This course is an introduction to the contemporary state of performance/performative art(s) across artistic genres and geographical differences. We will explore performance art and experimental performance that emerged from paradigmatic changes like the avant-garde movement or the introduction of new media. We will analyze how artists in modern times, in various cases, respond to the imminent social change, crisis, and paradigm shift through their creative responses. Each week is organized around salient issues and keywords emerging from artistic and cultural experimentations, to which we will respond by engaging in critical readings and performance practicum exercises.
This advanced-level course, under the Special Topics series of the Department of Cultural Studies, guides students through an in-depth consideration of the relationship between the categories used to define sociocultural identity (e.g. gender, race, class, ability) and performance—the latter understood in a broad sense to mean both artistic-cultural works staged for the public, and everyday and official acts of symbolic representation and material embodiment in collective life (e.g. in sports, politics, media, and civil society).

Students will engage with selected works by key cultural theorists who focus on identity as a key rubric for interpreting the consequences of globalization over the last 30 years, before applying this framework to a range of performance case studies in varied geographical and interdisciplinary contexts. By the end of the course they will gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of the fundamental issues that underlie the complex and ever-changing processes of identity-formation in and through the cultures of performance.
How to study online spaces like Facebook or LIHKG?

What are the politics behind our knowledge, which is increasingly shaped by Google and Wikipedia?

And how can we become cultural producers ourselves?

By adopting a hands-on approach, this course will bring together three dimensions of the Digital: emerging theories, research methods, and practical knowledge. The ever-increasing importance of technology in everyday life alerts us to new ways of thinking, but also pushes us towards acquiring inter-disciplinary skills.

The course will include a workshop on podcast production and students will work on a final group project as a major part of their assessment.

Instructor: Dr. Tobias Zuser
Lecture Time: Thurs 16:30 - 19:30
100% Continuous Assessment