - such as information about air quality - have immediate impact on our everyday lives. Understanding how this data is being used to shape policies and how we, as a society, can take ownership of it can create a stronger connection to our environment and place us in a better position in the conversation with governments and businesses. Sensor literacy is a matter of urgent societal relevance.

This 2-day living lab will serve as an interactive platform for exchange, experimentation, dialog and learning. We will meet at the VU Amsterdam and combine scholarly reflection with hands-on, embodied sense-making practices. Using our bodies and sensing technology as a foundation, we will consider the air quality around us and discuss what sensor data and sensing practices can mean for governance, public health and policy.

This is a unique opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds and learn more about the world of sensors and how they impact our daily lives. We will explore small-scale local solutions to global challenges in an informal, friendly and active environment.

Interested in joining? **Register for Day 1 via Eventbrite (spaces are limited):**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/making-sense-of-sensor-environments-day-1-tickets-547896121047>

## Program

### Day 1 Hands-on workshop

**April 21, 2023** Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Main building, room HG-0G30

- 10:00 **Welcome and introduction**  
Sebastian Scholz, Marek Jancovic & Jolanda Veldhuis *VU Amsterdam*
- 11:00 **Workshop Round 1**  
Imme Ruarus *Waag Futurelab*
- 13:00 **Workshop Round 2**  
Rosalie Bak *Waag Futurelab*
- 14:15 **Reflection & Exchange**
- 15:00 **Closing Remarks**

## Day 2 Academic symposium

**April 22, 2023** Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Main building, room KC-07

Register for Day 2 via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/making-sense-of-sensor-environments-day-2-tickets-547900223317>

09:30 Doors Open

09:45 **Opening and Welcome**

**Sebastian Scholz & Marek Jancovic** *VU Amsterdam*

10:00 **Roundtable Discussion: Sensor Literacy and the Politics of Sensing**

Chair: **Imme Ruarus** *Waag Futurelab*

10:45 Coffee Break

11:00 **Panel 1: Challenging the Unseen and Unheard in Sensor Technologies**

**“The Other Side of the Smart Phone: MEMS and the Tiny Matters of Mediation”**

**Lisa Parks** *University of California at Santa Barbara*

**“Sensing Tech and Moral Repair”**

**Gwen Ottinger** *Drexel University*

12:20 Lunch Break

13:15 **Panel 2: Interfacing Digitality: Tactics & Critiques in a Networked World**

**“Artistic tactics of sensing across and beyond the bodily and species boundaries”**

**Ksenia Fedorova** *Leiden University*

**“Critique of Digitality” (book presentation)**

**Jan Distelmeyer** *University of Potsdam & Potsdam University of Applied Sciences*

14:15 Coffee Break

14:30 **Panel 3: Governing Space with Sensor Media: Urban Geographies, Architecture, Care**

**“Geomedia Geography. Towards a notion of the Postlocative”**

**Christoph Borbach & Max Kanderske** *University of Siegen*

**“Making sense of the actionability of sensor media and data in urban governance”**

**Daniela van Geenen** *University of Siegen*

**“Lorem Ipsum Nature(s): Architectural Databases and Maintenance as/of Care”**

**Linda Kopitz** *University of Amsterdam*

15:45 Coffee Break

16:00 **Panel 4: Sensing (and) the More-than-Human**

**“Immaterial AI”**

**Benjamin Peters** *RWTH Aachen / University of Tulsa*

**“Multispecies Participation in Biodiversity Monitoring Technologies”**

**Michelle Westerlaken** *University of Cambridge*

**“When the farmer is the sensor – some notes on automating agroecology”**

**Clemens Driessen** *Wageningen University*

17:00 Coffee Break

17:15 **Roundtable discussion: Sensor Media & Infrastructure Imaginaries**

**John Durham Peters** *Yale University*, **Lisa Parks** *University of California at Santa Barbara*  
and **Judith Keilbach** *Utrecht University*

18:00 **Closing remarks**