

**Hackers & Designers  
Summer Academy 2017**

**Going On and Off the Grid**

**July 30 - August 11, 2017  
De Ruimte, Vondelbunker,  
& Mediamatic in Amsterdam**

**PROGRAM**

# #HDSA 2017

Get prepped!  
Investigating means  
of going on and off  
the grid

30 July  
– 11 August 2017

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# Introduction

Hackers & Designers is a non-profit cross-disciplinary community of programmers, engineers, designers, and artists. H&D began in 2013 and has organized meetups where collaborative and inclusive workshops are given. In 2017 H&D will organize the second edition of the H&D Summer Academy. Selected participants will be offered a 10-day program including workshops, excursions, public film screening and lecture program.

H&D believes designers and artists should be empowered with the tools of the digital realm including coding, hardware usage and construction. Conversely technologists should be more comfortable and effective in engaging in creative processes through familiarity with the vocabulary of designers and artists. All disciplines should become more comfortable in theoretical and social discourse, and thus be asking questions such as not only can we but should we.

During the summer of 2017 Hackers & Designers invites an international group of ambitious participants to learn by creating, researching, and discussing.

## Investigating means of going *on* and *off* the grid

The HDSA2017 program focuses on the thematic thread and the process of going 'on and off-the grid', – a crucial societal topic and ongoing discussion at stake in both design/art and developer practices.

By developing an elaborate hands-on program H&D invites participants to reflect and question dependence and obedience of our daily work and living environments. How can we, as modern nomadic workers, look critically at infrastructure, networks and systems we rely on? Are we as steadily connected networkers capable of disconnecting from existing grids? Can we rethink and build self-sustaining environments that shape our future practices in unexpected ways?

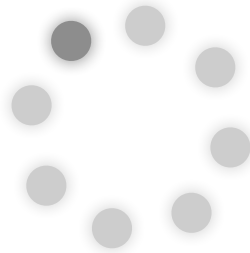


Hackers & Designers Summer Academy 2016 – The Internet of Bodies

The program shall challenge and activate the participants to use and push the boundaries of existing technology and programming platforms (web, hardware, software), networks online/offline (internet, deep web, darknet, peer 2 peer, blockchain), and user experience, all in a practical manner while incorporating content matters and ethical consequences of the proposed technologies and processes.

## DIY (Do it yourself) & DIT (Do it together)

In order to develop a deeper understanding of the qualities and disadvantages of technology we need to look inside the black boxes of the technology that we heavily rely on in our daily physical and digital, and our private and professional lives. Therefore a hands-on approach and the challenges that come with making stays central throughout the whole program. We urge the participants of the summer academy to collaborate in opening the box, look inside it, rummage through it or even make their own boxes.



Hackers & Designers Summer  
Academy 2016 – Networked Labor

# Workshop program

The program will be divided in two blocks of each 5 days.

## Week 1: 31 July – 4 August

De Ruimte, Distelweg 83, 1031 HD, Amsterdam  
Vondelbunker, Vondelpark bridge fall-out bunker

With: Things Network, Gottfried Haider,  
Sarah Garcin

Mode of production: Workshopping, wire framing,  
software development & prototyping, designing,  
discussion, paper maché :-)

Topics: The Internet of Things, remote networks,  
hardware-hacking, experimental cross-media publishing,  
smart kitchen

## Week 2: 7 - 11 August

De Ruimte, Distelweg 83, 1031 HD, Amsterdam  
Mediamatic, Dijkspark 6

With: Bongani Ricky Masuku, Center for Genomic  
Gastronomy, Sjef van Gaalen

Mode of production: Workshopping, Hardware hacking,  
camouflaging, and discussing

## Exhibition: 11 - 13 August

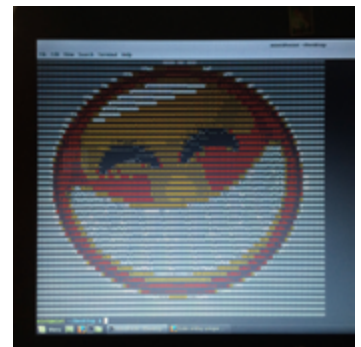
Mediamatic, Dijkspark 6

## Prepp Talks / Public Lecture night: 11 August

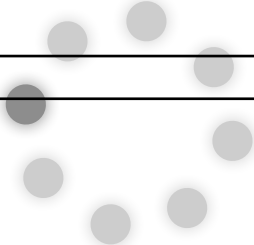
Mediamatic, Dijkspark 6

## Public film night: 2 August:

Vondelbunker, Vondelpark bridge fall-out bunker



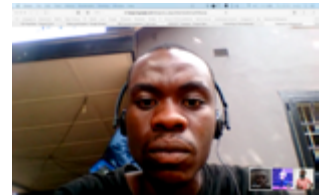
Hackers & Designers Summer  
Academy 2016 – Modem workshop

Day	Date	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00	20:00	21:00	22:00		
Su	30 Jul						Introduction Terminal & Python: <a href="#">H&amp;D</a>			Welcome dinner, De Ruimte						
Mo	31 Jul	Workshop 1: <a href="#">Things Network</a>			LUNCH – LUNCH – LUNCH – LUNCH – LUNCH – LUNCH – LUNCH – LUNCH – LUNCH											
Tu	1 Aug															
We	2 Aug	Workshop 2: <a href="#">Gottfried Haider</a>														
Th	3 Aug															
Fr	4 Aug	Workshop 3: <a href="#">Sarah Garcin</a>														
Mo	7 Aug	Workshop 4: <a href="#">Bongani Ricky Masuku</a>														
Tu	8 Aug															
We	9 Aug	Workshop 5: <a href="#">Center for Genomic Gastronomy</a>														
Th	10 Aug	----- Exhibition build up -----														
Fr	11 Aug	Workshop 6: <a href="#">Sjef van Gaalen</a>														
	12,13 Aug	Exhibition open 11-13 August @Mediamatic														



## **Bongani Ricky Masuku (ZW)**

**Bongani is an engineer and inventor, passionate about disrupting the agriculture industry through developing smart farming technologies aimed at improving the agriculture ecosystem. In 2013, he authored a single issue journal in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Institute of Engineers for a automated chicken feeding bot linked to a mobile app. The chicken feeder bot is at the core of disrupting the agriculture industry in Zimbabwe, through a crowd farming application that is going allow an average smartphone user, to grow their income from raising chicken by investing as little as a US\$1. The app allows the chicken farmer to be able to view amount of feed consumed and as well as receive alerts from the foul run when stock feed runs out. In 2015, the chicken feeding machine won the 2015 Innovation Barraza competition, a US Embassy funded initiative. Bongani also worked on a methane harvesting bot for dams. The purpose of the harvesting is to mitigate methane emissions, thus reducing climate impact of hydro reservoirs, at the same time creating a supply for methane gas, which is a major source of heating in homes. His latest invention is a device for monitoring bee hive activity. The purpose of the device is to allow farmers in the business of honey, to be able to monitor honey formation activity remotely from a web application. Bongani believes the disruption of the agriculture industry could be help reduce poverty in Africa through the maximum utilization of land and labour. Bongani holds a Bachelors degree of Industrial Engineering from National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe. He currently lives and works in Harare, Zimbabwe.**



## **Center for Genomic Gastronomy (US, NO)**

**HE CENTER FOR GENOMIC GASTRONOMY is an artist-led think tank that examines the biotechnologies and biodiversity of human food systems.**

**Our mission is:**

- \* to map food controversies**
- \* to prototype alternative culinary futures**
- \* to imagine a more just, biodiverse & beautiful food system.**

**The Center presents its research through public lectures, research publications, meals and exhibitions. Since 2010, the Center has conducted research and exhibited in Europe, Asia and North America. We collaborate with scientists, chefs, hackers and farmers.**



## **Sarah Garcin (F)**

**Sarah Garcin is graphic design and programmer. Since 2014, she is interested in the collaborative writing practices. In this research, she works with l'atelier des chercheurs, a research group that is developing documentation and knowledge sharing tools in learning contexts. She also works with g-u-i studio, where she is carrying out a reflection on new editorial practices. In this way, she builds live publishing machine and has created PrePostPrint with Raphael Bastide, a research group for alternative publishing systems. She is also teaching digital practices at Parsons School Paris and graphic design at Prépart Paris.**



## **Selby Gildemacher (NL)**

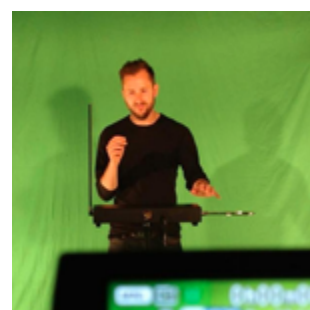
**Selby Gildemacher operates under the name of PIEK! a contemporary and dynamic multidisciplinary art group. The work of PIEK! includes a humorous and ironic look at contemporary society and examines current social structures through video, websites, performances, installations, iPhone apps and pop music. The work is often tied to place and time and makes use of interactivity to make the viewer part of and / or complicity.**

**Selby is one of initiators of Hackers & Designers and one of the organisers of the H&D Summer Academy 2017. [www.piek.com](http://www.piek.com)**



## **James Bryan Graves (US)**

**James Bryan Graves is a freelance software engineer, computer scientist, lecturer, and community organizer. James moved to the Netherlands in 2009 from the United States of America. He founded Hackers & Founders Amsterdam in 2011, a 3500+ member community of entrepreneurs and programmers. Hackers & Founders opened a non-profit community organized coworking space in the Herengracht in Amsterdam in 2014. The co-working space houses 85+ members. James is also working on a web literacy program called Curious Monkeys for children aged 9-12. James has been collaborating with Anja and Selby on Hackers & Designers since the very beginning.**



**James is one of initiators of Hackers & Designers and one of the organisers of the H&D Summer Academy 2017.**

**@\_jbg**

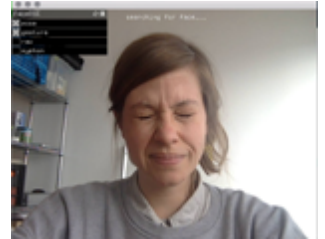
### **Anja Groten (DE)**

**Anja Groten is an independent designer and researcher based in Amsterdam. She completed her postgraduate studies at the design department of the Sandberg Instituut Amsterdam where she graduated in 2011.**

**Anja Groten investigates the possibilities of an agonistic design practice ('An Agreement to Disagreement – Why Designers need to Design Conflict', June 2011). She is interested in using external forces during her working process. By designing collective moments she aims to go into discussion with the public and simultaneously provokes confrontation and the unexpected.**

**Anja is one of initiators of Hackers & Designers and one of the organisers of the H&D Summer Academy 2017.**

**[www.anjagroten.com](http://www.anjagroten.com)**



### **Gottfried Haider (AU)**

**Gottfried Haider is fascinated by the hidden aspects of media art. What is the relationship between the traces of human activity in such artwork – like a custom-made circuit board – and what is revealed on the surface?**



### **The Things Network – Frank Beks (NL)**

**The Things Network is global community of 15140 people over 84 countries building a global Internet of Things data network. The Things Network is about enabling low power Devices to use long range Gateways to connect to an open-source, decentralized Network to exchange data with Applications and Platforms. They use a long range and low power radio frequency protocol called LoRaWAN and for short range Bluetooth 4.2. The technology allows for things to talk to the internet without 3G or WiFi. So no WiFi codes and no mobile subscriptions.**





# Locations

De Ruimte, Distelweg 83, 1031 HD, Amsterdam

Main workshop location: <https://www.cafederuimte.nl/>

- 30 July – 11 August: workshops & exhibition



De Ruimte, Distelweg 83, 1031 HD, Amsterdam  
Main workshop location: <https://vondelbunker.nl/>

- 2 August: Public film program





**De Ruimte, Distelweg 83, 1031 HD, Amsterdam**  
**Main workshop location: <https://vondelbunker.nl/>**

**- 10 – 13 August: Public lecture program & exhibition**



# Powered by

**Spectral Utility solar trailer**

**[www.spectral.energy/products/portablepower](http://www.spectral.energy/products/portablepower)**



Throughout the duration of the Summer Academy we will be able to use and work with the Solar Transformer, a powerful off-grid energy solution that integrates production, storage, distribution, and advanced energy management software into one complete package. It features an on-board control panel that gives a real-time overview of your renewable energy production, battery stats, power consumption, and more.

# Accommodation



Picture: Camping Zeeburg



Picture: Clink NOORD

Amsterdam offers a multitude of hotels, hostels, bed and breakfast accommodation and, of course, airbnb. Below are some suggestions for accommodation. Tipp: Book early before everything is full!

Camping Zeeburg - Zuider IJdijk 20

Clink NOORD - Badhuiskade 3

Lloyd Hotel & Cultural Embassy - Oostelijke Handelskade 34

Stayokay Stad - Kloveniersburgwal 97

Stayokay Zeeburg - Timorplein 21

Hotel Amsterdam op een schip - Sumatrakade 1099



# Price

**The full program inclusive welcome dinner, daily lunch, free access to the public programs, workshop materials and necessary equipment:**

**€350,00 (excl. VAT).**

**Price for one program block:**

**€200,00 (excl. VAT)\***

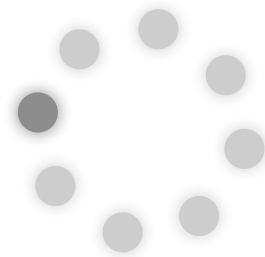
**\*Joining one of the two program block is possible in exceptional cases. Participants who sign up for the full program are prioritized in the selection process.**

## **Procedure:**

**You can sign up for the Summer Academy by filling out**

**this form: <https://hacksdesigns.typeform.com/to/YMhJL1>**

**After the selection process you will receive a confirmation email and an invitation to buy your ticket.**



# Participants about the Hackers & Designes Summer Academy:

**“I believe the H&D Summer Academy will provide a framework and dynamic environment to explore new challenges and collaborations.”**

**Eurico**

**“I feel we should spend more time discussing/ investigating what the internet actually is or should be, besides a nice way to make a living. I’m online all the time, but I’m quite worried and critical of the implications for privacy etc.”**

**Maaike**

**“It is a great opportunity to meet people from the field of technology and I am looking forward to the speakers. The academy is a great platform for new projects...”**

**Mark-Jan**

**“I would love to join & learn about coding, algorithms from a creatives perspective. I am not a coder / developer (yet) - but a strong concept thinker and very curious.”**

**Celia**

# Public Program

In addition to the workshops, Hackers & Designers invites cross-disciplinary speakers to take the participants and the public into a deeper conversation around topics, which have arose in a modern digital society. The lecture evening will include specifically talks reflecting on and researching the topic of connectivity, being on and off the grid, and the ethical consequences that arise in our contemporary information society. The speakers are invited to offer insights and diverse perspectives into their research, professional and artistic practices, all the while maintaining the accessible and humorous approach of H&D. The lecture evening will take place in the same location as the exhibition (the sluisdeurenloods at Mediamatic) so that visitors to the lecture can also see the work on display.



## Watch the documentation of previous editions:

Dowse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9nin56t03Y>

Networked Labor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3GTi0EFBQs&t=37s>

Internet Of Bodies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q3GTi0EFBQs&t=37s>

Modem Workshop : A(n) (im)practical introduction to Hertzian space

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2UZQHWsUm8>

DIY Drone Defense

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5G8W5MTARcl>

HDSA2015 Summer Talks

[http://hackersanddesigners.nl/#/Public\\_program:Summer\\_talks\\_and\\_summer\\_party](http://hackersanddesigners.nl/#/Public_program:Summer_talks_and_summer_party)

# Exhibition “Get Prepped”

The exhibition will run parallel on the location of the workshops and includes work from artists and designers whose practice engages with the theme of ‘getting prepped’ through both conceptual and practical hands-on work. The exhibition will take place in two locations, De Ruimte and Mediamatic and consist of already existing work and projects from invited artists and designers. The full exhibition will then move to Mediamatic where it will be expanded with work from participants of the H&D Summer Academy, who will be making work specifically for the exhibition during the course of a 2-week workshop program.

The inclusion of the Summer Academy participants in the exhibition is a manifestation of both the larger philosophy of H&D—the focus on process-based work—and the theme and ambition of ‘getting prepped’. We believe that showing work in all its forms, reflecting on the process and showing work in an unfinished or prototype phase, will engage the audience in a deeper conversation about how our digital systems and networks are constructed. What happens when one can not google, watch a “how to” Youtube video, or query Wikipedia? We want to explore what available alternatives exist for knowledge sharing.

Selection of works included in the exhibition:



Bongani Ricky Masuku – Chicken feeder



Gottfried Haider – Study for a Camera on a Plot of Land in the Desert



Sjef van Gaalen – The National Algorithm



Sarah Garcin – PJ Machine



The Center for Genomic Gastronomy – The Rare Endophyte Collectors Club



Oliver Barstow

**The Hackers & Designers Summer Academy 2017  
is kindly supported by:**

**stimuleringsfonds  
creatieve industrie**

**Thanks to  
Spectral Utilities**



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