



HOW (NOT) TO BUILD A BUNKER

HOSTED BY ALICE CRARY
AND ÉMILE TORRES

REINVIGORATING DEMOCRACY—
REJECTING AI APOCALYPTICISM AND RESISTING
THE RUSH TO BUILD AGI.

AMITAV GHOSH
TYLER A. HARPER
AUDRA MITCHELL
DOUGLAS RUSHKOFF
ALEXANDER THOMAS

OCTOBER 17-18, 2024

THE ARENDT/SCHÜRMANN SYMPOSIUM AT THE
PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT OF THE NEW SCHOOL FOR
SOCIAL RESEARCH
WOLFF CONFERENCE ROOM (D1103), 6 EAST 16TH STREET

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

5:30PM – WELCOME RECEPTION

6:00–6:15PM – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION, **ALICE CRARY** AND **ÉMILE P. TORRES**

6:15–7:45PM – **DOUGLAS RUSHKOFF** (PROFESSOR OF MEDIA THEORY AND DIGITAL ECONOMICS, QUEENS COLLEGE; AUTHOR OF SURVIVAL OF THE RICHEST: ESCAPE FANTASIES OF THE TECH BILLIONAIRES), “WE ARE AS GODS: DECONSTRUCTING THE TECH BRO MINDSET”

7:45 PM – RECEPTION WITH LIGHT FARE AND DRINKS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

10:00–10:15AM – COFFEE AND BAGEL SPREAD

10:15–11:45AM – **AUDRA MITCHELL** (CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR IN GLOBAL POLITICAL ECOLOGY, BALSILLIE SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS/WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY/UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO) “ANOTHER END OF THE WORLD IS POSSIBLE: CULTIVATING ANTI-OPPRESSIVE FUTURES,” MODERATED BY **ROMY OPPERMAN**

11:45–12:00PM – COFFEE BREAK

12:00–1PM – **ÉMILE P. TORRES** (INAMORI INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ETHICS AND EXCELLENCE, CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY), “FROM TECHNO-UTOPIAN TO ARDENT APOSTATE: WHY I JOINED THE TESCREAL MOVEMENT AND LATER DEFECTED,” IN CONVERSATION WITH **ALICE CRARY**

1:00–2:00PM – LUNCH

2–3:30PM – **TYLER A. HARPER** (ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, BATES COLLEGE), TITLE TBA, IN CONVERSATION WITH **ÉMILE P. TORRES**

3:30–3:45PM – COFFEE BREAK

3:45–4:45PM – **ALEXANDER THOMAS** (SENIOR LECTURER IN MEDIA PRODUCTION AND FILM, UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON), “EXITING THE TANGLED WEB OF BEING: TRANSHUMANISM AND THE FANTASY OF TECHNO-TRANSCENDENCE,” IN CONVERSATION WITH **MOLLIE GLEIBERMAN** (PHD CANDIDATE AT THE INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT POLICY, UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP, THESIS: “THE MYTH OF EFFECTIVE ALTRUISM”)

4:45–5:00PM – COFFEE BREAK

5:00–6:00PM – **AMITAV GHOSH** (DISTINGUISHED NOVELIST AND NON-FICTION WRITER), A DISCUSSION OF HIS 2021 BOOK THE NUTMEG’S CURSE: PARABLES FOR A PLANET IN CRISIS, IN CONVERSATION WITH **ALICE CRARY**