

**Tomislav Medak**  
Biography

<i>Date and place of birth</i>	September 11, 1973, Zagreb
<i>Home address</i>	Gaje Alage 6 10000 Zagreb Croatia
<i>Address in the UK</i>	Centre for Postdigital Cultures Faculty of Arts and Humanities Coventry University
<i>Phone</i>	+385912580153
<i>E-mail</i>	medakt@uni.coventry.ac.uk, tom@mi2.hr, tom@badco.hr

## Summary

Tomislav Medak earned a degree in philosophy and German studies from the University of Zagreb/Croatia (1997). His theoretical interests are in political philosophy, media theory and aesthetics. His recent research is on technologies, capitalist development and post-capitalist transition, with a particular focus on economies of intellectual property and unevenness of techno-science. At times, he also writes and presents on theatre, dance and politics.

Since early 2018 he's a PhD fellow at Center for Postdigital Cultures of the Coventry university with a thesis on technology, climate change and access to knowledge.

Since 1999 he has co-ordinated theory and publishing programme of the Multimedia Institute - MAMA, Zagreb. He is a Free Software advocate and project leader of the Croatian Creative Commons team. In 2012 he helped organize and co-ordinate the Croatian protests against the multinational trade agreement ACTA. More recently, he has worked with Marcell Mars on the activities of Memory of the World/Public Library, a project focusing on technologies and politics of "shadow libraries".

He has curated and organized a number of conferences and exhibitions dealing with tactical media, commons or cultural activism, most recently conferences "The Idea of Radical Media", Zagreb (2013) and "Economy of Crisis Capitalism and Ecology of the Commons", Zagreb (2012). Working together with Marcell Mars, he has curated a series of exhibitions around Memory of the World/Public Library project, most notably in 2015 at Galerija Nova (Zagreb), in 2014 at Württembergische Kunstverein (Stuttgart) and in 2012 at the HAIP festival (Ljubljana). Earlier they organized together an exhibition on the history of hacking "System.Hack", presented between 2005-2007 in Zagreb, Belgrade and Novi Sad.

Since 2001 Tomislav Medak has also worked as an artist with the internationally acclaimed theatre collective BADco. As a dramaturge, director and/or performer he has made a number of staged works, including *Spores* (2016), *A Pound of Hysteria, Acceleration... - Melodrama* (2013), *The League of Time* (2010), *1 poor and one 0* (2008). Together with the collective he has created interactive installation works, such as *Responsibility for Things Seen*, initially presented at the Croatian exhibition at the Venice Biennale in 2011.

He is also a volunteer for the urban activist group Right to the City Zagreb.

## Publications

### Authored volumes

2016

- *The Hard Matter of Abstraction - A Guidebook to Domination by Abstraction*, V\_\_\_\_erlag für Handbücher, Stuttgart

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Shit Tech for a Shitty World</i>, Aksioma - Institute for Contemporary Art, Ljubljana</li> </ul>
<b><i>Edited volumes</i></b>	
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Javna knjižnica - Public Library</i> (co-edited with Marcell Mars), What, how and for Whom/WHW &amp; Multimedia Institute: Zagreb</li> </ul>
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Time and (In)Completion: Images and Performances of Time in Late Capitalism</i> (co-edited with Goran Sergej Pristaš), BADco.: Zagreb</li> </ul>
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Idea of Radical Media - A Reader</i> (co-edited with Petar Milat), Multimedia Institute: Zagreb</li> <li>• <i>Prospects of Arkzin</i> (co-edited with Petar Milat), Multimedia Institute: Zagreb</li> </ul>
2012	<i>Frakcija - Performing Arts Journal</i> (co-edited with Ivana Ivković), no. 62/63, "Actionable Image", Center for Drama Arts: Zagreb
2007	<i>System.hack()</i> (co-edited with Marcell Mars), Multimedia Institute: Zagreb
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Device art 2.006</i> (co-edited with Sunčica Ostoić and Olga Majcen), Kontejner - Bureau for Contemporary Art Praxis: Zagreb</li> <li>• <i>Touch Me - Intresections of Technology, Science and Art</i> (co-edited with Sunčica Ostoić and Olga Majcen), Kontejner - Bureau for Contemporary Art Praxis: Zagreb</li> </ul>
2002	<i>Frakcija - Performing Arts Journal</i> (co-edited with Ivana Ivković), no. 22/23, "Radicalisms of Eastern Europe", Center for Drama Arts: Zagreb
<b><i>Book chapters and interviews</i></b>	
Forthcoming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The System of a Takedown : Control and De-commodification in the Circuits of Academic Publishing" (co-authored with Marcell Mars) in <i>Tactical Media Anthology</i>, eds. Eric Kluitenberg and David Garcia, MIT Press: Cambridge</li> </ul>

2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Knowledge Commons and Activist Pedagogies: From Idealist Positions to Collective Actions - Conversation with Marcell Mars and Tomislav Medak." In <i>Learning in the Age of Digital Reason</i>, edited by Petar Jandrić, 243–269. SensePublishers, 2017.</li> <li>• "From Independent Cultural Work to Political Subjectivity." In <i>The Art of Civil Action: Political Space and Cultural Dissent</i>, edited by Philipp Dietachmair and Pascal Gielen, 207–27. Antennae - Arts in Society. Amsterdam: Valiz, 2017.</li> </ul>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Amateur Librarian - A Course in Critical Pedagogy" in <i>Mondothèque: A radiating book</i>, Femke Snelting, Constant vzw: Brussels</li> <li>• "Taken Literally" (co-authored with Dubravka Sekulić and Marcell Mars) in <i>We Need It - We Do It</i>, eds. Dinko Peračić, Miranda Veljačić, Slaven Tolj and Emina Višnić, Platforma 9,81: Split</li> <li>• "Work Every Day - Izvod o plesu i radu" ["Work Every Day - An argument on dance and labor"], in <i>O plesu i iz(a) plesa</i>, ed. Andrej Mirčev, Sodaberg: Zagreb</li> </ul>
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The Future After the Library - Ubuweb and Monoskop's Radical Gestures" in <i>Public Library</i>, eds. Marcell Mars and Tomislav Medak, What, how and for Whom/WHW &amp; Multimedia Institute: Zagreb</li> </ul>
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Hacking" in <i>Truth is Concrete - A Handbook for Artistic Strategies in Real Politics</i>, eds. Steirischer Herbst and Florian Malzacher, Sternberg Press: Berlin</li> <li>• "Theatre and Totality" in <i>Time and (In)Completion: Images and Performances of Time in Late Capitalism</i>, eds. Tomislav Medak and Goran Sergej Pristaš, BADco.: Zagreb</li> </ul>
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Politisches Theater und soziale Totalität" in <i>Aufständige Ästhetik vier Antworten aus Kroatien auf Hans-Thies Lehmanns Vortrag "Ästhetik des Aufstands? Grenzgänge zwischen Politik und Kunst in den neuen</i></li> </ul>

	sozialen Bewegungen", Drugo more: Rijeka.
<b>Articles</b>	
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Technologies for an Ecological Transition: A Faustian Bargain?" Working paper. Institute for Political Ecology: Zagreb</li> </ul>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The Art, the Political Conjuncture, and the Left", <i>Schloss-Post</i>, <a href="http://schloss-post.com/">http://schloss-post.com/</a></li> <li>• "Death and Survival of Dead Labor", <i>Schloss-Post</i>, <a href="http://schloss-post.com/death-survival-dead-labor/">http://schloss-post.com/death-survival-dead-labor/</a></li> </ul>
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Neutralnost interneta: što se to mene tiče?" ["Net Neutrality: What Does It Have to Do with Me?"], <i>Bilten</i>, <a href="http://www.bilten.org/?p=10225">http://www.bilten.org/?p=10225</a></li> <li>• "Invaliditet - inkluzija - kapitalizam" ["Disability - Inclusion - Capitalism"], working paper, <i>Grupa 22</i>, <a href="http://www.grupa22.hr/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Invaliditet_inkluzija_kapitalizam_FINAL-3.pdf">http://www.grupa22.hr/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Invaliditet_inkluzija_kapitalizam_FINAL-3.pdf</a></li> </ul>
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Civilno društvo i politički rad na ljevici" ["Civil Society and the Political Work on the Left"], <i>3k: Kapital, klasa, kritika</i>, vol. 1., no. 1, Centar za radničke studije</li> <li>• "Novi mediji, stari kapitalizam" ["New Media, Old Capitalism"], <i>Bilten</i>, <a href="http://www.bilten.org/?p=514">http://www.bilten.org/?p=514</a></li> </ul>
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Open Institutions", <i>Frakcija - Performing Arts Journal</i>, no. 60/61</li> </ul>
<b>Translations (from French, English and German into Croatian)</b>	
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gilles Deleuze, <i>Bartleby ili formula</i> [<i>Bartleby, ou la formule</i>], Multimedia Institute and Kuda.org</li> </ul>
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Étienne Balibar, <i>Nasilje i civilnost</i> [<i>Violence et civilité</i>], Multimedia Institute and Faculty for Media and Communication</li> </ul>
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Hardt, Antonio Negri, <i>Mnoštvo</i> [<i>Multitude</i>], Multimedia Institute</li> </ul>

2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hauke Brunkhorst, <i>Solidarnost</i> [<i>Solidarität</i>], Multimedia Institute</li> </ul>
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jean-Luc Nancy: <i>2 ogleda: Razdjelovljena zajednica / O singularnom pluralnom bitku</i> [<i>La communauté desoeuvrée / De l'être singulier pluriel</i>], Multimedia Institute and Arkzin</li> </ul>
<b><i>Selected talks and presentations</i></b>	
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Disrupting Technological Change", panel presentation at the Labor and Technology symposium, Institute for Labor Studies, Ljubljana, Oct 4</li> <li>• "Estetizacija tehnopolitike", talk at the conference in honor of Nadežda Čačinovič, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Zagreb, Sep 29</li> <li>• "Black-boxing Politics: How Techno-Solutionism Obfuscates Social Antagonism", talk at the Plan D conference, Zagreb Sep 28</li> <li>• "Logistical Transformation of the World and the City", presentation at the Mine, Yours, Ours conference, Rijeka, Apr 4</li> </ul>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• panel presentation at the Unboxing: Algorithm, Data, Democracy conference in Berlin, Dec 12,</li> <li>• "Technologies for a Degrowth Transition - A Faustian Bargain?", refereed paper, Degrowth Conference in Budapest and Green Academy at the island of Vis</li> <li>• "Beyond the Paradigm of Control", talk at Festival My, Yours, Ours in Rijeka and net.cube programme at Gallery Miroslav Kraljević in Zagreb</li> <li>• "Bordering, Social Choreography &amp; Transmodernity - Dance beyond Capitalist Modernity", talk at Tanzkongress in Hannover</li> <li>• "Technological Systems and Social Transition - Do Open Technology and Design Matter",</li> </ul>

2015	<p>talk at D Day in Zagreb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The Left, the Political Conjuncture, and the Art", panel contribution at the Transitions 3 festival</li> <li>• "Urban Disturbance, Political Emergence", talk at Spielart festival in München</li> <li>• "System of a Takedown", panel presentation at the Authorship and Quotations symposium at the Akademie Schloss Solitude</li> <li>• "Write Off", "Illegal Copy", "Shelf", short presentations at the Ideographies of Knowledge symposium at the Mundaneum in Mons</li> <li>• "Technological Development, Post-Capitalist Transition and Underdevelopment", refereed paper, conference "Reflections on Capitalism" in Belgrade</li> <li>• "Rechtsästhetik: Commons", course at the Merz Akademie in Stuttgart</li> </ul>
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<b>Organizational affiliations</b>	
<b>Center for Postdigital Cultures, Coventry University</b>	<i>(<a href="http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/areas-of-research/postdigital-cultures/">http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/areas-of-research/postdigital-cultures/</a>) - a research center at the Coventry University</i>
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>PhD fellow</i></li> </ul>
<b>Multimedijalni institut - Multimedia Institute</b>	<i>(<a href="http://www.mi2.hr">www.mi2.hr</a>) - a non-profit organization working in technology, digital culture and social theory</i>
2005 to present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President of Association</li> </ul>
2005 to present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• active in urban justice and commons-related contestations, affiliated to Right to the City Zagreb, either through writing, organizing discussions and conferences or direct action</li> </ul>
2004 to present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coordinator of the Croatian Creative Commons team</li> </ul>
2002 to present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• co-coordinator of free software and free</li> </ul>

2000 to present	<p>culture advocacy activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>co-coordinator of theory and publishing programme</li> </ul>
<b>BADco.</b>	<i>(www.badco.hr) - a theatre collective</i>
2002 to present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>performer, dramaturge, director</li> </ul>
<b>Association Operation:City</b>	<i>(www.operacijagrad.net) - a co-ordinating organization of Zagreb independent cultural actors</i>
2011 to present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Member</li> </ul>
<b>iCommons</b>	<i>(www.icommons.org) - an international organisation with a broad vision to develop a united global commons front by collaborating with open education, access to knowledge, free software, open access publishing and free culture communities around the world. iCommons closed its operations in 2016.</i>
2006 - 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Member, since 2010 President of the Board</li> </ul>



<b>Organizing, editorial, curatorial and artistic work</b>	
<b>Major organizing experiences (with Multimedia Institute)</b>	
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>curator of the festival "Mine, Yours, Ours" in Rijeka</li> </ul>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organizer of lecture series "Political Technotope"</li> </ul>
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organizer of lecture series "Program of the Capitalist City"</li> </ul>
June 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organizer of conference "Idea of Radical Media"</li> </ul>
November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organizer of conference "Economy of Crisis Capitalism and Ecology of the Commons"</li> </ul>
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organizer of lecture series "The Future of the Book"</li> </ul>
December 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>co-organizer of conference "The Neoliberal Frontline"</li> </ul>
September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>co-organizer of YAXWE hacker camp in Pula</li> </ul>
June 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>co-organizer of the international free culture movement conference iCommons Summit 2007 in Dubrovnik</li> </ul>
January 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>co-ordinator of the third Free Culture festival "Freedom to Creativity!"</li> </ul>
February 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>co-ordinator of the second Free Culture festival "Freedom to Creativity!"</li> </ul>
January 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>co-ordinator of the first Free Culture festival "Freedom to Creativity!"</li> </ul>
2005 - 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organizer of lecture series "Knowledge Society and Free Information Flows"</li> </ul>
September 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organizing team member of the free software summer camp "Summer Source"</li> </ul>
July 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organizing team member for the regional "Tactical Media Camp" - a pre-event of the last Next5Minutes conference</li> </ul>
May 2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>editor for the international conference "New Media Culture Week - Critical Upgrade for Cyber Utopias"</li> </ul>
2000 to present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organizer of lecture series in political philosophy, media studies, aesthetics</li> </ul>
<b>Major organizing experiences (with Association Operation:City)</b>	
February 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organizer and moderator of public debate "A Future Wasted? - Austerity, Privatisation of Public Services and Enclosures of Public Goods"</li> </ul>
December 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organizer and moderator of public debate "A Critique of Creativity - Economic</li> </ul>

January 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transformations, Cultural Work and Self-Organizing"</li> <li>co-organizer of the international conference "Open Institutions - Institutional Imagination and Cultural Public Sphere"</li> </ul>
November 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organizing team member for the conference "Exit Europe - New Geographies of Culture"</li> </ul>
<b>Editorial work (with Multimedia Institute)</b>	
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>editor of "Idea of Radical Media" conference reader</li> </ul>
2005 to present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>editor of publishing series "Basic - Progressive Culture and Technology" (edited translations of L. Lessig, M. Gržinić, M. Wark,</li> </ul>
2002 – 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>co-editor of a joint publishing series by Belgrade Circle and Multimedia Institute "New Critical Theory" (edited translations of: H. Dubiel, H. Brunkhorst)</li> </ul>
2002 – 2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>co-editor of "MaMa's small volumes" series (edited translations of: S. Sassen, Critical Art Ensemble, A-G. Düttmann)</li> </ul>
2000 to present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>co-editor of "past:forward" publishing series (edited translations of: J-L. Nancy, G. Agamben, J. Rancière, A. Negri &amp; M. Hardt, E. Weizman, F. Moretti, Q. Meillasoux)</li> </ul>
1997 – 1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>member of editorial board of the journal of philosophy students "Čemu"</li> </ul>
<b>Curatorial work (with Multimedia Institute)</b>	
2012 to present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>co-curation of the exhibitions and conferences around the Memory of the World/Public Library project</li> </ul>
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>curatorial team member for the exhibition "Extravagant Bodies", organized with the curatorial collective Kontejner</li> </ul>
2005 - 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>co-authored with Marcell Mars the conceptual exhibition System.hack()</li> </ul>
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>curatorial team member of "Peer Economies", co-organized with What, how and for whom/WHW</li> </ul>
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>curatorial team member of the "OutInOpen/Touch Me" exhibition of info- and bio-art, organized in collaboration with the curatorial collective Kontejner</li> </ul>

<b>Artistic work (with BADco.)</b>	
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● dramaturge of the theatre performance "Correcting Rhythm"</li> </ul>
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● concept and dramaturgy of the dance performance "Spores"</li> </ul>
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● concept of the video installation "Institutions Need to be Constructed - Stasis"</li> </ul>
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● concept of the theatre performance "A Pound of Hysteria, Acceleration... - Melodrama"</li> </ul>
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● co-authored the installation "TVolution will not be televised"</li> </ul>
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● dramaturge of the theatre performance "Is There Life on Stage - Excercises in Terraforming"</li> </ul>
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● dramaturge of the theatre performance "Black and Forth"</li> </ul>
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● co-authored the installation "Responsibility for Things Seen", presented at Venice Biennale 2011</li> </ul>
2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● performer and dramaturge of the theatre performance "The League of Time"</li> </ul>
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● performer and co-director of the theatre performance "1 poor and one 0"</li> </ul>
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● performer and co-author of the theatre performance "Deleted Messages"</li> </ul>
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● performer and co-author of the theatre performance "RibCage"</li> <li>● performer in the theatre performance "Diderot's Nephew, or Blood is Thicker than Water"</li> </ul>