



CENTRE FOR
UNUSUAL
COLLABORATIONS

THE SHAPE SHIFTERS SYMPOSIUM

PLASTICITY HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

30 MAY 2024; PC Hoofthuis 1.05 UvA
31 MAY 2024; UvA - Institute for Advanced Studies

THE SHAPESHIFTERS SYMPOSIUM

Moldable bodies across time & space

Plasticity, the ability to be molded in various forms while maintaining a core identity, is a term that is increasingly used within various fields of science, e.g. neuroscience, plant- and cell biology, and within the humanities. However, the meaning and use of plasticity varies between these fields. How are these different usages – from shapeshifting to adaptability, related between disciplines, and how can plasticity be developed into a threshold concept within fields where it is currently not in use?

The Shapeshifters Symposium is a transdisciplinary two-day event that explores the concept of plasticity across academic domains and beyond. We, a group of interdisciplinary scholars, invite researchers, societal stakeholders and artists to come together and question what it means to be a shape within a shapeshifting society, a form within a form – adapting, evolving and mutating, along with its environment. And you are warmly invited to join us!

May 30, 2024

09:00 - 18:00

*PC Hoofthuis 1.05
University of Amsterdam
Spuistraat 134*

Day One of The Shapeshifters Symposium consists of four transdisciplinary panels, each centering specific questions related to plasticity.

09:00 *Welcome and Registration*

09:20 - 11:00 Panel I: Plasticity, Complexity, and Circular Causality

with Prof. Dr. Ray Noble & Prof. Dr. Peter Sloot

Coffee break

11:30 - 13:00 Panel II: Plasticity from Within and from Without

with Dr. Danqing Liu & Prof. Dr. Frank Seebacher

Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:30 Panel III: Time & Mind

with Dr. Kjetil Horn Hogstad & Dr. Joost de Jong

Tea Break

16:30 - 17:30 Panel IV: Meaning Making across Epistemic Cultures

with Alice Iacobone & Prof. Dr. Amanda Boetzkes

17:30 - 18:00 Closing Circle

Drinks & Conference Dinner

May 31, 2024

09:30 - 17:00

*UvA - Institute for Advanced Study
Oude Turfmarkt 145-147*

Day Two of The Shapeshifters Symposium consists of a working group aimed to further advance discussions relating to plasticity across disciplines. Our aim here is to advance a white paper and a book under the working title 'Plasticity - Here, There, and Everywhere.'

For more information and registration

