

INVITATION **Preconference NECS:**

Workshop #3 Experimental Media Archaeology

With members of the NETWORK FOR EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA ARCHAEOLOGY (NEMA)

DATE Wednesday June 28
TIME 13.30 -17.00h
LOCATION Université Paris Diderot - Paris 7
**Workshop # 3 in Salle 789C,
Campus Grands Moulins C Building, 7th floor**

For details on preconference events, see <https://necs.org/conference/>

Preamble

Recent research has focused on the apparatuses in film, television, radio, and pre-cinema archives, research labs, and museum technology collections. Such research projects have created a growing awareness of the challenges faced by the community of film/media scholars as well as curators. Anyone who deals with technological devices inevitably senses to have “lost touch” with older practises of media use: paradoxically, the awareness of the historical gap between now and then is acutely deepened by the archive’s material, sensorial presence of film reels, optical toys, and historical apparatuses such as editing tables, magic lanterns, cameras, projectors, video recorders and old television and radio sets. Such devices are related to capricious archaeologies, including curious old instructions for use. The good part is: such “leftovers” of past user practices are (at least partly) available for media researchers and old and obsolete technologies may well be seen, touched, re-used, studied, and experimented with.

Members of the NETWORK FOR EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA ARCHAEOLOGY (NEMA) plea for a physical engagement with these historical artefacts, to stimulate the media scholars’ and curators’ *sensorial appropriation* of the past and to reflect critically on the hidden or non-verbalised *tacit* knowledge that informs any engagement with media technologies. In doing what we have named *experimental* media archaeology, we plea for a *hands-on*, integral approach of media technologies, taking the material, sensorial and experiential dimensions of past media practices into consideration. We envision a use of archives as “research laboratories”: to explore new ways of writing media history as well as innovative ways to curate media devices and exhibit media heritage.

Objective

One of the workshop’s objectives is to contribute to a discussion of the central concepts of an experimental media archaeological approach (such as "re-enactment", "heuristic of groping", "experimental knowledge production", "thinkering", re-sensitise, media awareness /transparency) by assessing the value of these concepts within a range of research and curatorial practices. Another objective is to explore the basis for joint research / archival / curatorial projects with a hardware, *hands-on*, experimental and sensorial approach to the history of film /media / technology. A third objective is to frame and support joint research applications in the field of *experimental* media archaeology and *hands-on history*.

Setup

Film and media scholars and curators and NEMA members are invited to contribute to the workshop with five to ten-minute contributions / presentations reflecting on their own research, curatorial and educational practices, in light of the objectives stated. Hands-on experiments, however small, are meant to invite discussions of the analytical, experiential, and experimental potential of the approach as noted/experienced in one's own practice. The line-up of short presentations during the workshop will function as input to the workshop's discussion of media experiments and experiences, procedures, protocols, benefits and implications for researching, curating media devices/heritage, on site and online, will be discussed too.

Contributors

Members of NEMA and are particularly warmly invited to attend the workshop and to contribute to the discussion and presentations. You are welcome to do so in any way you want. If you want to be lined up for a presentation in advance, please contact Andreas Fickers andreas.fickers@uni.lu and Annie van den Oever a.m.a.van.den.oever@rug.nl