

Creating Better Visualisations

with STS

A workshop with guest lecture
by **Laura Watts**

How can we advance visualisation practices as modes of doing STS? While STS has been at the forefront of analyzing the role of visualizations in scientific practice (e.g. Latour, Lynch & Woolgar, Daston & Galison etc.), the role of visualizations in STS has gained little attention.

In this workshop, we put to 'trial' our own visualisations and visual practices. In so doing, we invite participants to bring visualizations drawn from their past or ongoing projects which will be used as a resource for the cross-examination of visualization practices in STS.

In groups, we will first analyze these visualisations, and invite participants to consider typical STS questions, such as:

How do these visualisations represent the world?

How do they draw together?
How do they bring different entities and elements into a single and consistent plane?

How are entities included into collectives and what gets excluded, or othered?

What are the visualization techniques employed to include and exclude and how are they enacted?

What are the agencies, competencies and politics behind them?

In a second step, we will re-work these visualisations, based on the analysis gained in the first step. We will aim to include hitherto forgotten objects and actors as well proposing virtual entities in order to consider how visualisation can move analysis from the reflexive to considerations of the speculative.

This will involve trying different perspectives in order to see what happens if others (experts, scholars, practitioners, implicated actors and so on) become invested in our own visualisations.

The workshop will begin with a lecture by Laura Watts (Interdisciplinary Senior Lecturer in Energy & Society, University of Edinburgh and author of 'Energy at the End of the World: An Orkney Islands Saga', MIT Press) on 'Seeing the energy future on the page: working in the whitespace between words'

Workshop participants are asked to bring a visual aspect of their own research project and an interest in opening their project up to engagement with other participants.

Tuesday February 18th 2020
10AM - 5PM

Registration is required:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/goldsmiths-visualization-workshop-tickets-85618227423>

Organised by Michael Guggenheim,
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Participation is FREE
and lunch will be served