Cultures of CARE
Imagining Care through Design

OPEN ELECTIVE | DEC 9-20, 2024

On Afropresentism: Indigenous Technologies & Temporal Rebellion

Neema Githere

www.findingneema.online

ABOUT

Neema Githere (b. Nairobi, Kenya) is a writer, artist, and grassroots theorist whose work explores love and indigeneity in a time of algorithmic debris. Having dreamt themselves into the world via the internet from an early age, Githere's work prototypes relationality-as-art through experiments that span social design, community organizing, travel and image-making. Githere has been building a research-based embodiment practice since 2016 as an undergrad at Yale University, beginning with a project called #digitaldiaspora which traveled to over 20 countries exploring how Black cultural workers were articulating renaissance identities on- and offline. Githere's concept of Afro Presentism—a term they coined in 2017 to explore diasporic embodiment in the age of Big Data—has influenced conferences and exhibitions across four continents. Githere has performed, lectured and consulted at a range of educational and cultural institutions including Studio Olafur Eliasson, Princeton University, the National Museum of Qatar, Microsoft and Twitter.

OVERVIEW

Hegemonic technologies' dependence on bloodshed and exploitation have been rendered permissible through coercive justifications that position the wounding of colonial subjects as the "inevitable" cost of connection. Considering the foundations to computer coding systems laid by ancient ritual and divination systems– from Ifa to Agnicayana – this workshop explores Afro Presentism as a reparative, pan-Indigenous intervention of temporal rebellion. Merging Black quantum temporality with recipes of ritual, this course aims to invite those wounded by the motherboard in all of its encoded machinations of dehumanization into a terrain where embodiment, in its most deeply-rooted materialization(s), is the ultimate hack.

METHODOLOGY

Guerrilla Theory: Conversation as the highest mode of speculation – beginning each convening with a question that students are encouraged to engage with individually (personal writing practice) and conversationally, rooted within their own lived experience - Research as a ceremony to get closer to the mystery, not a strategy towards mastery – anecdotes from different indigenous communities as a departure point for theory - Performance lecturing: incorporating theory with my own lived experience / anecdotes / screenshot essays - Pedagogical references: bell hooks, Donna Haraway, Bayo Akomolafe, Mindy Seu (Cyberfeminist Index).

राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
AHMEDABAD

KEYWORDS

Cyberculture, Ritual, Indigenous, Algorithms, Repair.

LOCATION

Ahmedabad

MAXIMUM PARTICIPANTS

20