What is critical about programming?

13th of November 2026 – Universität Basel

Registration is free, but please register by writing us at basel-2026@hapoc.org.

Location is Holbeinstrasse 12, 4051 Basel, Bluebox, ground floor.

Program

09:00 **Welcome & Coffee**

09:20 **Introduction**

09:30 **Panel 1: Historical construction of criticality**

Chair: Magnus Rust

Caspar Clemens Mierau (Basel Universität) – *Programming the Programmers: Educational Television as an Answer to the Software Crisis*
Helena Durnová (Masaryk University) – *Critical issues in programming discovered through programmers' entertainment*
Ricky Wichum (RWTH Aachen) – *Historical Scientific Software as Cultural Heritage: Collecting, Preserving, and Scholarly Editing Scientific Software in Germany, 1950-2010*

10:45 **Coffee break**

11:15 **Panel 2: The word of the law and the word of the program**

Chair: Pierre Depaz

Mélanie Laforestrie (École Normale Supérieure – PSL) – *A Critique of Computational Action: A Crisis of Intention*
Luc Pellissier, Pierre Valarcher and Noé Wagener (Université Paris Est Créteil) – *Executable regulatory acts: a format to critique critical programs*
Lachlan Kermode (Brown University) – *The Source and its Bugs. The Cosmos of Illiterate Programming*

12:30 **Lunch break**

14:00 **Panel 3: To program or not to program?**

Chair: Yannick Nepomuk Fritz

Henri Stéphanou (Université Paris 1 – Panthéon-Sorbonne) – *The patterns of interaction*
Alice Chung (UC San Diego) – *Directions of Abstraction and the Limits of Relevance*
Inez Barrer (ETH Zürich) – *Values and Futures of a World without Programs*

15:15 **Coffee break**

15:45 **Panel 4: Another world is possible**

Chair: Mace Ojala

Cristina Cochior (FHNW) & Helen V. Pritchard (FHNW) – *Rhythms of coordination: grassroots infrastructures and the temporal politics of scale*
Tomas Petricek (Prague University) – *Deconstructing programming through critical software*
Anna-Marie Rönsch (Leuphana University) – *Programming Accessibility? Accessibility Overlays and critical programming practices*

17:00 **Concluding remarks**

Organizers

Pierre Depaz (Universität Basel), Yannick Nepomuk Fritz (Universität Basel), Mace Ojala (Ruhr Universität Bochum).

Program Committee

Arianna Borelli (RWTH Aachen), Simon Castellan (INRIA), Baptiste Chenus (EHESS), Ranjodh Singh Dhaliwal (University of Basel), Juan-Luis Gastaldi (ETH Zürich), Nadja Gaudillière-Jami (Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts), Gabriele Gramelsberger (RWTH Aachen), Amira Moeding (University of Cambridge), Sophie Quinton (INRIA), Mate Szabo (University of Southern California) and the organisation team.

Universität Basel HaPoP /s/f/m seminar für medienwissenschaft CONTRA LAB