About the project:

Identity Crisis Network is a research project connecting artistic practices and discourses that challenge established notions of identity and subjectivity. By creating spaces for dialogue – through seminars, conferences, and other exchanges – artists, curators, and theorists are invited to contribute with new perspectives on these issues.

In the past few decades, the concept of identity has been marked as a fixed political determination. Given the term's inherent fluidity, diversity, multiplicity, and ambiguity, attempts to narrowly define it have proven restrictive, stretching its boundaries and, ultimately, causing them to burst. Practices aimed at making marginalized groups visible in the art world have often led to their compartmentalization or tokenization, deepening polarization and provoking culture wars within art institutions. Identity Crisis Network seeks to explore whether it is possible to move beyond established identity categories and simplified labels, both in cultural and political discourse. We aim to engage with identity politics not through a one-sided critique but by examining its potential to generate change within the realm of art. Through this project, we reflect on the philosophical, institutional, aesthetic, and political landscape we inhabit as artists, curators, and theorists – with the goal of envisioning new spaces where potential and contingent outcomes can emerge.

In doing so, we ask:

– How might we define identity? How can it be understood from various artistic, philosophical, or political perspectives?

– What is identity politics today? How does it affect art institutions, and how can we build new institutions that are democratic and diverse?

– How can we identify power dynamics within the art field, and what dominant discourses shape its relationships? How might these frameworks be transgressed, expanded, or dissolved?

– In what ways can art engage with these issues? What is the future of politically and socially engaged art?

– How can we move beyond biased categories when naming certain groups and identities in the art field, to avoid tokenization?

– How might art, fiction, and speculation help us imagine new modes of being? How do the internet and emerging technologies play into these questions?

To address these questions, we are bringing together thinkers and practitioners from diverse backgrounds, each engaging with the question of identity in different ways.

The project is lead by a team of curators and artists from the Eastern and Central Europe: Luka Cvetkovich, Klara Petrović, Michalina Sablik, Luja Šimunović, Vera Zalutskaya.

Seminars:

First part of the project will take place in 2024 and will consist of the six online seminars addressing the concept of identity through the lenses of technology, feminism & queer theory, decolonialism, politics, and philosophy. Each seminar features a lecture by invited theorists, artists, and curators representing these fields, fostering dialogue on how identity is reshaped in contemporary contexts.

Join us online each Tuesday and Thursday at 18:00 CET from the 19th of November to the 5th of December!

Link do sign in:

WEEK 1

19.11.2024.

Jan Sowa: In search for the common denominator(s): Is there a place for universalism in contemporary politics?

21.11.2024.

Aigerim Kapar: Care for Balkhash: "Interweaving Climate, Water(s) and Communities"

WEEK 2

26.11.2024.

Alice Bucknell: Ways of Worlding

28.11.2024.

Nav Haq: Art After Identity Politics

WEEK 3

03.12.2024.

Sylvia Sadzinski: Queer and Feminist Instituting

05.12.2024.

Maja Ćirić: Mastering Contemporary Growing Pains (in Central and Eastern European Art and Curating)

Conference

Second part of the project is a two-day conference scheduled in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Zagreb for May 2025, featuring 12 participants from various art fields. The event will include presentations, debates, and performances, creating a platform for discussing the intersection of identity, trauma, capitalism, technology, non-human, and artistic practices in an interdisciplinary setting.

Team: Luka Cvetkovich, Klara Petrović, Michalina Sablik, Luja Šimunović, Vera Zalutskaya

Organizers: Adam Mickiewicz Institute, Kućća, BUBA Foundation

Website: https://identitycrisisnetwork.com/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/icn_____/