

# ART LIFE & THE RULE OF LAW

**March 13-14 2014 Lund University**

*Venue: Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.kultur.lu.se/forskning/symposium>

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## Symposium - Art, Life and the Rule of Law International Colloquium in Lund, Sweden, March 13-14 2014

This is an interdisciplinary scholarly meeting about creativity, law and human biology. Art and law are in many ways opposites. Law is rule making, restrictive and aims at a common standard for all, while art is norm breaking and seeks the exceptional and unique. And yet art and law mirror each other. Art issues aesthetic regimes and semiotic rule systems. The authority of law, in turn, depends on a creative, performative declaration: “This is the law!” In the last instance, law and art compete for sovereignty, refusing subservience. Into this superimposition and tension between creativity and rule, the colloquium inserts the question of human biology. Biopolitics has emerged as a cornerstone for understanding modern society, from the invention of health care systems to the construction of concentration camps. Law divides human life into citizens and aliens, through postulating citizenship as a birthright and through granting or refusing migrants and refugees legal protection and access to healthcare. On another level, the biosciences’ dismantling of the body into parts and particles—from kidneys to stem cells and neurons—has legal institutions struggling to regulate organ trade and to find new definitions of human dignity, as seen in the recent EU ban on patents based on embryonic stem cell research. Law faces a human biology that transgresses bodily and national boundaries alike; perhaps it is not surprising that legal and biological meaning merge in theoretical concepts such as “immunity”. Art, in turn, has always held its gaze on the human body. For Renaissance and Enlightenment culture, the depicted anatomical body served as conceptual model for imagining cosmos and society as harmonious unities. During World War II, painters like Fautrier and Bacon channeled the despair of the era into explorations of the human as a vulnerable and mute body-thing. Today, artists like Abramović, Hatoum, Stelarc, and Catts and Zurr investigate new meanings of bodily existence in late modernity—from commoditized biology to machine-animal hybridity. The colloquium will bring together around twenty scholars from around the world in a dialogue about art and law, each with its inherent tension between rule and creativity, how they shed light on each other, and how they inform our understanding of the facts, politics and aesthetics of human biology, today and in history.

**Art, Life and the Rule of Law, March 13-14 2014, Lund University  
PROGRAM**

**Venue: Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University. Biskopsgatan 7,  
Building Kulturanatomen, room 201.**

Information:

<http://www.kultur.lu.se/en/research/symposium-art-life-and-the-rule-of-law/>

• **Thursday 13 March**

- 9:00-9:30 *Welcome, coffee*
- 9:30-11:30 *Block I*
  - Carsten Juhl (The Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen), *From the Critique of the Spectacular to the Critical Body*
  - Allen Feldman (New York University), *Of Self-Retracting Self-Substituting Sovereignities: Richter's Apophatic Gaze and the Political Autodestruct*
  - Daniella Carpi (University of Verona), *Jodi Picoult's 'My Sister's Keeper': new definitions of human dignity in novel and film*
  - Ari Hirvonen (University of Helsinki), *Capitalism, Ego and Body*
  - Discussion
- 11:30-12:30 *Visit to Lunds Konsthall: Don't Embarrass the Bureau.* Guided tour by curator, Matteo Lucchetti.
- 12:30-13:30 *Lunch*
- 13:30-15:30 *Block II*
  - Abu Lawrence Hamdan (artist, London), *The Whole Truth/Aural Contract*
  - Linda Shamma (artist, Stockholm), *Modus Operandi—Studies of Forensics Narratives*
  - Gregor Noll (Lund University), *Creation, Imagination, Speculation: Age Assessment in the Asylum Procedure*
  - Isabelle Letellier (Stockholm University), *The Institution of the Body and Body Art*
  - Discussion
- 15:30-16:00 *Coffee*
- 16:00-17:30: *Block III*
  - Christine Poggi (University of Pennsylvania), *Mona Hatoum's Nomadic Maps*
  - Alexander Carnera (Copenhagen Business School), *In Praise of Profanation – Law, Life and the Critical Ethos of Justice*
  - Cristina Constantini (University of Perugia), *The Coreography of Biopolitical Ontologies. 'Baring life' through artistic decisions, legal projections and normative discourses*
  - Discussion
- 19:00 *Dinner*

- **Friday 14 March**

- 09:15-09:30 Coffee
- 09:30-11:30 Block IV
  - Cecilia Sjöholm (Södertörn University, Stockholm), *Rites of Life: The Question of Bios in Contemporary Art*
  - Julia Chryssostalis (University of Westminster), 'Kollektiva Omonioia': *Law, Art and the (Im)Political*
  - Patrick Hanafin (University of London), *Ethopoetical Encounters: Sovereignty, Writing, Death*
  - Joanna Zylinska (Goldsmith College, University of London), *Is Evolution a Law or a Theory? Artistic Interrogation of the Meaning and Matter of Life*
  - Discussion
- 11:30-12:00 Coffee
- 12:00-14:00 Block V
  - Annamaria Carusi (University of Copenhagen), *Converging Vision and Scientific Judgement*
  - Joan Haran (Cardiff University), *Fact and Fiction in Cultural Representations of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research*
  - Nik Brown (University of York), *Dark Biology? Hybrid Life and Grotesque Imaginaries*
  - Markus Schmidt (Biofaction, Vienna), *Bio-fiction: Sensing Possibilities of How a Debate about Synthetic Biology Might Evolve*
  - Discussion
- 14:00-15:00 Lunch
- 15:00-16:30 Block VI
  - Peter Bengtsen (Lund University) & Matilda Arvidsson (Lund University), *Spatial Justice*
  - Leif Dahlberg (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm), *Biometrics and the Art of Law*
  - Max Liljefors (Lund University), *God's Blindness and the Omniscient Machine*
  - Discussion
- 16:30 Good bye