

OPEN CALL RENEWABLE FUTURES CONFERENCE 2017 — ECONOMIA

BALTAN LABORATORIES,
EINDHOVEN (NL)
JANUARY 20 - 22, 2017.

Second edition of art and science
conference series in Europe and
the Baltic Sea region.

Renewable Futures aims to invent new avenues for more sustainable and imaginative future developments. The first conference took place in Riga (LV) exploring the transformative potential of art. The second *Renewables Futures* conference will take place in Eindhoven, aiming to push the boundaries of our thinking about economy. The conference will be a part of *Economia* festival organized by Baltan Laboratories in Natlab, former physics lab of Philips. *Economia* is a three-day festival in which we collectively explore new ideas and thinking about our economy. The event is a laboratory for ideas, a place where we can step out of the existing frame. We will use unexpected and playful approaches looking at the essentials of economy, thus establishing a fresh point of view on the economic system and our society.

About *Economia*

In the eighties economics transformed more and more into a so called hard science. Economics reduced its various approaches of our complex and unpredictable economic behavior, to one comprehensive theory known as the neoclassical or neoliberal model. This model captured economic behavior in mathematical formulas. It had the beauty of simplicity, the predictability of a formula and sounded too logical not to be true.

Like most powerful technologies dating from after the Second World War, economics has influenced the world of our ideas, how we define ourselves, and how we organize our society. Just as the discovery of DNA forced us to look differently at life, and the developments in ICT made our world smaller in unprecedented ways, the neoliberal model caused a huge shift from common interest to individual interest, and from a long term view to a short term view.

It is striking how little imagination this hard economic approach generates. Economics has no equivalent of multiple universes, singularity or space-travelling. No strange life forms in the depths of the ocean or on other planets, no artificial or eternal life. Economics is astoundingly prosaic and, rather than to explore and push the boundaries of its own domain, it seems to move inward, in precisely the opposite direction.

Since the outbreak of the financial crises in 2007/2008, uncertainty about the effectiveness and validity of the neoliberal model has grown considerably. Economics, as a social technology in its present form, provides no solution to issues of climate change and social inequality. It cannot help us organize social alliances, public interests or develop long-term prospects. Its results no longer appeal. The added value of efficiency and productivity are outweighed by the numerous disadvantages of reducing all values to market value.

Although critique on the neo-liberal model grows, no new answers or alternatives have been proposed yet. In the search for new economic insights and alternatives to the current model, why not start by treating economics like any other technology? Playing with it, hacking it, using input from other disciplines, unleashing science fiction on it, approach it in an artistic manner. In short, taking ownership so that we can reshape and rework economics as we see fit. Because however meaningful, criticizing the current model won't rid us of it. And we aim to do precisely that.

The aim of the festival and conference is to approach economics in new ways and look at our economic system and society with the detached view of the visitor, researcher, gamer, alien and artist. We want to reclaim economy as a social/cultural structure that we created, ridding us of the idea of economics as an inevitable law of nature.

More information www.thinkeconomia.nl

OPEN CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS AND ARTWORKS

We welcome presentations by academic researchers, designers, artists, scientists, students, social entrepreneurs, visionaries and other creative thinkers and practitioners to submit proposals with regards to the following themes:

Economy as evolution:

Economics is about development and evolution. Societies develop and the direction they take is determined partly by the type of economic relationships they develop. Parallels are often drawn between these developments in culture and those in nature.

Economics as a game:

Economics is about rules and laws. Just like other types of relationships in the edifice of a society, an existing system of economic relationships adheres to certain laws and regulations. Gaming is about learning the laws and rules of a game so that you can play it better and better.

Economics as a fiction:

Economics is about ideas and faith. Credit has existed right from the start of societies, in the form of trust that A would pay B. Just as today, you would do a task for future reward in whatever form. Every form of economic relationship is an idea, or to put it better perhaps a prejudice. Which means it can change.

Economics as a market:

Economics is about supply and demand. The greatest and most misunderstood cliché. Demand and supply is a way to describe life. Each influences the other in an unpredictable and complex ways.

Economics as magic:

Economy is both tangible and invisible. We are familiar with two forms of trade, goods and money. The one that you can handle and the other that exists only in the form of ones and zeros. The latter seems like pure magic. It is with good reason that some of these 'financial wizards' call themselves 'Master of the universe'.

Format papers

Proposals should explore at least one of the 5 proposed themes, which are at the heart of this conference. Selected speakers are invited to present their papers as part of the conference and are encouraged to engage within lively discussions amongst peers, experts, and the general audience.

- Paper requirements: Length of abstract: **250 words** max.
+ short biography: **100 words**.
- Deadline for submitting your proposal is **30 September, 2016**.
Notification for acceptance will be sent before **15 of November**.

Submit your proposal to: <http://openconf.rixc.lv/>

More information conference series: <http://renewablefutures.net>

Format artworks:

proposals for developing or showcasing art projects (installations, performances, video based work, etc.) should contain a description of the art project (max 1 A4), with a minimum of 2 photo's and/or a link to website referring to previously developed works. Selection of artworks will be based on quality, feasibility and the connection to the overall theme.

- Deadline for submitting your proposal is **30 September, 2016**.
Notification for acceptance will be sent before **15 of November**.

Send your proposal to Olga Mink, info@baltanlaboratories.org,
subject: Artwork proposal Renewable Futures Conference 2017.

Festival curators:

Wiepko Oosterhuis, Olga Mink

Conference chairs:

Rasa Smite (RIXC), Olga Mink (Baltan Laboratories), Wiepko Oosterhuis.

CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC BOARD:

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PARTICIPATION FEE / TRAVEL / ACCOMMODATION

Conference Registration Fee:

Early Bird €50,- until December 1, 2016 / Full Price: €65,-
Student fee: Early Bird €25,- / Full Price: €35,-
Early Bird registration will open autumn 2016.
Conference tickets will also grant access to the Economica festival.

The conference participants will be asked to take care about covering their own travel and accommodation costs. We will provide you with official invitation letters, encouraging to apply for travel support at your home universities. Selected exhibition artists will be asked to cover all the artwork production costs by themselves - we only will cover the costs related to the exhibiting the works in Eindhoven.

We have limited funding to support travel and accommodation for independent artists and researchers from Europe. Also, as we welcome proposals from countries outside of the EU, we are offering a possibility to apply for covering either your European part of travel, or accommodation costs.

- * For academic scholars and PhD students - after the notification (November 15, 2016), we will provide you with an official letter of invitation, addressed to your university (upon request).
- * For independent artists and/or researchers - who are not able to cover their travel costs, there will be possibility to apply for travel support.
- * For artists and/or representatives from art/culture organizations - partial support (i.e. accommodation) can be considered upon the individual request.

CONTACT:

INFO@BALTANLABORATORIES.ORG,
IXC@RIXC.LV

ORGANIZERS:

BALTAN LABORATORIES IN COLLABORATION
WITH RIXC AND RENEWABLE FUTURE
EUROPEAN NETWORK.
[HTTP://BALTANLABORATORIES.ORG](http://baltanlaboratories.org)



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union

