

Department for Architecture Theory
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Abstract Traces

archives and agendas
of capture and control

a conversation with
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18.02.2022 - 2:00 PM CET
online symposium
meeting ID: 628 9127 4274 | passcode: 307969



Against the backdrop of digital capitalism, data-driven cultural techniques¹ are increasingly manifested in architecture, provoking vital questions about how data is produced, collected, transmitted and processed.

Archival practices and agendas creep further into architecture as vast data sets influence software-aided design and new interfaces for architectural conception and production. Building information modeling (BIM) libraries for architectural design, databases for structural analysis and many other data-driven practices are applied daily, but their instrumentarian power² is rarely questioned.

The symposium 'Abstract Traces' addresses the agency³ of the producers and users of data sets, and their agendas of capture and control. What are the traces of power influencing memory, thinking and creativity? We invite and explore counter-archiving practices that challenge and expose those agendas. The symposium examines the purposes of data collection, how it is conveyed and archived and how access is granted (or denied). Most importantly, it challenges the archiving conditions of today to reimagine the conditions of tomorrow.

1. Bernhard Siegert, *Cultural Techniques: Grids, Filters, Doors, and Other Articulations of the Real*, trans. Geoffrey Winthrop-Young, New York: Fordham University Press, 2015.
2. Shoshana Zuboff, *The Age of Surveillance Capitalism: The Fight for a Human Future at the New Frontier of Power*, London: Profile Books, 2019.
3. Bruno Latour, *Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Partners and Funding



Abstract Traces is an online symposium organized by the collaborators of the Taught Research Project *Archives: Fevering, Filing, Caring*

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Further updates and information on the website

→abstracttraces.info