



4th JCU Posthuman Studies

Sex in Posthuman Times

John Cabot University, Aula Magna
Via della Lungara, 233, 00165 Roma RM

Saturday the 1st of February 2020 from 10 am until 6 pm.

Organizers: Brunella Antomarini and Stefan Sorgner

We will talk about everything from sex robots, to non-binary accounts of sexuality and post-gender theories. Will sexual identity be nothing more than a myth, a fictional narrative, in posthuman times? What does sex mean, if it exists independently of reproduction, and maybe also independent of living organisms? Is it still sex, if humans are intimate with robots? Why has sex been associated solely with living organisms? If evolution has provided the strategy of mating on behalf of the reproduction of the species, whereby sexual pleasure was a side-effect, could we envisage, or detect an ongoing evolutionary and experimental transition toward an inter-species, hybrid, non-binary quality of sexual attraction independent of any reproductive goals? Is 'body' pure embodiment (in anything that can host it)? Is a computer with sensors, which is an embodied robot, an entity with a body?

Are instincts such as shame, love, narcissism, passion formed by cultural selection or are they engrained in organisms as such? How would women (cross-culturally encouraged to protect their bodies from sexual pleasure) re-define sex away from its 'history', and closer to the condition of the cyborg? Is the binary distinction between men and women at all feasible, given that the distinction is closely connected to that of sexual attraction as well as reproduction?

10.00-10.15 Introduction

10.15-11.00

Keynote speaker: Maurizio Balistreri

11.00-11.15 Coffee Break

11.15-13.15 Section I: Sex Robots

Moderator: Brunella Antomarini

Mirko Garasic

Marcin Garbowski

Tanya Kubes

Christina Maraboutaki

Stefan Sorgner

Ralf Stapelfeldt

Giulia Villanucci

13.45-3.00 Lunch break

3.00-3.45 Keynote speaker: Trudy Barber, in telepresence through robot Double M.

3.45-4.00 Coffee Break

4.00-6.00 Section II: Posthuman sex in the arts

Moderator: Stefan Sorgner

Brunella Antomarini

Gregory Burgin

Dario Cecchi

Ihsan Baris Gedizlioglu

Elena Giulia Rossi

Chryssi Soteriades

Moustafa Tlass