

An abstract, low-poly geometric illustration of a hand holding a glowing green object. The hand is rendered in shades of blue and purple, with a bright green glow emanating from the palm. The background is a light pinkish-purple gradient with a large, faint geometric shape. The overall style is modern and digital.

Third Network Meeting  
Dis-/Abilities and Digital Media  
Online, 16-17 September 2021

# Access and Tinkering

## Designing Assistive Technologies as Political Practice

with an interactive maker session

### Organizers

Tom Bieling (Hamburg)  
Melike Şahinol (Istanbul)  
Anna-Lena Wiechern (Lüneburg)  
Robert Stock (Berlin)

# Workshop & Symposium

By drawing on STS, Crip Technoscience (Hamraie/Fritsch 2019) and approaches from participatory design research and practice, this event discusses body-technology relations from inter-, transdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives. We argue in favor of extending the concept of materiality beyond the borders of the physical object to include practices and relations and consequently, want to question common concepts of norm, normality, and normativity. Because these notions are not only entangled with artefacts but also with their design and the practices they involve, which include bodies embedded in historical, cultural, infrastructural and institutional contexts. Thus, they can be considered situated (Haraway 1988). As a result, questions and demands for inclusion and social participation, too, become virulent (Star 2017, 1999; Winner 1980) and have been problematized as politics of assistive artefacts (Mills 2012). In sum, we propose to re/frame technology and body (differences) as interacting entities within societies.

The event aims to think critically through a theoretical framework in the context of dis/abilities that recognizes assistive technologies as political as well as situated interconnections. On this basis, we endorse to reflect on infrastructures of design for questions of inclusion and participation – cross-cultural, inter- and trans-disciplinary. Reflecting on open source practices in medical and assistive technologies (e.g. 3D printing) will allow us to question the effects of heterogeneous interests, economic implications and everyday affordances of socio-material assemblages produced within the frameworks of participatory design research.

## **Interactive Maker Session**

In order to integrate body-technology relations from interdisciplinary standpoints as well as an awareness for the need for participatory design research as a policy of inclusion in social contexts, a maker session will be organized. For this purpose, hands-on kits will be sent out to participants after **prior registration**. The kits serve to didactically convey an understanding of how technological innovations and design issues related to body modifications or diversely enabled bodies are viewed both in terms of their effects on society and as shaped by societal norms, values, and frameworks. The number of kits is limited. If you are interested, please **register by 20 August 2021**.

## **Kits**

Please contact [sahinol\[at\]oiist.org](mailto:sahinol@oiist.org) until 20 August to receive a kit.

## **Accessibility**

German Sign Language Interpretation will be provided during public talks.

Please let us know about any further accessibility requirements by 15 August 2021 by emailing [robert.stock\[at\]hu-berlin.de](mailto:robert.stock@hu-berlin.de)

## **Registration Maker Session**

Please sign up through the Zoom registration page linked below to receive access to the public discussion and keynotes:

[https://hu-berlin.zoom.us/meeting/register/u50tdemupzMjGtK077RmdOcb26\\_v7OGXyG2g](https://hu-berlin.zoom.us/meeting/register/u50tdemupzMjGtK077RmdOcb26_v7OGXyG2g)

# Thursday, 16 September

All times are CEST

9:00-12:00pm

## Network Meeting

Internal Discussion – Session I

01:30-03:00pm

## Maker Session

Assembling 3D-printed prosthetic dummy  
“Phoenix Hand”  
(provided by Lars Thalmann, e-nable Germany)  
[Registration necessary]

03:30-05:00pm

## Roundtable Discussion [open to public]

“DIY-Prostheses, Toys and  
Remote-Prototyping“  
Isabelle Dechamps  
(Founder of be able, Berlin)  
Thomas Miebach and Daniel Wessolek  
(Open Health HACKAcademy)  
Zeynep Karagöz  
(ROBOTEL and e-nable, promaker)

07:00-08:30pm

## Keynote I [open to public]

Assoc Prof Aimi Hamraie  
PhD, (Vanderbilt University)  
“Crip Making”

# Friday, 17 September

09:00-12:00pm

## **Network Meeting**

Internal Discussion – Session II

01:30-03:00pm

## **Presentation** [open to public]

“The Pharmakon of Collaboration:  
Activating Research with the  
Independent Living Forum“

Tomás Sánchez Criado

PhD (Humboldt University)

03:30-05:00pm

## **Keynote II** [open to public]

“Inclusion – Accessibility – Normality:  
Some Remarks from a Dispositif-Analytical  
Perspective”

Prof Anne Waldschmidt

University of Cologne

# About the Network

The DFG-funded network „Dis/ability and Digital Media” works at the intersection of Disability Studies, Media Studies, STS, Ethnography, and Design, trying to disentangle the relationships between diversely abled bodies, sensory experiences and (digital) media technologies. The network members meet twice a year in order to discuss their own research but also to speak to experts from various related fields.

## Contact

Scientific Network

Dis/Abilities and Digital Media

Prof Robert Stock & Christian Meier zu Verl

<https://dis-abilities-and-digital-media.org/>

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