

Guest lecture:

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Modes of human decentering
and recentering in Oskar
Schlemmer's *Triadisches Ballett*

May 22, 5:00–6:30 PM

Anton-von-Webern-Platz 1, 1030 Wien
mdw campus, building K, level 1, room K0101

With the emergence of artificial intelligence technologies and their accelerated restructuring of human-nonhuman relations within various social spheres, there has been a widely registered return to human-centered discourse. In the face of the perceived loss of human relevance in near- and far-future scenarios of AI-driven societies, meaning is being constructed around a subjectivity that revives the Enlightenment subject, which had been deconstructed in schools of thought associated with the nonhuman turn since the late 20th century. To consider the implications of AI and the resurgence of the sovereign subject, Olivia Poppe examines the work of Bauhaus artist Oskar Schlemmer and his comprehensive production *Triadisches Ballett* (1922). The ballet not only reimagines the art of dance but also materializes Schlemmer's theory of the human as a figurine within its environment determined by mathematical laws. Poppe views Schlemmer's understanding of the human as a prototypical example wherein the human is simultaneously recentered and decentered in relation to immense technological restructurings of knowledge and social practices.