

# FABIAN OFFERT

---

✉ fabian@zentralwerkstatt.org  
🌐 www.zentralwerkstatt.org  
🐙 github.com/zentralwerkstatt  
🐦 twitter.com/haltingproblem

## EDUCATION

**PhD Candidate** | 2014 – present  
in Media Arts and Technology  
Experimental Visualization Lab  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
Committee: Profs. George Legrady, Marko Peljhan, Wolf Kittler, Alan Liu  
Thesis: *What Are Images of Neural Networks Images Of? Epistemology and Aesthetics of Interpretable Machine Learning*, to be defended 2019

**Visiting Fellow** | 2011  
University of California, Berkeley

**Diploma** | 2006 – 2012  
in Applied Theater Studies  
Justus Liebig University Gießen  
Advisor: Prof. Heiner Goebbels  
Thesis: *Information, Konzept, Berechenbarkeit. Zum Computer als Medium der Kunst*

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- Visiting Research Fellow for Digital Art History, Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen/Nürnberg | 2019
- Fellow of the Regents of the University of California | 2014 – 2018
- Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency in Machine Learning conference New York travel grant | 2018
- Dispositif pour la Création Artistique Multimédia et Numérique, Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée, France (USD 20,000) | 2018
- Impulse Neue Musik (USD 10,000) | 2018
- Kunststiftung NRW (USD 50,000) | 2017
- Fellow of the German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes) | 2006 – 2012
- European Universities Berkeley Fellowship | 2011
- Fellow of the German Academic Exchange Service (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) | 2010

## EXPERIENCE

**Lecturer** | 2018 – present  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
• Winter 2019: Machine Learning and the Arts  
• Spring 2018: Aesthetics and Politics of Artificial Intelligence

**Graduate Student Researcher** | 2015 – present  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
• Word embedding research for the Mellon-funded WE1S humanities advocacy project (PI: Alan Liu)  
• Machine learning research for the STAGE Lab at the University of Chicago (PI: Nancy Kawalek)

**Teaching Assistant** | 2017 - 2018  
University of California, Santa Barbara  
• Fall 2017: Intersections of Art and Technology in a Computational Context  
• Winter 2017: Music and Technology

**Assistant Curator** | 2012 – 2014  
ZKM | Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe  
• Selection of works and exhibition design  
• Project and budget management  
• Successful grants exceeding USD 1,000,000

**Intern** | 2010  
Goethe-Institut New York  
• Project and budget management  
• Assistant director for performance *Hotel Savoy*

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

*Spatial Extension: Exhibiting and Preserving Machine Learning Systems*, in: *Deutsches Museum Studies* | forthcoming

*Images of Image Machines. Visual Interpretability in Digital Art History*, *Proceedings of the ECCV* | 2019

*"I know it when I see it". Visualization and Intuitive Interpretability*, *Proceedings of the NIPS Symposium on Interpretable Machine Learning* | 2017

*Conceptual Superposition. The Aesthetics of Quantum Simulation*, *SIGGRAPH Asia Art Papers* | 2015

## BOOK CHAPTERS

*Hands on Circuits. Preserving the Semantic Surplus of Circuit-Level Functionality with Programmable Logic Devices*, in: *Hands On Media History*, ed. by John Ellis and Nick Hall, Routledge | forthcoming

*Beyond the Scenes. Sasha Waltz's Objects and Installations Between Theater and the Visual Arts*, in: *Sasha Waltz. Installations, Objects, Performances*, ed. by Peter Weibel et. al., Hatje-Cantz | 2015

## EXHIBITION CATALOGS

*Open Sources*, ed. by Fabian Offert and Juan Manuel Escalante, University of California, Santa Barbara | 2015

*Jonas Mekas: 365 Day Project*, ed. by Fabian Offert, ZKM | Center for Art and Media | 2014

## TALKS

Vision as Critique conference, University of California, Irvine | 2019

MAT Seminar Keynote, University of California, Santa Barbara | 2018

ECCV VISART Workshop, Munich | 2018

International Colloquium on the Digital Humanities, Architecture, Artistic Research, and Critical Technical Practice, EPFL Lausanne | 2017

NIPS Symposium on Interpretable Machine Learning, Long Beach, California | 2017

International Workshop on the Material Authenticity of the Ephemeral, Deutsches Museum, Munich | 2017

International Meeting of the Society for Philosophy and Technology, TU Darmstadt | 2017

[image here] conference, Harvard University | 2017

Hands On History. Exploring New Methodologies for Media History Research conference, University of London | 2016

Radical Ephemerality conference, University of California, Santa Barbara | 2016

SIGGRAPH Asia, Kobe, Japan | 2015

## RESEARCH BLOG POSTS

Fabian Offert, "What Could an Artificial Intelligence Theater Be?", 2019

Fabian Offert, "Notes on the Curatorial Challenges of an Emerging Media Art Form", 2018

Fabian Offert, Teddy Roland, Devin Cornell, "Word Embeddings for Restricted Access Corpora", 2018

Fabian Offert, "Intuition and Epistemology of High-Dimensional Vector Space", 2017

## WORKSHOPS

Interpretable Machine Learning and the Arts, ISEA 2019, Gwangju, Korea | 2019

Images of Image Machines. Theory and Practice of Interpretable Machine Learning for the Digital Humanities, European Summer University in Digital Humanities, Leipzig | 2019

## EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES

*Anthroposcene*, Experimental Music Theater, Festival ECLAT, Stuttgart, La Comédie de Reims, France, Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf | 2018

*Open Sources*, Exhibition, University of California, Santa Barbara | 2015

*Jonas Mekas. 365 Day Project*, Exhibition, ZKM | Center for Art and Media | 2015

*P-Server*, Experimental Music Theater, Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, Paris, collaboration with IRCAM/Centre Pompidou | 2013

*Drumming*, Experimental Music Theater, Maison de la Musique, Nanterre, and Théâtre de l'Archipel, Perpignan, France | 2013

*Move on Asia. Video Art in Asia 2002-2012*, Exhibition, ZKM | Center for Art and Media | 2012

*Szenisches Konzert*, Experimental Music Theater, Festival Frankfurter Positionen, Frankfurt am Main, collaboration with Ensemble Modern | 2011

## TECHNICAL SKILLS/STACKS

- Machine learning: Python, Jupyter, TensorFlow, PyTorch, Keras, Caffe, Linux
- Data visualization: C++, GLSL, Python, Processing, Unity, Blender, Unreal
- Digital preservation: Docker, Git, Arduino, Raspberry Pi, FPGAs
- Web: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, APIs, S3

## LANGUAGES

German, English, French