

**Betreff:** Harun Farocki Institut – Newsletter January 2025

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**Von:** Harun Farocki Institut

**An:** Elsa de Seynes



**Harun  
Farocki  
Institut**

## **Harun Farocki Institut Newsletter January 2025**

Dear Friends,

The **international workshop [AI as Work. Terms and Conditions of Contemporary Image and Knowledge Production](#)** will take place on **Monday February 3** at the **University of Applied Sciences Potsdam**. This is a collaboration between **Media Studies in Potsdam (EMW, University of Potsdam & University oAS Potsdam)** and **HaFI** in the framework of the research project “Terms and Conditions.” The researchers, practitioners and activists **Ariana Dongus, Krystal Kauffman, Nicolas Malevé** and **Tianling Yang** will provide inputs for discussions and exchanges on the role of work for artificial intelligence as well as its legal implications for working conditions and copyright. For participation, please register at: [AI-work@emw-potsdam.de](mailto:AI-work@emw-potsdam.de)

**Rab Rab Press** has just released the **book [About Narration \(1975\)](#)**, in collaboration with **HaFI**, edited by **Tom Holert** and **Sezgin Boynik**. The volume is dedicated to the essay film of the same name (German title: *Erzählen*) by **Ingemo Engström** and **Harun Farocki**, and complements a first volume, also published by Rab Rab Press, which includes an English translation of *The Decembrists*, a collection of essays by **Larisa Reisner**, whose writings and biography were an inspiration for Engström and Farocki's film.

In connection with this new publication, we have published a postcard in our **Showcase** section, which **Harun Farocki** sent to **Ingemo Engström** in October 1993, depicting a bridge, a recurring motif in their film *About Narration*, made 18 years earlier.

The English and the French translation of the **conversation between Harun Farocki, Georges Didi-Huberman and Ludger Schwarte** on the concepts of “dispersion” and “montage” are now available on **Rosa Mercedes 06: With Farocki**. The German text, first published in 2015, is available on the website of [Texte zur Kunst](#).

For the third edition of the **Harun Farocki Residency** in collaboration with **Kultur Ensemble** (an initiative of the Goethe-Institut and the Institut français in Palermo), we invite filmmakers, professionals of the moving image, curators, film critics, researchers based in Sicily to apply to our **open call**. The residency will take place in Berlin in late summer for a period of three months.

More information on the website of the [Goethe-Institut Palermo](#) and [HaFI](#).

We would like to recommend the new book ***Einfachheit ohne Vereinfachung. Zur Praxis Harun Farockis*** by **Volker Pantenburg** (Diaphanes Verlag). The starting point for this publication are the insights gained after Farocki's death from working with the filmmaker's estate, some of which is now in the custody of HaFI. The [introduction](#) (in German) is available on the Diaphanes website.

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P.S.: Below you will also find information on works by Harun Farocki that are currently or will soon be on display in [group exhibitions](#).

## 1. AI as Work: Terms and Conditions of Contemporary Image and Knowledge Production

The workshop will address the relationship between AI and work in order to open up more insights into this technology, which involves and affects various forms of human agencies and non-human agencies. The current spread of various AI platforms and services is based in particular on human labor. On the one hand, the workshop will focus on the labor of “data workers,” who are distributed around the world and work under mostly precarious conditions to prepare data for machine learning. On the other hand, it will consider the unpaid labor for those texts and images that are automatically captured and used by AI companies and thus also form the basis for subsequent “data work.” With the following impulses:

**Krystal Kauffman:** The Data Workers behind AI: Exploitation in the Industry and how to Prevent it

**Ariana Dongus:** Always in Beta? AI, Data, and Labor in Experimental Economies of Exclusion

**Nicolas Malevé:** The Vagaries of the Artistic Class in Generative AI

The workshop will focus on discussions between the speakers and all participants.

**Mon. February 3, 3–7 p.m.** (followed by a reception in the foyer)

**Location: University of Applied Sciences Potsdam**

Hörsaal 011 (Haus D)

Kiepenheuerallee 5, 14469 Potsdam Admission is free, please **register at:** [AI-work@emw-potsdam.de](#)

More information on the [EMW website](#).

## 2. Publication: About Narration (1975)

**About Narration (1975). Materials, Comments, Interventions** by Ingemo Engström and Harun Farocki (ed. Sezgin Boynik and Tom Holert) includes *About Narration* film's script alongside the historical documents related to the making of the film and Harun Farocki's previously unpublished theoretical and programmatic essay on the film. The publication also includes a retrospective essay by Ingemo Engström on the film's political and artistic background.

Volker Pantenburg's detailed elaboration of the conditions of its making, alongside Sezgin Boynik and Tom Holert's concluding remarks, further contextualizes the film. The interview with Cathy Porter on Larisa Reisner, a heroine of *About Narration*, gives an overview of the life of a militant writer who inspired Engström and Farocki.

The book is available for purchase for 14 € and can be ordered either directly from [Rab Rab's website](#) or through Rab Rab's distributors. It was realized with the support of the Kone Foundation.

### 3. Group exhibitions

**Until 01.02. 2025:** *The Interview* in: *Ins Dunkle Schwimmen – Abgründe des kreativen Imperativs* (Curator: Cosima Rainer), Kunstsammlung der Universität für angewandte Kunst, Vienna, Austria

**Until 01.03. 2025:** *A Day in the Life of a Consumer* in: *Shelf Life*, Trautwein Herleth Galerie, Berlin, Germany

**From 15.03. – 27.07. 2025:** *Deep Play* in: *Holding Pattern* (Curator: Tom McCarthy), HMKV Hardware MedienKunstVerein e.V., Dortmund, Germany

**From 11.04. – 21.09. 2025:** *Transmission* in: *The World through IA* (Curators: Ada Ackerman, Alexandre Gefen, Antonio Somaini, Pia Viewing), Jeu de Paume, Paris, France

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