Center for Science, Technology, and Society Studies, Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences invites you to two day event:

Common Futures, Futures of the Commons:
Publishing, Artistry, and the Political Imagination

What is the role of the commons in the future of digital capitaliism?
What scenarios do the growing economic and cultural significance of digital commons like free and open source software, commons-based peer production technologies…entail?
(Arvidsson 2019:1)

Feb 27 · DAY 1
2020, 4-6pm, The Academy of Fine Arts, Prague (AVU), U Akademie 4, Praha 7

Lecture by Professor Gary Hall (Coventry University)

Postdigital Politics

In this talk I will examine our contemporary postdigital political conjuncture. This conjuncture, I will argue, springs from the crisis of representative democracy we are currently experiencing and involves a shift, via postdigital communications (social media, mobile phones etc.), to more direct forms of democracy. The latter is evident in the decentralised manner in which movements such as the Extinction Rebellion operate; but also in the U.K. Brexit party's rapid rise to prominence since its launch in March 2019, thanks to its adoption of the digital savvy electoral strategy of the Five Star Movement in Italy. I will analyse how the traditional political opposition between 'left' and 'right' has been overlaid in many places around the world by that between 'populist nativism' and elitist 'internationalism'. I will also discuss the way in which populist right-wing politicians (e.g. Jair Bolsonaro, Matteo Salvini, Donald Trump, Boris Johnson) have used the possibilities created by postdigital media to create a new model of political communications, one that is capable of overcoming the apparent disconnect between professional politicians and 'the people'. In response, I will offer some suggestions as to how those of us who position ourselves on the left of the political spectrum can resist this political takeover by the populist authoritarian right. In other word, I'll discuss how we can use the new postdigital communications for more progressive purposes that are attuned to today's changed political landscape. Among the illustrative examples provided will be some of the grassroots, bottom-up projects for the production of free resources, technical infrastructures and the commons I have collaborated on with different individuals and groups over the last twenty years.
For more on Gary's work and activities see www.garyhall.info

Feb 28 · DAY 2
2020, 2-4pm, the Academy of Fine Arts, Prague (AVU), U Akademie 4, Praha 7

Discussion Workshop With:

Douglas Dix
(Independent Scholar)

Some thoughts about the transmission of concepts, affects and percepts (or, what is a book and what is it for?)

Dafne Calvo
(Unversidad de Valladolid)

Shoot the software. How free code can help to save academia

Wolfgang Kaltenbrunner
(CWTS, Leiden)

You should feel bad about your writing. Irony and responsibility in academic publishing

Gary Hall
(Coventry University)

No more facts, please: On Evidentiary Realism in art as a means of resisting the authoritarian right