Schedule
FRIDAY, OCT 28

10:00-11:00
Moritz Baßler (German Literature, Münster)
Catalogue Technique in Pop Literature

11:00-11:30
Coffee and tea

11:30-12:30
Sabine Mainberger (Comparative Literary Studies, Bonn)
"... and so much more". The potential of lists and some shortcomings of theory

12:30-14:00
Lunch

14:00-15:00
Philipp Ullmann (Mathematics, Frankfurt)
Of Lists and Mathematics – a Digression

15:00-15:30
Coffee and tea

15:30-16:30
Celia Lury (CIM, Warwick)
How a list becomes a series: the making of serial logics

16:30-17:30
Andrea Mennicken (Accounting, London)
Numbers and Lists: Ratings and Rankings in Healthcare and the Correctional Services

HOSTS

Carolin Gerlitz (Media Studies)
Markus A. Helmerich (Didactics of Mathematics)
Johannes Paßmann (German Literature/Media Studies)
Matthias Schaffrick (Modern German Literature)

MORE INFO

https://popkultur.uni-siegen.de/listing

DIRECTIONS

https://www.uni-siegen.de/start/kontakt/anfahrt_und_lageplaene/a_w_haus

CONTACT AND REGISTRATION

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Each session includes a 25-30 min talk followed by discussion
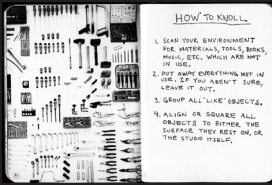
Collecting, Sorting, Ordering.

Practices of Listing in Popular Culture.

27-28 October 2016

University of Siegen
Artur-Woll-Haus (AE)
Am Eichenhang 50
57076 Siegen

Lists are known as a medium of order which contributes significantly to the ways in which we organise and classify knowledge. In online and social media, lists are currently experiencing a remarking proliferation. Digital cultures have brought about "new" types of lists, which are data intensive, algorithmic and dynamic, but also share significant formal and functional features with lists prevalent in bureaucratic organisations, popular culture or literature.

The ubiquity of lists in everyday life asks researchers to revisit what lists are, both empirically and conceptually, to explore what differentiates them from tables, catalogues or databases, and also to account for what lists do and what we do we with them.

The objective of the conference is to approach lists from an interdisciplinary perspective as performative, epistemological processes and to explore how their minimalist form can enable various functionalities.

Three key observations are central to our approach:

- Lists assemble and create relations:
  Lists rely on connecting previously distinct objects, persons, attributes into new units or sets of relations. They enable connectivity between heterogeneous elements.

- Lists sort, order and value:
  Lists that rely on ordinal data or seek to create rankings not only assemble, but also evaluate and valorise the assembled elements based on selected criteria of relevance, meaning or worth. In popular culture lists operate as condition for the possibility of popularity as they order, sort, hierarchise and quantify aggregated decisions and taste.

- Lists contribute to the making of paradigms based on sorting, selecting and valuation as well as inclusion and exclusion. The narratives afforded by lists exceed the individual qualities and capacities of their elements and rely on the making of specifically motivated connections between them. In that sense, lists are dependent, continuous and in need of completion.

The conference brings together an interdisciplinary range of scholars from media studies, sociology, mathematics, computer science, philosophy, and literary studies to discuss how to study lists in contemporary popular culture both empirically and conceptually.
We approach lists as performative processes of knowledge and value making and as situated in specific contexts and debates, which select, sort and transform what we know through socio-technical operations. Doing so, lists gain their very own aesthetic qualities, which reflect their making, but also create inscriptions.

Schedule
THURSDAY, OCT 27

13:30
Welcome and introduction

14:00-15:00
Elena Esposito (Sociology, Modena e Reggio Emilia)
Organising without understanding. Lists in divinatory and in digital cultures

15:00-16:00
Urs Stäheli (Sociology, Hamburg)
Travelling by Lists: Listmaking and Logistics in Tourism

16:00-16:30
Coffee and tea

16:30-17:30
Gerd Stumme (Computer Science, Kassel)
Automated Making of Lists

17:30-18:30
Adrian Mackenzie (Sociology, Lancaster)
Streams, pipelines and trees: living with unending lists

Reception and welcome by Niels Werber, Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities