

HaPoC 2025

8th International Conference on History and Philosophy of Computing

17-19 December 2025

Super C - 6th floor – Ford-Saal, Templergraben 57, Aachen, Germany

and online: <https://streaming.khk.rwth-aachen.de/>

Wednesday December 17	
9:00-9:30	Opening Words (Gabriele Gramelsberger, Arianna Borrelli)
9:30-13:00	<p><i>Session One: New Narratives of Computing</i></p> <p>9:30 Elisabetta Mori "From <i>The Mighty Micro</i> to <i>The Making of the Micro</i>: Christopher Evans, Human-Computer Interaction and the popularisation of computing in the UK"</p> <p>10:00 Magnus Rust "Of chatbots and hotshots. Social scientists at MIT's Project MAC"</p> <p>10:30 <i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>10:45 Kate Mancey "Timbres of potential: Start-up sounds and human-computer relationships"</p> <p>11:15 Christina Schinzel "Sigmund Freud in artificial neural networks"</p> <p>11:45 <i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>12:00 Troy Astarte "Languages, machines, expressions: Towards an understanding of the discourse of semantics"</p> <p>12:30 Gábor Képes "We need a Trabant in computing!"</p>
13:00-14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30-16:45	<p><i>Session Two: Computing Practices in the Sciences</i></p> <p>14:30 Lara Marziali "Supercomputing and simulation: CINECA's role in shaping the Italian scientific landscape in the 1980s"</p> <p>15:00 Marcus Carrier "Learning to fold. The history of neural networks in chemistry"</p> <p>15:30 <i>Coffee Break</i></p> <p>15:45 Paula Muhr "Computation, human judgment, and epistemic critique: reanalysing black hole images"</p> <p>16:15 Jérémy Grosman "The biography of an algorithm: The case of ant colony optimization"</p>
16:45-17:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
17:00-18:00	<p><i>Keynote: Alexandre Hocquet</i></p> <p>"A portrait of the scientist as a user"</p>
18:00-19:30	<i>HaPoC General Assembly</i>
20:00	<p><i>Conference Dinner</i></p> <p>Restaurant "Elisenbrunnen"</p>

Thursday December 18	
9:00	<i>Welcome and Coffee</i>
9:30-10:30	<i>Keynote: Liesbeth De Mol</i> “What is a computer program? Or, how I liberate(d) myself as a computer user”
10:30-10:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10:45-13:00	<i>Session Three: Materialities of Computing</i> 10:45 Johannes Lenhard “Iterating your way to the future. Mainframe computers and a new culture of prediction” 11:15 Krisztián Németh “Digital archaeology: What a short newsreel reveals about a pioneering Eastern European computer” 11:45 <i>Coffee Break</i> 12:00 Clément Bonvoisin “Rage against the materiality of the machines. Encountering and adapting to material constraints in the use of different computing instruments at RAND Corporation (1947 – 1951)” 12:30 Ulf Hashagen “Digital materiality, historical authenticity, museal authority: The program-controlled calculating machines V3, V4, Z4, and Z3 of Konrad Zuse and the Deutsches Museum”
13:00-14:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:30-18:00	<i>Session Four: Histories and Cultures of Programming</i> 14:30 Amelie Mittlmeier “Committees, working groups, and scientific collaboration: The case of ALGOL 68” 15:00 David Nofre “‘There's a strange confusion here': The origins of the Backus-Naur-Form and the challenges of writing the history of early computer science” 15:30 <i>Coffee Break</i> 15:45 Mathilde Fichen “From AI to architecture: The performative action of a programming language” 16:15 Simone Martini “A case study in the design of programming constructs: Exception handling” 16:45 <i>Coffee Break</i> 17:00 Jad Kadan “Simultaneous code: Multiple invention and the early culture of programming automation, 1947–1952” 17:30 Tomas Petricek “Cultures of programming: The development of programming concepts and methodologies”
18:00-20:00	<i>Art Event</i> “The Ambiguity of Sorting” Engagement with artworks (with finger food & drinks) Panel with artists & discussion with Sasha Bergstrom-Katz, Ren Loren Britton, Verena Friedrich Organisation and moderation: Ana Maria Guzmán Olmos

Friday December 19	
9:00	<i>Welcome and Coffee</i>
9:30-10:30	<i>Keynote: Robin Hill</i> "Desktop to discourse: Philosophy born of Wordstar and VisiCalc"
10:30-10:45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
10:45-13:30	<i>Session Five: Understanding Computational Practices</i> 10:45 Chirine Laghjichi "Physical computation and the condition of locality" 11:15 Ben Gherson & Oron Shagrir "The mathematical objection to artificial (machine) intelligence" 11:45 <i>Coffee Break</i> 12:00 Alexander Gschwendtner "From representation to generation: The epistemic logic of latent space" 12:30 Giora Hon "Who will watch the watchmen (<i>Quis custodiet ipsos custodes</i>)? Von Neumann and Turing on computational error"
13:00	<i>Departure</i>