

## The Mimetic Condition: A Transdisciplinary Approach

Institute of Philosophy, KU Leuven (Belgium)

December 5-6, 2019

**Keynote:** Prof. Gunter Gebauer (Free University of Berlin)

Since the publication of Gunter Gebauer and Christoph Wulf's seminal book *Mimesis: Culture—Art—Society* in 1992, the realization that mimesis is constitutive of the *human condition* has become central to the humanities, the arts, and the social sciences, stretching to inform the hard sciences as well. Furthering Gebauer and Wulf's call to examining the productive aspect of mimesis as a "human condition," the ERC-funded *Homo Mimeticus: Theory and Criticism* (HOM) project ([www.homomimeticus.eu](http://www.homomimeticus.eu)) convokes a two-day transdisciplinary workshop at the Institute of Philosophy, KU Leuven, to explore the afterlives of the *mimetic condition* in the twenty-first century. Careful not to impose a unitary perspective to a protean concept, we will be attending to the heterogeneous connections that have been forged since the publication of *Mimesis*, those that remained unexplored by the authors, and those still to be discovered. Disciplines represented include, continental philosophy, performance studies, sociology, literary theory, film studies, science of communication, phenomenology, media studies, theater studies, musicology, among other perspectives.

The two-day workshop is organized by HOM Team members Niki Hadikoesoemo, Daniel Villegas Vélez, Wojciech Kaftanski, and Nidesh Lawtoo and will be hosted by the Husserl Archives. It will consist of seventeen 20-minute papers, a keynote talk by Prof. Gunter Gebauer (Free University of Berlin) and a screening of a video-interview with Prof. Christoph Wulf, co-authors of *Mimesis: Culture, Art, Society* (U. of California Press, 1992).

With support from the European Research Council, Institute of Philosophy KU Leuven, and the KU Leuven Doctoral School for the Humanities & Social Sciences OJO Initiative.

All welcome!

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## THURSDAY, 5/12

TIME	
9:30 AM	Coffee (Raadzaal)
10:00 AM	Welcome Remarks: Nidesh Lawtoo

### 10:15 AM—11:45 AM: Papers Session 1 (Room S)

10:15 AM	“Mimesis and Social Avalanche” Christian Borch (Copenhagen Business School)
10:45 AM	“Between Mask and Uniform” Sara Soares Belo (University of Lisbon)
11:15 AM	“Birth of <i>Homo Mimeticus</i> : A Genealogy” Nidesh Lawtoo (KU Leuven)

12:00 PM — 1:30 PM: Lunch Break

### 1:30 PM—3:00 PM: Paper Session 2 (Room S)

1:30 PM	“Trans-imitation: Translating Imitation and <i>Derushage</i> ” Zeigam Azizov (Alpen-Adria Universität, Klagenfurt)
2:00 PM	“Taking Back Mimesis to Save the Planet” Carrie Giunta (University of the Arts, London)
2:30 PM	“Mimetic Annihilation” Hannes Opelz (Trinity College, Dublin)

3:00 PM—3:15 PM: Coffee Break (Raadzaal)

### 3:15 PM—4:45 PM: Papers Session 3 (Room S)

3:15 PM	“Adumbration vs. Images? A Mimetic Nature of Reality?” Annabelle Dufourcq (Radboud University Nijmegen)
3:45 PM	“A Critique of Mimesis” Emanuelle Antonelli (University of Turin)
4:15 PM	“Mimesis Unbound?” Myth, Politics and the Literary in the 21st Century” James Corby (University of Malta)

4:45 PM—5:00 PM: Coffee Break (Raadzaal)

5:00 PM	Screening: HOM Interview with Christoph Wulf (Raadzaal)
5:30 PM	Reception (Raadzaal)
7:00 PM	Conference Dinner

## FRIDAY, 6/12

TIME	
10:00 AM	Coffee (Raadzaal)

### 10:30 AM—12:00 PM: Papers Session 1 (Room S)

10:30 AM	“Mime de Rien”: The Actor’s Imitation Without a Model Niki Hadikoesoemo (KU Leuven)
11:00 AM	“Mimesis and/is/as Restoration of Behavior” Fabrizio Deriu (University of Teramo)
11:30 AM	“Mimetism and Language in the Scenic Performance” Esa Kirkkopelto (University of the Arts, Helsinki)

12:00 PM — 12:15 PM: Coffee Break (Raadzaal)

### 12:15 PM—1:15 PM: Papers Session 2 (Room S)

12:15 PM	“Apparatus of Capture: Baroque, Neobaroque, and the Mimetic Construction of Reality” Daniel Villegas Vélez (KU Leuven)
12:45 PM	“Alteration and Alterity: the Time of Mimesis, the Mimesis of Time” Teresa Neto Projeto, (University of Lisbon)

1:15 PM—2:30 PM: Lunch Break

### 2:30 PM—4:00 PM: Papers Session 3 (Room S)

2:30 PM	“Whitehead, Empathy, and Mimesis” Irene Scicluna (Cardiff University)
3:00 PM	“The Imitation of Affects in Spinoza” Roland Breuer (KU Leuven)
3:30 PM	Kierkegaard on Imitation and Morality” Wojciech Kaftanski (KU Leuven)

4:00 PM—4:15 PM: Coffee Break (Raadzaal)

### 4:15 PM—5:15 PM: Keynote (Kardinal Mercierzaal)

4:15 PM	Keynote by Gunter Gebauer “Worldmaking of the Hand. The Mimetic Creation of Human Culture” (Free University of Berlin)
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5:00 PM	Q & A / Concluding Remarks
5:30 PM	Reception