

Anna-Carolina Zuiderduin, Alice Fox, Jonathan de Haan

Panel on Technology & Applied Hauntology

Reconceptualizing possibilities of the future often reveals that each step forward is entangled with the theologies, cultures, and actions of the past. The past does not merely shape or inform the future, and how the future is conceptualized throughout society—the past is an active interlocutor with both the present and the future, whose actions force the hand of humanity in surprising and terrifying ways. Jacques Derrida termed the extended communal with these omnipresent and evanescent specters of humanities past as hauntology. Derrida's approach built the case for how the values, politics, and policies of yore are enacted in the present and determine the future. These foundations have been taken up and expanded upon not only through the humanities, but also throughout the social sciences and arts . The appropriation of hauntology by these fields has resulted in novel understandings of how theologies of the future haunt, and are haunted by, the limitations of faced in the present and the past (Fisher, 2012). The focus of this panel will be to discuss the possibilities for applied hauntology to be extended to the realm of the technological. How do various societal dispositions toward the future—articulated through myths, legends, and stories— incite actions in the present and determine futures? How do they haunt technological designs and innovations? How can we learn to engage meaningfully with ghosts to secure better futures for everyone?