Domestics Against Domestication

A study day to rethink practices and politics of the domestic.

Thursday, 30 May 2019 from 10:30-17:00
University of Roehampton, room HO.002 Howard lecture room, Jubilee Building, ground floor.

Convened by Dr. Valeria Graziano (Coventry University) and Dr. Giulia Palladini (University of Roehampton).

With contribution by: Valeria Graziano | Bettina Knaup | Giulia Palladini | Ella Parry-Davis | Eleanor Roberts | Kim Trogal | Ana Vilenica.

About:

The starting point for this study day is the idea that the set of activities associated with organizing, maintaining and inhabiting a house constitutes a category in its own right. As much as the organizing, maintaining and inhabiting a polis, this category is not a given, but a field of struggle and imagination.

In this gathering we shall explore together a set of questions:

• how to uncouple the idea of ‘home’ from the realm of private life and make it an instrument to think and build public life?

• how does the qualifier ‘domestic’ transform different practices, objects and techniques?

• can we think the domestic – historically constructed as a sphere in contrast with the public/political realm – as a site of radical transformation rather than adoption of trends or meanings developed elsewhere?
• which politics of the ‘domestic’ can we invent, beyond its connotation as the site of recovery from wage-labour, consumption and reproduction of family values?

• what knowledges and transdisciplinary outlooks are necessary for redefining the issues at play here?

• what different uses of the domestic can we learn from past and contemporary images, gestures, and narratives?

If technological domestication has functioned as a key framework to understand how industrial modernity has shaped home life, it is high time to question again the demarcations of what this entails today, both in terms of the gendered, class and racial division of domestic labor and in terms of repurposing the technological means of social reproduction.

The invited speakers will share short contributions exploring this line of thinking in relation to their own research. These interventions would be followed by more informal conversations. This gathering is conceived as the first of a series of conversations, hopefully operating as the base for further collaborative research, including speakers and participants alike.

This event is supported by the Centre for Postdigital Cultures (Coventry University) and the Centre for Performance and Creative Exchange (University of Roehampton).

The contributors:

Valeria Graziano is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Postdigital Cultures, Coventry University. She is co-editor with Kim Trogal of ‘Repair Matters’, a special issue of the ephemera: Theory & Politics in Organisation (2019) and convenor of the international project Pirate Care (piratecare.net).

Bettina Knaup is a curator and a PhD candidate at the Department of Drama, Theatre and Performance, Roehampton University. She was program coordinator of the International Women’s University, Hannover, and co-curator of the City of Women Festival, Ljubljana. Among her projects is the long term exhibition and archive re.act.feminism #2 – a performing archive.

Giulia Palladini is Senior Lecturer at the Department of Drama, Theatre and Performance, Roehampton University. She is the author of The Scene of Foreplay: Theater, Labor and Leisure in 1960s New York (2017) and co-editor with Marco Pustianaz of Lexicon for an Affective Archive (2017).

Ella Parry-Davis is a British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at Central School for Speech and Drama. She is currently working on a three-year project entitled ‘Home-Makers: Urban Expertise in the Philippine Diaspora’, exploring diasporic home-making practices in UK and Lebanon.

Eleanor Roberts is Lecturer at the at the Department of Drama, Theatre and Performance, Roehampton University. She convened a number of research and archival projects such as Are We There Yet? - A Study Room Guide on Live Art and Feminism (With L. Weaver / Live Art Development Agency) and Restock, Rethink, Reflect: Live Art, Feminism and the Archive (2013-2015).

Kim Trogal is Lecturer at the Canterbury School of Architecture, University of the Creative Arts. She is co-editor of The Social (Re)Production of Architecture (2017); of Architecture and
Ana Vilenica is a researcher and an activist. She edited the book Becoming a Mother in Neoliberal Capitalism (2013) and co-edited On the Ruins of Creative City (2013). She was a postdoctoral Marie Curie Research Fellow at School of Arts and creative industries, LSBU, where she has been working on a project on the role of art in housing crises in London and Belgrade.