



Visualization: Moby Digg

18. September – 19. September 2021 Bellevue di Monaco und online

Büro Grandezza

The 2051 Munich Climate Conference

<https://t2051mcc.com/>

Conference language: English | free entry

Science fiction at its best: 2050 is the year today's climate policy is geared towards. With the Paris Climate Agreement, it has become the stated goal of the worldwide community: Let us limit global heating to below 1.5° C by that year!

In the year 2051, when the former plans for the future are a thing of the past, Munich will become the centre of global reckoning for two days. **The 2051 Munich Climate Conference (T2051MCC)** is an art project: The theatre makers from Büro Grandezza (around the artistic directors of Andreas W. Kohn and Benno Heisel) invite you to an interdisciplinary conference in 2051. Almost 50 researchers from a wide variety of disciplines and countries have developed scientific papers specifically for this conference. Depending on the field of research and team, very different contributions were created in terms of method and form (the entire program in the appendix and on the website). In each of the contributions a possible future is described, partly dystopian, partly utopian, sometimes alarming and sometimes inspiring. One thing is clear: the fate of the world was decided in the 2020s.

As a science conference of the future, the **T2051MCC** is open to a general audience. The event takes place online and offline: in a virtual conference centre that can be explored directly in the browser and at Bellevue di Monaco in the set design of Susi Gelb (rooms) and Matha Pinsker (costume). In addition to Diana Marie Müller and Robert Spitz, many stakeholders of the Bellevue are involved in the performance that accompanies the conference program.

The conference language is English, admission is free.

Flipping the Perspective: Looking back ahead

How will we look back on today's knowledge about climate change in the future – on social discourses and political decisions? Andreas W. Kohn, who has attended almost every UN climate conference since 2009 as a policy expert, asked himself this question from time to time again when looking at the negotiations. Together with a constantly growing team around Büro Grandezza, he began to search for a way to enable other types of discussions, to reach a large audience and to break through problematic structures in the scientific community with artistic means. These questions also fascinate the artist, composer and former artistic director of the HochX Theater Benno Heisel. With the T2051MCC, Heisel and Kohn are trying to realize the idea of a completely different conference.

In the direct research phase for **T2051MCC**, which began in 2018, Büro Grandezza coordinated with scientists, among others from PIK Potsdam, MCC Berlin, MPI Hamburg, and the Rachel Carson Center Munich to develop a call for papers and to distribute it as widely as possible. Of the entries received, 28 were invited in April 2021, to participate. The contributions come from various disciplines, from social sciences as well as the techno-economic spectrum to submissions from the fields of natural

sciences, architecture, landscape planning, philosophy and history. In addition, contributions were invited that approach the subject in speculative science fiction and in forms between visual or performative art and science.

The perspective from 2051 on today offers the audience the opportunity, to play with layers of time, in digital and physical spaces, between the global warming dynamics and local concern. As an artistic research arrangement, the conference is a social laboratory. The participants talk about themselves as fictional "future ones". The staging of the conference combines discourse performance, documentary fiction and game design in art spaces that are open to interpretation. What performative potential does science develop? What does it mean to speak about yourself in multiple roles? The fictional retrospective motivates a look beyond the boundaries of the imaginable future and makes it possible to look at our present from 2051. **The 2051 Munich Climate Conference** creates a projection surface that stimulates the imagination and allows for personal visions about the future.

BÜRO GRANDEZZA is a group of freelance theatre professionals founded in 2019 around Andreas W. Kohn and Katharina Wolfrum. It was formed from various work contexts: Among other things, they worked together in the productions of the collective KOMMANDO PNINIM (2016-2019, founded by Isabelle Cohn and Andreas W. Kohn). This resulted in, for example, the music theater performance "Der Abschlussball der großen Erzählungen", the discourse play "Konsul Bernick muss nochmal ran" or, alongside political scientists, the Trump performance "100 Tage Great Again". BÜRO GRANDEZZA realized independent projects with the TRUGSCHLUSS collective, such as the Musikhangar #mphil125 with the Munich Philharmonic in the Gasteig cultural center.

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The 2051 Munich Climate Conference

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Day I - T2051MCC Programme for 18 Sep 2021 – all times CEST

10:00	Day I Opening Session	Welcome and Keynote #1
12:00 (51-1A)	Lisa Schipper et al	Imagine diverse strategic narratives how to govern desirable climate futures
	Geronimo Gussmann	Locked-in: Revisiting coastal adaptation policies in the Maldives. Geronimo Gussmann revisits the underestimated ability of the Maldives to adapt to sea-level rise. Floating communities, land reclamations and the fortification of islands kept the islands habitable. Nonetheless, the attractiveness of the Maldives as a high-end tourism destination decreased drastically, leaving the islands economy paralyzed. The Maldivian population might soon face coastal adaptation limits that raise difficult questions about the future of the Maldives.
12:00 (51-1B)	Markus Keck	Why academia was of no help in building a sustainable society In 2051 the global temperature has increased by more than 2°C above pre-industrial level. Extreme weather events such as heat waves, heavy rainfall and hurricanes are commonplace around the world, causing countless casualties every year. Markus Keck investigates why academia in the early 2020s was no help in building a sustainable society. He collects eyewitness reports by sustainability researchers, which provide highly intimate insights into the logics of science at that time.
	Lena Schlegel	The transformative potential of sociological imagination for eco-social change Initially, political responses to the COVID-19 pandemic tackled only immediate health issues and focused on protecting the political and economic status quo. As environmental disasters accelerated and amplified social inequalities in the following years, both scientists and the general public demanded fundamental eco-social change. Lena Schlegel speaks from a future where change was enabled by sociological imaginations of alternative futures which triggered hope rather than fear as a basis for political decisions.
15:00 (51-1C)	Renata A Tyszcuk Anna Varga	1001 scenarios for a troubled Earth Proposed silvopastoral management solutions to the environmental and economic problems of the Carpathian Basin after the drought of 1862-1863 Researching on silvopastoral management solutions in the Carpathian Basin after the drought of 1862-1863, Varga discovered that papers from the 19th century were often more developed than those in the early 21st century. In a present the answers that are already there are often overlooked. Varga will look back at what can be learned from the 19th century papers she studied from a day on a pasture land in 2051.

15:00 (51-1D)

Markus Kink

Failing Images. How the Visual Discourse on Climate Change Changed Nothing in the Age of Visual Communication

There are significant parallels in the depiction of the horrors of war and the visualisation of climate change in media. Many activists, intellectuals and political actors believed that this was the appropriate approach. Markus Kink opposes and wonders whether this mode of portrayal was one more reason for the failure of political and societal action within the realm of climate change

Michael Pahle

Playing it safe or going the risky route: Europe's Emission Trading System as a yardstick for taking (regulatory) risks to address (climate) risks

What is the crucial factor that could have taken climate policy to a new and really "serious" level in the 2020s? According to Michael Pahle the fundamental issue was the degree of risk society was willing to take to tackle climate change. Discussing the European Emissions Trading System (EU-ETS), he illustrates the risk in relying on markets to combat climate change. The upside? It could trigger disruptive technological and social innovation at a much larger scale and speed.

Alejandro Esguerra

Crisis, Representation and the Politics of Uncertainty

17:30 (51-1E)

Sarah Nance

Shroud for an Ancient Sea

Shroud for an ancient sea is composed of site-responsive shrouds which vary from expansive textiles to experimental vocal performances, acting as momentary surface layers that point to the complex records of deep time within the geo-anthropogenic landscape. Nance presents a series of 2021 archived landscapes and speculative geologies. Nance uses data repositories that allow predictions of tide levels through 2100, which she will use to create a new vocal performance.

Mark Kernan

Accelerating towards the Anthropocene: How 2025 transformed the future

On the 22nd of April 2025 the global temperature has risen to 1.5°C. How did we get there so quickly and how did we deal with it? Kernan looks back on all the mistakes and problems that lead to the climate tipping point much earlier than the community of scientist had expected. How could we have done things differently in attempting to address the ominous erosion of earth's life-support system?

Klaus Wallner,
Markus Schmitt

Earth Operations Management

Schmitt and Wallner imagine a future where the invention of Earth Operations Management (EOM) was the answer to a successful fight against climate change. EOM is a synthesis of natural science, humanities, economics and management theory with a goal to replace destructive economic systems with new and sustainable methodologies that take the values of ecosystems into account. In their paper, Schmitt and Wallner look back at the origins of the new discipline in the early 2020s.

<p>17:30 (51-1F)</p>	<p>Paul Graham Raven, Johannes Stripple, Ludwig Bengtsson Sonesson, Roger Hildingsson, Graeme MacDonald, Alexandra Nikoleris</p> <p>Nicolas Powell</p>	<p>A Museum of Carbon Ruins? Ethical and political challenges in historicising an unevenly distributed decarbonisation With its grand opening scheduled for 2053, the new Swedish museum FOSSIL will be dedicated to documenting the Fossil Era, now considered to be a part of Swedish history, if not yet the history of all nations. In this talk, members of the curatorial team will discuss their work-in-progress on the museum’s debut exhibition, “Carbon Ruins”, and their approach to the selection, acquisition and framing of potential exhibits. They will also address the ethics of celebrating the completion of the Swedish decarbonisation programme in the context of a world where not all such programmes have yet succeeded.</p> <p>Agony Aunt Letters: Epistolary notes from an everyday future What does everyday life look like in the UK in 2051? Nico Powell looks back from an everyday future to pinpoint actions and decisions that lead to his present: In March 2021 the Bristol City Council approved a motion that committed them to recommend the cause of reparations to the UK Government. The reactions varied and unleashed a chain of events that could lead to very different climate outcomes. The empirical material for Powells analysis are so called agony aunt letters that could be sent to newspapers and were answered by an editor.</p>
<p>19:30 (Day I Closing Session)</p>		<p>Keynote #2 (t.b.a.) Artist #1 (t.b.a.) Artist #2 (t.b.a.)</p>

Day II - T2051MCC Programme for 19 Sep 2021 – all times CEST

<p>10:00 (Day II Opening Session)</p>		<p>Welcome and Keynote #3</p>
<p>12:00 (51-2A)</p>	<p>Rehab Republic, FutureCamp Climate, Omnicer</p>	<p>T2051MCC Zero Waste and Climate Neutrality Concept</p>
<p>12:00 (51-2B)</p>	<p>Jacob Blumenfeld</p>	<p>Climate Barbarism In 2051, climate barbarism has become the norm. Jacob Blumenfeld wonders: how did we get there? Does genuine scientific awareness and acceptance of the existence of anthropogenic climate change really lead to collective human action against climate change? Or can it possibly lead towards anti-egalitarianism, xenophobia, and classism?</p>

Kees van der Geest

Adapt or Surrender? The policy dilemmas of climate change, habitability and migration in a low-lying atoll nation in the early 21st century.

In 2020, the territory of the Marshall Islands was less than 2 meters above sea level. Most Marshallese people strongly resisted the idea that their islands could become uninhabitable. In the late 2020s and 2030s, climate negotiators from small islands states managed to turn the narrative from one of 'climate refugees' and hopelessness to a more positive narrative of fighting to keep their countries habitable for future generations. Kees van der Geest looks back on the methodologies and actions that led to this turn around.

Michael Jakob

The promise and reality of carbon dioxide removal technologies

In the late 2010s and early 2020s, the importance of 'negative emissions' was frequently discussed by the international community. Michael Jakob looks back at the period of 2014-2026 and analyses the different positions. While industry and conservative parties were strongly in favour of the new technologies, environmental NGOs and green parties showed hesitation

15:00 (51-2C)

Nathan Smith

Project Pando: A social network analysis of an early post-Paris Collaborative Habitat Node Station effort

The 2042 Nobel Peace Prize winner cites Collaborative Habitat Node Stations (CHNSs) as a pivotal development that kept the global temperature below 1.5°C. Using a social-network analysis Nathan Smith examines the lasting ties between two communities connected by CHNSs since 2026: Fort Collins, Colorado and Grand Isle, Louisiana. The two communities made formal arrangements, called Project Pando, to co-produce a CHNS in each region to highlight the connectivity between their distant ecosystems.

**Sana Javaid,
Riyan Habeeb**

Renaturierung – The human vs nature re-connection

Since the pandemic in 2020, nature-based solutions were researched to both combat rising temperatures and increasing water woes but also to include humans centrally in the entire course of action. Now, in 2051, the exclusion and injustice that climate change inflicted is effectively encountered. Javaid and Habeeb speak from a future, where climate action happened through a change in lifestyle and basic measures like planting and fostering urban trees.

15:00 (51-2D)

Minna Kanerva

Tackling unsustainability with the help of consumption corridors: Transforming the meat system

Consumption is increasingly named as the root cause of the twin crises of climate change and ecology. Therefore, transferring societies towards sustainability arguably requires strong sustainable consumption governance. Kanerva looks back at the early debate on the concept of consumption corridors in the early 2020s.

**Solveig Siem,
Håkon Naalsund
Wille**

Lessons from the Pioneers of a World Changing Cultural Shift

Today, in 2051, the majority of the world's leading historians recognize the 'Mycelium Initiative' as the 2020s catalyst for the mass cultural shift towards a holistic ecological mentality. Solveig Marie Siem and Håkon Wille identify the beginning of it all in a project for local climate action in a small Norwegian town that eventually developed in a global network. The 'Mycelium Initiative Centres' allowed the public to access tools and information to support the creation of their own climate projects.

17:30 (51-2E)

**Jakub Kubečka,
Vitus Besel
and Ivo Neefjes**

Global cloud control Or: How I learned to stop worrying and love geo-engineering

Besel, Neefjes and Kubečka imagine a world in which during the 2030s artificial intelligence has become so advanced that we gave it full control over the weather in order to stay below 1.5°C. It came at a great cost, but humanity is still going, and we may have just ensured another few decades to our existence.

Matti Goldberg

Lost in the nexus?: The integration-fragmentation of global climate governance in 2015-2045

'Nexification' is understood as a tendency to seek connections. Goldberg witnesses that in 2015-2045, the more connected things became, the less responsible key-actors in the realm of climate change felt to change. Based on actual interviews with international civil servants and secondary literature, this study describes the intensified nexification of global climate governance in 2015-50.

Nicolas Powell

Climate Resilient Development in 2051: For whom?

What does everyday life look like in the UK in 2051? Nico Powell looks back from an everyday future to pinpoint actions and decisions that lead to his present: In March 2021 the Bristol City Council approved a motion that committed them to recommend the cause of reparations to the UK Government. The reactions varied and unleashed a chain of events that could lead to very different climate outcomes. The empirical material for Powells analysis are so called agony aunt letters that could be sent to newspapers and were answered by an editor

17:30 (51-2F)

**Louise Arnal,
Maria-Helena Ramos,
Florian Pappenberger,
Bart van den Hurk,
Micha Werner,
Linus Magnusson,
Hannah L. Cloke**

The virtual realities of hydro-meteorological extremes

Throughout the last decades, rapid changes in the Earth System have led to unequal effects of climate change across the planet. As a result, there has been an increase in social inequalities. The predictability of extreme hydro-meteorological events such as e.g. droughts and floods is now very variable across the globe. Arnal et al look back from a future where technologies such as

virtual reality are mainstream and can be used to forecast and anticipate extreme events as well as warn those at risk.

Will Tuladhar-Douglas

First contact after the Blank Days / Delegation from Kathmandu

What does the world look like after a decade-long, widespread ecological, political, economic, and social collapse – the Blank days? A delegation from Nepal reaches Munich after months of travel by airship caravan and years of no contact. They share their indigenous community knowledge in order to help develop a sustainable society.

**19:30 (Day II
Closing Session)**

Keynote #4 (t.b.a.) / Artist #3 (t.b.a.) / Artist #4 (t.b.a.)