



NICOLAUS COPERNICUS
UNIVERSITY
IN TORUŃ

Faculty of Humanities

THE CULTURE OF ATTRACTIONS: PAST AND PRESENT

International Conference organized by the Research Group

“Performance Studies and Drama Translation”

10–12 September 2025

Collegium Maius, Fosa Staromiejska 3,

Toruń, Poland

Wednesday, 10 September 2025

9:45–10:00 *Conference Opening*

10:00–11:30 | Keynote Speech

in English | Room 307, Kolankowski Hall

Nele Wynants (University of Antwerp, Belgium)

Louder, Brighter, Stranger: Theatricality, Competition, and the Culture of Attractions on the Nineteenth-Century Fairground

Q&A

11:30–12:00 *Coffee Break*

12:00–13:30 | Session 1 | Ether and Matter of the Culture of Attractions

in English | Room 307, Kolankowski Hall

Kurt Vanhoutte (University of Antwerp, Belgium)

Enchanted Matter: Charged Objects and the Culture of Attractions

Łukasz Biskupski (University of Łódź, Poland)

Beyond Visuality: The Longue Durée of the Culture of Attractions in Gastronomy

Joanna Walewska-Choptiany (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland)

Spectrologies of the Ether: Pirates, Ghosts, Phantom Trucks, a Talking Mongoose, and the BBC on the Verge of Licence Renewal

12:00–13:30 | Session 2 | *Polska kultura atrakcji: od teatru i kina do immersji / Polish Culture of Attractions: from Audiovisual Experience to Immersion*
in Polish | Room 311

Martyna Groth (Aleksander Zelwerowicz Theatre Academy, Warsaw, Poland)

William Kentridge: magik kinoteatru

Monika Wąsik-Linder (University of Łódź, Poland)

Nowoczesne „autoflirty”. Doświadczenie motoryzacyjne na scenach teatrów rozrywkowych przełomu XIX i XX wieku

Margaretta Mielewczyk (Culture and Sport Centre in Żukowo, Poland)

Technologie immersyjne w kulturze atrakcji na przykładzie projektów edukacyjnych

13:30–15:00 *Lunch Break*

15:00–16:30 | Session 3 | *Affects, Amusement and Archaeology of the Culture of Attractions*
in English | Room 307, Kolankowski Hall

Erkki Huhtamo (University of California, Los Angeles, USA)

From Culture of Attractions to the Society of the Spectacle: An Archaeology of Transitions and Continuities

Friederike Hirz (independent artist, Germany)

Affect and Attraction: The Performative Reprogramming of Spectacle in Florentina Holzinger's Work

Artur Duda (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland)

The Energetic Bodies of Volksbühne: for Profit, Amusement and Liberation

15:00–17:00 | Session 4 | *Polska kultura atrakcji w kontekście religii/ Polish Culture of Attractions in the Context of Religion*
in Polish | Room 311

Magda Nabiałek-Przytuła (University of Warsaw, Poland)

Atrakcja i demaskacja – jak działa szopka? (na przykładzie „Gry o Herodzie” Witolda Wandurskiego)

Agnieszka Pałucka (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland)

Polscy romantycy wobec XIX-wiecznej kultury atrakcji

Jarosław Maciej Zawadzki, Jagoda Zawadzka

(Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warszawa, Poland)

Misterium. Dlaczego dramat religijny przyciąga tłumy?

Maria Sławińska (University of Łódź, Poland)

Cud poza obrazem? (Nie) tylko multimedialna taumaturgia sceniczna

Thursday, 11 September 2025

10:00–11:30 | Keynote Speech

in English | Room 307, Kolankowski Hall

Cariad Astles (University of London, United Kingdom)

Fascination, Revulsion, Attraction and Difference: the Representation of Diverse Bodies Within Popular Entertainment

Q&A

11:30-12:00 *Coffee Break*

12:00–13:30 | Session 5 | Pleased as Punch? Itinerant and Street Attractions

in English | Room 307, Kolankowski Hall

David Drozd (Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic)

Transformations of Theatre Attractions. From Eisenstein to Principles of Street Theatre

Marzenna Wiśniewska (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland)

'We Are Not a Circus and Gimmicky Troupe.' A Little-Known History of The Miniature Actors' Ensemble Bajka, the Polish Itinerant Troupe of Actors with Dwarfism

Alissa Mello (independent researcher)

Women's Work: Punch and Judy

12:00–13:30 | Session 6 | Dźwięki i obrazy technologii “awangardowych”/ Sounds and Images of ‘Avant-Garde’ Technologies

in Polish | Room 311

Bartosz Nowak (Warsaw University, Poland)

„Jest to rzecz cudowna, chociaż zjawisko nauka dokładnie tłumaczy”. Nasłuchiwanie koncertów telefonicznych Henryka Machalskiego

Michał Czyński (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland)

Sony PlayStation Vita – zapomniany potencjał medialnego doznania

Maciej Krauze (University of Łódź, Poland)

Dehumanizacja widzenia – awangardowe kino Toshio Matsumoto jako medium atrakcji

13:30–15:00 *Lunch Break*

15:00–18:00

Multisensory Experience: Visit to the Museum of the History of Toruń, Old Town Walk, and Wine (or Tea) Party

Friday, 12 September 2025

10:00–12:00 | Session 7 | From Asian Street Art and Theatre to Metaverse of Attractions
in English | Room 307, Kolankowski Hall

Maciej Gaca (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland)
The Aesthetics of Peculiarity: Taiwanese Street Art as a Counter-Narrative to Political Spectacle

Robert Jarosz (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland)
Kamishibai! The Many (and More) Faces of the Japanese Paper Theater

Francesco Melchiorri (IULM University, Milan, Italy)
From the Theatre of Attractions to the Metaverse of Attractions: Reenactment, Wonder, and Performativities in the Phygital Era

10:00–12:00 | Session 8 | Music in the Culture of Attractions
in English | Room 311

Mark RJ Higgins (University of Bristol, United Kingdom)
Dubstep Music, Sci-Fi and the Intertextual Technological Spectacle

Barbara Pitak-Piaskowska (independent researcher, Toruń, Poland)
Musical Cinema and Music Video Aesthetics

Jakub Kłeczek (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland)
Polichinelle on the Velocipede: The Mechanical Trickster in 19th-Century Popular Culture

Richie L. Kramar (Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno, Czech Republic)
Trans-Voicing and the Illegible Seductions of Operatic Backstage

12:00 Closing of the conference

12:30–14:30 Seminar Fairs and Fairground Attractions as a Breeding Ground for Culture of Attractions

hosted by Erkki Huhtamo (UCLA, USA)
in English | Room 307, Kolankowski Hall

All conference participants are invited to join the meeting.

Organizing Committee:

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