



Dear all,

We are very pleased to invite you to the

## **Unconference about Art, Design, Technology, Making, Cities and their Communities**

### **Free/ Libre Technologies, arts and the Commons**

which is organised by the University of Nicosia Research Foundation, as part of the project Phygital.

The event will start on May 30th at 18:00 with a keynote speech from Professor Richard Matthew Stallman and will finish on June 1st. We are very excited to have with us Prof. Stallman, Prof. Silvia Federici, Dr. Gregory Scholette, Prof. Luiz Guilherme Vergara, Dr. Johan Söderberg, Gabriele de Seta, Harriet Poppy Speed and Ruth Catlow, among other distinguished speakers.

Register for the event here:

**<https://unrf-unconference.futureworldscenter.org/index.php/register>**

Please find attached the Unconference programme.

Please feel free to share this invitation with your network.

We hope to see you there!

The Unconference Team

# Free/Libre Technologies, Arts and the Commons

*An Unconference about Art, Design, Technology, Making, Cities and their Communities.*

**Dates: Thursday, May 30th - Saturday June 1st, 2019**

**Location: University of Nicosia, Cyprus**

The Unconference is organized by the University of Nicosia Research Foundation as part of project PHYGITAL, and co-organized in collaboration with the Fine Arts Programme, Department of Design and Multimedia, hack66, and the Municipality of Lakatamia. The implementation partner is Future Worlds Centre.

**What kind of creativity comes after today's digital cultures? After the smart city, post-surveillance, post-innovation, when social entrepreneurship discourse has ran its course?**

In the last few years there has been a sharp momentum in the growth of groups and spaces that operate under collective and community-driven structures of collaboration and shared learning processes (onsite and online). This is happening in parallel to debates about the fate of the commons (physical, digital, and creative), and about openness and freedom of access. Our societies are at the same time, reeling from the effects of connectivity and social media just as we try to understand their potential and limitations for civic improvement, mobilization and/or abuse, and their extensions into socially and community orientated art and design.

In our times of digital communalities, bringing together issues related to art, design, technology, governance, and the commons, also means to reflect on contemporary discourses of openness and freedom, and to redefine the ways we produce and share knowledge, not least about new possibilities of production and sharing in themselves.

Considering our digital realisms and increasingly disparate lived realities, we wish to explore examples and approaches to activism in relation to social movements around making and sharing, critical artistic practices, and their related technological shifts. Especially as pockets of our cities are being transformed into creative and entrepreneurial hubs, and new setups of collective knowledge production blend into processes of urbanisation, regeneration and issues related to the smart city and its mechanisms of surveillance.

## Invited Speakers

- Richard Stallman
- Silvia Federici
- Gregory Sholette
- Luiz Guilherme Vergara
- Johan Soderberg
- Gabriele de Seta
- Lynn Jones & Harriet Poppy Speed
- Ruth Catlow

## Unconference Format

This Unconference follows the momentum of a broader movement rethinking the academic conference format towards a more connected model of knowledge sharing, peer learning and collaboration. This allows presentations of research while it also allows participants to work together and set their own agenda in discussions, workshops, and co-working sessions, that respond to previous proposals as well as spontaneously emerging priorities. We will be hosting participants from a broad network of researchers and activists across fields, and connecting remotely with others.

Developing a publication is one of the unconference's main aims.

**Thursday Evening May 30th:** Keynote

**Friday, May 31st:** A day of presentations and pre-organised panels, during which we will collectively formulate a plan for the Saturday, according to emerging priorities among the participants

**Saturday, June 1st:** Discussions, workshops and co-working sessions designed in parallel clusters, which will be formed by the participant suggestions.

## How To Participate

1. Show up!
2. Help construct the second-day programme and join the discussions
3. Participate remotely via backchannel or/and by sending in something for the on-site participants to consider
4. Propose something for the Proceedings

**Join our Art, Tech, and the Commons Mailing List by emailing [cycommons@protonmail.com](mailto:cycommons@protonmail.com)**

## For queries please contact

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## Or the Unconference Chairs

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or

Chrystalleni Loizidou | [c@neeii.info](mailto:c@neeii.info)

## Provisional Themes

- the technology of participatory art, community art, and socially engaged art
- the art of the free and open source software movement
- social media mobilisation: necessary or abusive?
- free and open source community technologies and arts
- openness and/vs freedom in social, art, design and tech initiatives
- hacktivisms and artivisms / hacking the art and art hacking
- contemporary questions around community and civically driven art, design and technology
- hacking as culture
- hackerspaces and makerculture / hackerspaces and their politics
- shared learning - peer to peer
- “Design Global Manufacture Local”
- local vs global dimensions in community practice
- tech and art resistance discourses, their directions and overlaps
- freedom tech, tech freedom
- making and the commons: redefining public art / participatory art
- digital commons
- digital governance and social movements
- self-organisation discourse
- open data discourse
- networked cultures
- technology and policy / policy tech

## Unconference Scientific Committee

Evanthia Tselika, University of Nicosia. (Chair)  
Chrystalleni Loizidou, hack66/ Lakatamia Municipality. (Chair)

Helene Black, NeMe.org.

Yiannis Colakides, NeMe.org.

Maria Hadjimichael, University of Cyprus.

Marios Isaakidis, University College London.  
Eva Korae, Cyprus University of Technology.  
Thrasos Nerantzis, Future World Centre.

Leandros Savvides, Leicester University.  
Gabriele de Seta, Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan.

Niki Sioki, University of Nicosia.

**Phygital** is an Interreg V 2014-2020 BalkanMed, EU-funded programme being implemented in Greece, Albania and Cyprus and involves the development of makerspaces – one in each country - that will work with the local community. In Cyprus, the project’s work is being carried out by the University of Nicosia Research Centre in collaboration with the Municipality of Lakatamia/hack66 and will focus on social art practices exploring the melding of open technology, art and design. The project operates on the basis of the ‘design global – manufacture local’ model which introduces innovative organisational and business patterns allowing an unprecedented booming of communities engaged in do-it-yourself (DIY) activities. It wishes to support and enhance these local capacities for innovation and utilise the opportunities the decentralised modes of production can create. The Cyprus section of the project examines the importance of makerspace culture in the advancement of contemporary social art and design practices. It delves into the principles of open source projects, software-hardware freedom and bottom-up collaborative structures to explore ways they can be utilised - in line with social art/design practices - to address the needs of the local community.

## **PHYGITAL- Catalysing innovation and entrepreneurship unlocking the potential of emerging production and business models**

Lead Partner-GFOSS/ Greek Free Open Source Software Society

Peer to Peer Alternatives - Greece (a.k.a. “P2P Lab”)

Lakatamia Municipality/ hack66- Cyprus

Open Labs – Albania

Municipality of North Tzoumerka- Greece

University of Nicosia Research Foundation (UNRF)- Cyprus

The National *Center of Folklore Activities- Albania*

## PROGRAMME

### Free/Libre Technologies, Arts and the Commons Unconference Programme

The Unconference is organized by the University of Nicosia Research Foundation as part of project PHYGITAL, and co-organized in collaboration with the Fine Arts Programme, Department of Design and Multimedia, and hack66. Phygital is being carried out at the local level as a collaboration between the University of Nicosia Research Foundation and Lakatamia Municipality.

The programme of the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and the directions of the clusters will be shaped by suggestions by the Unconference presenters and participants.

#### DAY 1 | Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of May

18:00-21:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Welcome</b> Dr Chrystalleni Loizidou and Dr Evanthia Tselika</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Keynote</b> Professor Richard Matthew Stallman <i>Copyright vs Community in the Age of Computer Networks</i> Unesco Amphitheatre Chair: Thrasos Nerantzis</p>
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#### DAY 2 | Friday 31<sup>st</sup> of May

9:00 – 9:30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Registration</b> Unesco Amphitheatre</p>
9:30 – 9:45	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opening Address</b> Professor Constantinos Phellas, Vice Rector University of Nicosia Unesco Amphitheatre</p>
9:45 – 11:10	<p style="text-align: center;">Unesco Amphitheatre</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mutiny, Mutualism and Complicity in a “Bare” Art World</i> Dr Gregory Sholette, Queens College, City University of New York</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Micro-geographies of Grassroots Collective Action. Tripartite Ethical Unity of Art</i> Professor Luiz Guilherme Vergara, Federal Fluminense University (UFF)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chair: Evanthia Tselika</p>
11:10 – 11:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Break</p>

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11:30 – 13:30	<p><b>Politics of making</b> Newton Amphitheatre</p> <p><i>Intersectional Feminism and Fact - Women’s Experience in Practical Workshops</i> Harriet Poppy Speed and Dr Lynn Jones</p> <p><i>Digital Fabrication for the Stage: The case of the Limassol Grand Ballets</i> Eva Korae</p> <p><i>Community Making towards situated agency</i> Jenny Dunn</p> <p><i>Gendering the making: Contemporary Makerspaces in Athens</i> Natalia Avlona</p> <p>Chair: Niki Sioki</p>	<p><b>Negotiating digitalities through art</b> Plato Amphitheatre</p> <p><i>Post-human translation in the fourth phase of global capitalism: digital technologies, sensorial languages and Big Data. A critical approach from art</i> Federica Matelli</p> <p><i>Decentralisation and Commoning the Arts</i> Ruth Catlow</p> <p><i>Ejected Body Doubles: beyond the grasp of digital control</i> George Themistokleous</p> <p><i>Vital Vagueness</i> Rose Butler</p> <p>Chair: Yiannis Colakides</p>	
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch		
14:30 – 16:30	<p><b>Commoning practices</b> Newton Amphitheatre</p> <p><i>Delegate Management or Augmenting The Mind: What Role for Technology in Commoning Practices?</i> Selena Savić</p> <p><i>Peer to Peer: The Commons Manifesto (A book presentation)</i> Alex Pazaitis</p> <p><i>Database (e)state</i> Tom Keene</p> <p><i>Shared learning- peer to peer, common</i> Blanca Jove Alcalde</p> <p>Chair: Maria Hadjimichael</p>	<p><b>The Future of Technology in Museums</b> Plato Amphitheatre</p> <p>The Museum Lab of the Centre on Interactive Media and Smart Systems and Emerging Technologies (RISE) Theopisti Stylianou-Lambert, Chair</p> <p><b>Panelists</b> Georgios Artopoulos; Ioanna Hadjicosti; Antigone Heraclidou; Marinos Koutsomichalis; Maria Shehade; Evanthia Tselika</p>	<p><b>Internet control</b> Rousseau Amphitheatre</p> <p><i>Horror stories from Digiland</i> Theodotos Andreou</p> <p><i>Into the Red Stack: Chinese digital media between platform protectionism and infrastructural sovereignty</i> Gabriele de Seta</p> <p><i>Internet censorship around EMEA</i> Vasilis Ververis</p> <p><i>Open technologies in the Making</i> Despoina Mitropoulou and Theodoros Karounos</p> <p>Chair:</p>

**PROGRAMME**

			Chrystalleni Loizidou
16:30 – 17:00	Break		
17:00 – 17:50	<p><i>Hacking hacked: The struggle over recuperation as a source of innovation</i>                  Johan Söderberg                  Amphitheatre Jean Monnet, -203 Millenium Building                  Chair: Leandros Savvides</p>		
18:00 – 19:00	<p><i>Professor Silvia Federici</i>                  Keynote Presentation                  Amphitheatre Jean Monnet, -203 Millenium Building                  Chair: Maria Hadjimichael</p>		

Social Event

20:00-	<p><i>Dinner</i>                  Cost 20euros</p>		
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**DAY 3- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> of June**

10:00-10:30	<p>Registration and Coffee                  Fine Art Building,                  University of Nicosia</p>		
10:30:11:30	<p>General Assembly and Clusters                  Facilitated by Future Worlds Centre                  Parallel Clusters will be shaped by the scientific committee based on the suggestions of conference participants suggestions on the 2nd Day</p>		
	<p>Studio 01 (or anywhere in the Fine Art Building)</p>		

**PROGRAMME**

11:30-13:00	<p><b>Parallel Clusters</b></p>		
13:00-14:00	<p>Lunch</p>		
14:00-16:00	<p><b>Parallel Clusters</b></p>		
16:00-16:30	<p>Break</p>		
16:30-17:30	<p>Parallel Clusters Sharing what happened through the day- Summary                  Closing Remarks</p>		

Social Event

18:30	<p><i>Future Worlds Center</i>                  Community Event</p>		
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**Some thematic areas of interest for the Working Groups**

- the technology of participatory art, community art, and socially engaged art
- the art of the free and open source software movement
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