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Philosophy with/ out a school:

a philosopher's drama

When

July 29th - August 2nd

Where

Buitenplaats Brienoord

Who

You + peers + tutors + guests

How

assignments/timecapsules/study hours/walks

How Much

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Dear all,

The time has arrived to welcome you to Philosophy with/out a School! Next week, we gather at the Buitenplaats Brienenoord for a bit of philosopher's drama.

During the summer school, we will walk our ways around the Buitenplaats, the island, and most of all, our interest in philosophy. You will wander alone, go on quests together, and let yourself be led. Your legs might follow pre-determined plans, or shape themselves along the way. The summer school offers some routes and road signs, yet there are many other paths to be taken. Like any landscape, the summer school offers more potential than is actualised in the programme. Just ask around and make suggestions!

In this welcome kit you will find all relevant information about the summer school. If anything remains unclear, please do not hesitate to ask your questions in the Whatsapp group (link below) or contact Sander and/or Cleo!

organizing team

As the Philosophy with/out a School team, we – Alex, Claire, Cleo, Fenna, Floris, Humber, Sander – are responsible for conceptualizing, organizing and facilitating Philosophy with/out a School, with the help of TA's Boudewijn, Toine, Sanne, and Gabi.

We like to call this with/out a school, because while during the year a school structures and often obstructs learning processes, during the summer we get to pick and choose which parts of the school to keep. Feel free to enlist any of us to actualize your school for the week.

We want to make sure our time together will be generative, inspirational and joyful. To make this possible, we believe it is of utmost importance that all participants and educators feel comfortable during this week.

Alex
Boudewijn
Claire
Cleo

Fenna
Floris
Gabi
Humber

Sander
Sanne
Toine

preparation

What to bring:

Necessary:

Your 3+ library books

Notebook(s)

An ingredient for salad (on Tuesday!)

Pen(cil)s

Comfortable clothing & shoes

Sunscreen

Optional:

Swimwear and a towel (in case you want to swim)

Raincoat

Laptop

What to do:

1: Read the welcome kit

2: Join the whatsappgroup

3: Let us know before Sunday if you can't be there for one of the dinners

Schedule

Each day is organised along 2 fixed components: a **morning walk** and **evening walk**. The evening walks end in a communal dinner, lunch will generally be served between 1-2pm.

Days start at 10am, and end after dinner, except for Wednesday, when we gather at 1pm.

Our program combines the walking practices of Aristotles' Peripatetic school with Deleuze's method of dramatization. The morning 'walks,' you develop with each other, the tutors and a repository of assignments. This (dis)continues and spreads over the island until the end of the day, when a (duo of) speaker(s) takes everyone for a walk on the question of the Philosopher. Not the essentialist question of 'what is a philosopher?', but one of the dramatic questions: **who, when, where, how, and how much is a philosopher?** The guests decide the route, tempo and rhythm of the walk, but we always ends at the dinner table.

This way, we want to reconsider some ideas around the school and restructure some of its elements to our advantage. Like, the active teacher-passive student dynamic, the materiality of the classroom, the authority/power of assessments, the logocentrism and the absence of the body, and the temporal demands of the school bell. We don't want to take authority or motivation for granted and operate from a principle of transcendent gift-giving. The tutors are there to help you find a format for your studies. You can ask them questions or ask them to sit down with you and other students for a teaching activity – a reading group, discussion forum, group assignment, etc.

The guests for the evening walks all are affiliated with philosophy, yet come from different angles, including: poetry, political philosophy, engaged pedagogy, decolonial theory, grey publishing, music production, metaphysics, 'eastern' philosophy, cultural analysis, art theory. On the next spread, you will find more information about the interests and work of our evening guests, and a short synopsis for each walk.

programme elements

Time capsules

Monday morning, we will return your time-capsule, with some add-ins. Use this Folder to gather your material and communicate a-timely with tutors, yourself, and --if you wish -- fellow students.

Assignments

There will be several assignment booklets going round. These assignments can help you along with your project, both in terms of Formats (reading, writing), and content. Discuss with the tutors how we can make an assignment suitable.

Morning walks

During the morning walk, you look back and think ahead and make your plan for the day on the communal whiteboard. Try to do so with two words: one verb for the activity, one noun for the (main) topic.

Evening walks

During the evening walk, a guest takes us along on a stroll to ponder on one of the dramatic questions: the where/who/when/how/how much of a philosopher.

Study hours

All hours between the walks is there for you to work on your project, either alone or with other participants. You can use this time to work on your project in any way you find appropriate.

Self-organised/impromptu

During study hours you can set up any activity that seems fit. It's likely you need others to carry out your ideas, so enlist peers and tutors for your reading groups, start a writing circle or plot a treasure hunt.

Radio with/out an audience

On Friday, everyone gets a time slot to record ±10 minutes of audio. Share your thoughts, read something you've written, combine slots to discuss a topic with others, reflect, ramble, think. Eventually, this will be edited into a radio show souvenir for all of us. And don't worry, we will only use your best parts!

daily schedule

Monday

10am: morning walk + time capsules

study hours

1pm: communal lunch

study hours

5pm: evening walk with Clara Balaguer and
Srinivas Aditya Mopidevi

6:30pm: communal dinner

8pm closing off

Tuesday

10am: morning walk

study hours

1-2pm: lunch buffet

study hours

5pm: evening walk with Jan Bor and Hein van Dongen

6:30pm: communal dinner

8pm closing off

Wednesday

Free morning; buitenplaats will be open.

study hours

1pm: communal lunch

study hours

5pm: evening walk with Claire Tio & Josephine Zwaan

6:30pm: communal dinner

8pm closing off

Thursday

10am: morning walk

study hours

1-2pm: lunch buffet

study hours

5pm: evening walk with Lev Avitan

6:30pm: communal dinner

8pm closing off

Friday

10am: morning walk

study hours

11am-5pm Radio with/out an Audience

1-2pm: lunch buffet

study hours

5pm: evening walk with Desire+Capital/
Ryan Kopaitich and Sonia de Jager

6:30pm: communal dinner

8pm closing off

8:30pm Twijfel launch at Kaapse Maria

First two drinks are on us!



evening walk

Where:

Clara Balaguer + Srinivas Aditya Mopidevi

In a multi-mediated interview with Clara Balaguer, Srinivas Aditya Mopidevi recounts the story of his late father, Krishna Swamy Mopidevi, a Vedantic philosopher, writer, and publisher from Avinigadda, Andhra Pradesh, India. Their conversation describes a philosophical practice outside of dominant Western frameworks as “quest and experience,” situated firmly in community, and committed to translating abstraction into actionable language for everyday life. In this conversation a double remove models how knowledge could circulate from a source to more-and-more distant publics without sacrificing immediacy or legibility: First, by relaying a philosopher’s life and quest through the experience and memory of his son, and second, using the voice of a third person to relay the son’s story to far-away listeners.

The activity will begin with a very slow walk, reproducing a deep listening exercise by experimental composer Pauline Oliveros.

SRINIVAS ADITYA MOPIDEVI is a writer and curator based in New Delhi. In the past decade, he held positions with Devi Art Foundation, Raqs Media Collective, and Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. Until recently he was the Chief Curator at Terrain.art, and a Special Projects Curator at Nature Morte, New Delhi. Mopidevi is currently a visiting professor of visual arts at Ashoka University, India.

CLARA BALAGUER is a cultural worker, curriculum builder, and grey literature circulator. Currently, she co-convenes the Civic Praxis program at BAK, basis voor actuele kunst, Utrecht and teaches Experimental Publishing at Piet Zwart Institute, Rotterdam. Frequently, she operates under collective or individual aliases that disclose her stewardship in projects, the latest of which is 'To Be Determined'.

Who:

Jan Bor + Hein van Dongen

Instead of 'what is a philosopher?', the right question is 'who is a philosopher?' All philosophers follow their own path, each for themselves. In it, life and thought intertwine. I mention a few.

A philosopher, Socrates says, stands between the gods (wise) and the chatterboxes (who consider themselves wise). // Zhuang Zi puts it like this: a road is made by people walking on it. And so he sends away the emperor’s emissary offering him a ministerial post.

'What is written in the books,' he has a wheelwright say, 'is mere shit.' // For Montaigne, writing is play. You shouldn't read his Essays, he tells the reader, because 'they are only about me.' // Kierkegaard is solitary; it's the pivot of his entire philosophy. Yet we flee from this singularity and freedom; there's an abyss there. // Loner Nietzsche realizes this as well. God is death, he screams teetering on the edge of madness. When he topples over, he becomes pushy – just like Kierkegaard in his religious writings.

Deleuze makes amends: philosophy's playful and light-hearted tone return. And could it have been different, once you remove all ground for thought?

JAN BOR is an autonomous philosopher specializing in many (sub-)fields of philosophy. He has written books on the history of both Eastern and Western philosophy such as *De Verbeelding van het Denken* (1995). He has both practiced and written on Zen and has also been studying the relation between art and philosophy. His most recent book is *Waarnemen* (2024). Jan Bor has taught at the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, University of Amsterdam, Vrije Universiteit and many other institutions. He was also a board member of Filosofie Oost West and currently runs Stichting Wim de Haan.

HEIN VAN DONGEN is philosophical consultant, lecturer and researcher at several institutions in The Netherlands. His books include: *Bergson* (in Dutch) and *Wild beasts of the philosophical desert: philosophers on telepathy*.

When:

Claire Tio + Josephine Zwaan

[...] we start anew. we attend to what is created through each and every repetition. what modes of thinking-feeling-doing emerge from our collective ritual ? the body as a metronome. how do our bodily rhythms interfere and resonate with other bodies? josephine zwaan and claire tio are interested in questions of (circular vs. linear) time, rhythm, the body and rituals. they invite you to attune to the polyrhythmic brienenoord island. practicing philosophy in a way that with each loop [...]

CLAIRE TIO is a Ph.D. researcher working on Transformative Pedagogies at ESPhil and teaches at Rotterdam Arts & Sciences Lab. Current study interests include: rhythms, embodied practices, intuitive/creative writing & sign-language.

JOSEPHINE ZWAAN is an artist, music producer and researcher who studies electronic music production practices and technologies through a decolonial lens. She co-founded rosetta, the first platform supporting female and nonbinary music producers. As a Ph.D candidate at ESphil, Josephine works on reframing electronic music production through the lens of African philosophy and African music traditions.

How:

Lev Avitan

For the Summer School walk and regarding the dramatic question of 'how' to be a philosopher, Avitan proposes an investigation into sensitivity. What could it look like to practice philosophy through sensitive engagement with our affects and those of other bodies (be it human or more-than-human)? During this event, Lev invites the group to share their embodied perspective on the subject of sensitive philosophy.

Lev Avitan is a spoken word-artist, theatre maker and public philosopher, but ideally all three combined. His work is characterized by a high degree of societal engagement from personal reflections. Avitan practices his philosophy through what he calls philopoetic lectures, where through rhythm and poetry he delves into a subject and meditates on it. Core themes he works with: relationality, affectivity, (decolonial) love, and the question of collective healing amid contexts of systemic violence.



How Much:

Desire+Capital/

Ryan Kopaitich + Sonia de Jager

How much does a 'philosopher' cost? How much you got. And, depends on what you want. Also, who's counting? Whoever is counting knows. They keep checks and balances for the sake of [insert desire of choice]. Everyone can know exactly how much a philosopher costs, our pay scales are public. But this isn't quite what we mean when we ask the question. At the very least, we are asking: what is philosophy worth, what value does it give us? "Philosophy" is being financially eroded and made irrelevant publicly—from the well-intended "everyone is a philosopher", to the more nefarious: "what's the point?" Philosophy is questionably costly for the contemporary schemes of efficiency guiding "academia" and "science" and constrained by the landscape of capitalist desires. If desire is opaque, unlocalizable, fleeting, etc., what do we make of it when it confronts concepts such as value, cost, profit, money, etc.? In this regard, the illicit philosopher, the philosopher unaccounted for, can prove useful.

In preparation please come with a sentence or two that, in your words, defines or characterizes "desire" as a concept or phenomenon.

RYAN KOPAITICH and SONIA DE JAGER are part of DESIRE + CAPITAL, a working group based out of Erasmus University Rotterdam focused on Marx's mature work. From a variety of disciplines, our goal is to understand how desire shapes capital and can be understood in relation to possibilities beyond it.

Venue: BUITENPLAATS BRIENENOORD

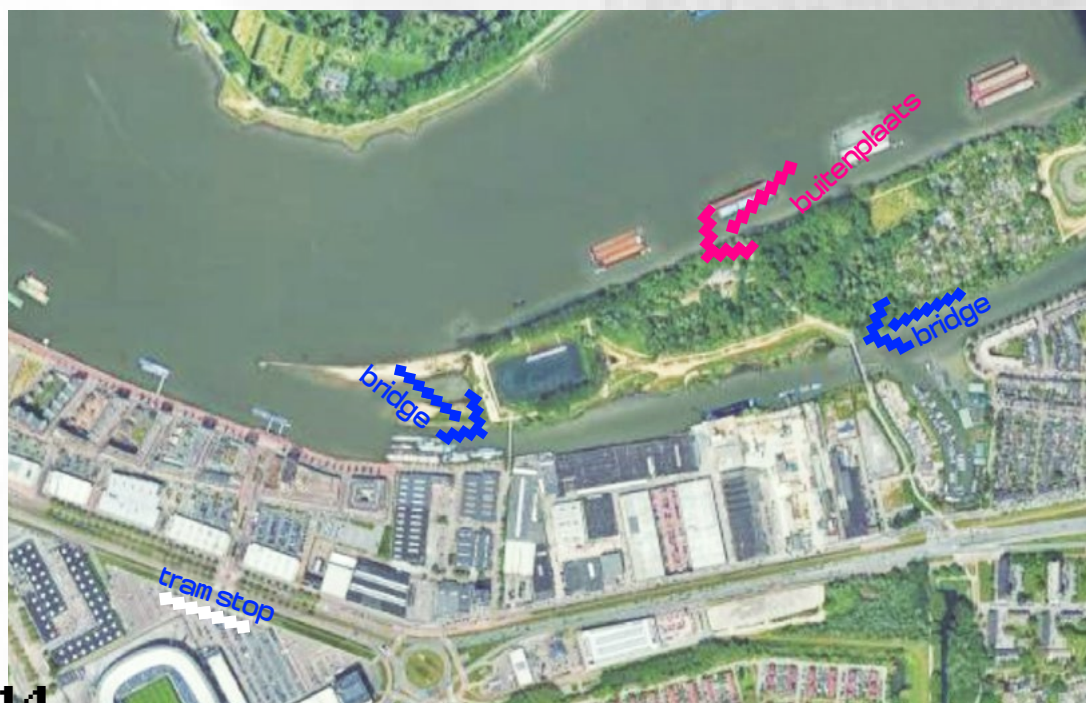
The Summer School takes place at Buitenplaats Brienoord, 'a rehearsal space for the future.' www.buitenplaatsbrienoord.nl

The summer school/buitenplaats is open from 9am - 8pm. The island has to be deserted at 11pm.

Address: **Van Brienoord 5, 3077 AE Rotterdam**

15-20 minutes by bike from Campus Woudestein; 25 minutes from central station.

There is a bus-and tram stop nearby; see 9292.nl for the best route for you.



Domestic Duty

Freedom to do what you want is never freed from everything you don't want. Chores are inevitable. To divide the labour necessary to take care of each other, our time, and the place, each day groups of 4 students will take on the chores. Together with the TA's they will set the table for meals, clean up afterwards and do a quick clean-up round on the premise.

Meals

During the week we will provide lunch and dinner (and of course there will be plenty of snacks). Meals are vegetarian with vegan options.

Throughout the day there will be tea, coffee and some soft drinks. Other drinks can be bought at the in-house bar.





Support

We will do our very best to make the summer school as pleasant as possible.

In case you feel uncomfortable or unsafe at any moment during the summer school, you can approach one of the organizing team members in person or via email/phone. We work on a need-to-know basis, meaning that we will not share any confidential information you give us with others (even within the team) without your explicit consent.

Photo, Video & Audio Policy

Photo's, videos and audios will be taken during the week. These may be used in the future for communication purposes. Since we are aware that this might cause discomfort for some participants for various reasons, we ask you to contact one of our team members before/during the Summer School if you do not want to appear on photo/video/audio.

