

Sensing Fungi

Invisible Agencies and the Underground

8–10 October 2025

ifk Internationales Forschungszentrum

Kulturwissenschaften

ifk Arkade

Reichsratsstraße 17

1010 Vienna

ifk

University of Arts
Linz

Conference

Sensing Fungi.

Invisible Agencies and the Underground

Fungi are everywhere. They colonize our bodies and environments, enrich food and medicine, provide sustainable materials, and some even withstand the most extreme conditions. With their refined perceptual capacities, fungi are masters of adaptation and collaboration, engaging in myriad forms of symbiosis. Through their wood-wide webs, mycelial networks supply forests with vital resources and infrastructure while sequestering large amounts of carbon. They can divide into multiple individuals and persist for millennia—challenging prevailing notions of identity and terminality.

From shamans and witches to lucky New Year's fly agarics and the psychedelic movement, fungi have always been woven into human culture. Yet as mediators between organic and inorganic matter, feared for their toxicity, and resisting categorization as well as cultivation, they have long been sidelined by academia—relegated to the underworld, dark spaces, and a secret knowledge embodying the unconscious »other« of an enlightened, rationalized view of nature and culture. Given today's socio-ecological challenges, fungi offer a generative ground for rethinking ecological practice and more-than-human coexistence from below.

The conference is being organized in cooperation with Wiener Pilzfestspiele:
www.pilzfestspiele.at



THE CONFERENCE WILL BE A HYBRID EVENT.

To participate via Zoom, you have to register for the meeting with your name and e-mail address.

You can find the links on our website in the calendar entry for the event:
www.ifk.ac.at

Wednesday,
8 October
2025

ifk Arkade
and
ifk@Zoom

10:00 **Rotting Unconscious.
DIY Mycology Workshop**
with SPORA Studio Paris

Participants are invited to bring their own book about unconscious,
as a substrate to the experiment!

The event will be held in English; places are limited,
please register per email to: hoegler@ifk.ac.at

Doors open: 9:30 am

13:00 **End**

14:30 **Welcome and Introduction**
Sarah Kolb and Jutta Strohmaier

15:30 **Alison Pouliot**
Underground Lovers. Fostering Fungal Networks of the Subterrain

16:30 **Break**

Keynote
17:00 **Peter McCoy**
A Return to the Web

18:30 **SPORA: Rotting Unconscious**
Vernissage & Artist Talk with SPORA / Charlotte Janis &
Roberto dell'Orco

Thursday,
9 October
2025

ifk Arkade
and
ifk@Zoom

- 10:30 **Maja-Lisa Müller**
Theatrum Fungorum. An Ecosophical Play in Three Acts
- 11:30 **Feifei Zhou**
FUNGI: Anarchist Designers
- 12:30 Lunch Break
- 15:30 **Julia Ihls**
Mycelial Modes of Coexistence. Towards a Convivial Material Ethic
- 16:30 Break
- 17:00 **Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez**
Mycelial Teachings in the Arts
- 18:00 **Maija Hirvanen**
Mycoscores / Choreospores

Friday,
10 October
2025

ifk Arkade
and
ifk@Zoom

10:30 **Johanna Ficht, Erik Göngrich,
Maria Kobylenko and Nora Wilhelm**
Pilz-Kunst-Labor, Berlin

11:30 **Magdalena Breitwieser, Jitka Effenberger,
Nikolaus Gansterer, Sarah Kolb,
Fabricio Lamoncha, Flavia Matei and
Jutta Strohmaier**

Concluding panel discussion with faculty members of the
University of Arts Linz and the Johannes Kepler University Linz

13:00 **End**

Concept: Co.Lab Mycelial Space / Sarah Kolb & Jutta Strohmaier (Linz)

Participants: Magdalena Breitwieser (Linz), Roberto Dell'Orco (Paris),
Jitka Effenberger (Linz), Nikolaus Gansterer (Kunstuniversität Linz),
Erik Göngrich (Berlin), Majja Hirvanen, Julia Ihls (Karlsruhe),
Charlotte Janis (Paris), Maria Kobylenko (Berlin), Fabricio Lamoncha
(Linz), Flavia Matei (Linz), Peter McCoy (Portland), Maja-Lisa Müller
(Bielefeld), Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodríguez (Mexico City), Alison
Pouliot (Victoria/Biel), Nora Wilhelm (Berlin), Feifei Zhou (New York)