Curriculum vitae / Selected Biography

Stephen P.T. Kovats (B.Arch) *media, time and space - open cultures and critical transformation* **e:**
kovats@openculture.agency

Stephen Kovats is founding co-director of **r0g_agency for open culture and critical transformation**, the Berlin based international non-profit organisation promoting and developing the use of open source resources, tools and platforms for critical post-conflict / post-disaster transformation. Since 2012 r0g_agency has been deeply involved in applying open technologies to the peacebuilding effort in and around South Sudan with initiatives such as the **#peacehackcamp**, the **#ASKnet hub development** programme and the **#defyhatenow** initiative which acts to counter online incitement to violence in civil conflict. Learning from South Sudan, the #defyhatenow initiative is now being applied in mitigating civil conflict in Cameroon and for mirgant information systems in Ghana. Supporting young innovators in these regions, Kovats's team developed **#ASKotec, the 'Access to Skills and Knowledge open tech emergency case'**. A mobile technical repair and makerspace able to be deployed in any region or context regardless of access to resources such as electricity or internet, #ASKotec is field testing in South Sudan, Uganda and Kenya and Pakistan. Kovats also lectures on International Media Culture at the **University of Darmstadt**, and works with intergovernmental agencies such as **UNESCO** and **UNICEF** on peacebuilding and education, with networks that include **GOSH, the Gathering for Open Science and Hardware**, and is a founding member of the **Global Innovation Gathering (GIG)**, a group of open systems specialists passionate about empowering young innovators interested in creating positive change in their communities as a journey towards long term sustainability.

Selected Key Professional Activities

r0g_agency for open culture and critical transformation gGmbH　　　　　　**https://openculture.agency**
founding director

2011 - current

2019	**[#MMN] Ghana Migrant Media Network Initiative** co-manager / media systems
	https://openculture.agency
2019 - current	**[#defyhatenow_Cameroon + Ethiopia] UNESCO/GIZ** partnership lead
	https://defyhatenow.org
2018 - current	**[U. Darmstadt] Int. Media Cultural Work - IMC Master Program** sessional lecturer
	https://h-da.de/en/studies/study-programmes/study-programmes/architecture-media-and-design/international-media-cultural-work-imc
2016 - current	**[#ASKotec] Access to Skills & Knowledge open tech emergency case** systems director
	https://www.betterplace.org/en/projects/63347
Mar 2016 + Mar 2019	**[#tech4life] STEAM workshop / Energy Systems, Karachi** curator / mentor
	http://www.dawn.com/news/1245059
Mar. 2016	**[#openICT4ag] SautiYaWakulima / ojoVoz mobile app testing / site visit, Bagamoyo, TZ**
	http://sautiyawakulima.net/bagamoyo/about.php
Feb. 2016	**Strategy Forum on Speech That Can Catalyze Mass Violence, Daressalaam**, speaker
	http://nexus-fund.org/about/about-the-nexus-fund/
Dec. 2015	**[#peacehackcamp] Juba Int. Post-Conflict Innovation Summit,** curator / co-chair
	https://peacehackcamp.net/
June 2015	**[transformaking] Int. Summit of Critical Making** curator / co-chair
	https://transformaking.org/
2016 - current	**[#ASKnet] Peer2Peer Hub Development South Sudan / Uganda / Kenya,** curator / director
	https://asknet.community
April 2015 – Dec 2018	**[#DefyHateNow] Conflict Resolution Programme Implementation**, South Sudan / Uganda
	https://defyhatenow.org/
Jan. 2015	**[#DoDevDif] Doing Development Differently** Berlin workshop initiator / co-chair
	http://www.openculture.agency/dodevdif
July 2014	**[#DefyHateNow] South Sudan Inside-Out: Rebooting the Peace** Berlin conference chair
	http://openculture.agency/defyhatenow-rebooting-peace/
June 2014	**[proto:type] 2014 Yogyakarta Open Culture & Critical Making Meeting** curator / co-chair
	http://www.natural-fiber.com/y2014/
Nov 2013	**Open Systems Solutions for Peace & Development** research/seminar, Kuajok, S. Sudan
	http://r0g-media.org/2013/12/13/oswarrap-welcome-to-kuajok/
May 2013	**Hybrid City 2013: Subtle rEvolutions** keynote speaker, Athens
	http://uranus.media.uoa.gr/hc2
May 2013	**re:publica conference: (h)activating OPEN ICT4D** session chair, Berlin
	http://www.re-publica.de/sessions/hactivating-open-ict4d
May 2013	**MEDIA CITIES post-urbanism Conference** keynote speaker, Buffalo, USA
	http://mediacities.net
Feb. 2013	**Open Systems Solutions UNESCO WSIS+10 Review** session chair, Paris
	https://www.unesco-ci.org/cmscore/events/10-open-solutions-addressing-global-challenges
Feb. 2013	**Brilliant City: HexagramCIAM Syncretic Transcodings Seminar** keynote speaker,
	http://hexagramciam.org/syncretic.php

Jan. 2013	**WIKITOPIA Open Systems Conference** keynote speaker, Hong Kong	
	http://videotage.org.hk/project/wikitopia-keynote-and-panel-discussion	
Dec. 2012	**MEDIA & MAKERS: Open Knowledge and Sustainable Media Forum**, co-chair, Juba	
	http://media-and-makers.tumblr.com/MMJuba2012	
Nov. 2012	**Summit of NewThinking on Open Strategies**, speaker, Berlin	
	http://open-strategies.de/sessions/osjuba-open-sourcing-a-new-capital	
Oct. 2012	**Sustainable Architectures, University of Juba workshop** lecturer, Juba, South Sudan	
Sep. 2012	**Social Media Week: Open Sourcing a New Nation** panel, Berlin	
	http://socialmediaweek.org/blog/event/open-sourcing-a-new-nation	
Jun. 2012	**#OSJUBA Open Source & Post-Conflict Development** Conference director, Berlin	
	http://r0g-media.org/osjuba	
Apr. 2012	**MICRONATION/MACRONATION 2012** Conference co-chair, Yogyakarta, Indonesia	
	http://bit.ly/130GfJC	
Feb. 2012	**CIRCUM / POLARITY; Art, Culture and Technology in the Changing Arctic** curator, Berlin	
	www.mcluhan-salon.de/calendar	
Nov. 2011	**Tracing Mobility Symposium** moderator / House of World Cultures, Berlin	
	http://trampoline.org.uk/tracingmobility/events/event/symposium	
Nov. 2011	**Getting Rough with Media Summit** curator and moderator / IMPAKT Festival, Utrecht, NL	
	http://bit.ly/vSq3zo	
Sep. 2011	**ISEA 2011 Istanbul** program committee and guest curator / Istanbul	
	http://isea2011.sabanciuniv.edu	
May 2011	**RE-Touching McLuhan: The Medium is the Massage** event director & co-chair / Berlin	
	www.mcluhan2011.eu/berlin	
2010 - 2012	**McLuhan in Europe Network** initiator and co-director	
	www.mcluhan2011.eu	

2007 - 2011	**Director - transmediale festival for art and digital culture, Berlin**	**www.transmediale.de**
2011	transmediale.2011	**RESPONSE : ABILITY**
2010	transmediale.2010	**FUTURITY NOW!**
2009	transmediale.2009	**DEEP NORTH**
2008	transmediale.2008	**CONSPIRE!**

2003 - 2007	**Chief Curator - V2_Institute for the Unstable Media, Rotterdam** (selected projects)	**www.v2.nl**
2007	**DEAF07_Interact or Die!,** program and event concept and co-curator	
	www.deaf04.nl	
2006	**The Electromagnetic Bride**, international art/technology conference director	
	www.v2.nl	
2006	**Polar Tangent (Igloolik)**, IPY online open cultures / mobility event	
	www.v2.nl	
2006	**TANGENT_STREAMS**, monthly live and interactive program series curator and moderator	
	www.v2.nl	
2006	**Exploding Television: TANGENT_TV series**, Int. Film Fest event curator and moderator	
	www.explodingtelevision.net	
2005	**INFRActures: Translations between the Sonic, Spatial and Temporal**, exhibition co-curator	
	www.v2.nl	
2005	**Sarajevo Picnic 2005 (Sarajevo):** event concept, co-production, and moderation	
	www.pro.ba/picnic	
2005	**ITASC - Interpolar Transnational Art&Science Consortium:** project concept and co-founder	
	now: http://ctasc.ca and arcticperspective.org	
2004	**DEAF04_Affective Turbulence (Rotterdam):**; event concept and co-curator	
	www.deaf04.nl	
2004	**DataCloud @ Manifesta5 (San Sebastian):** concept and co-production w/ Berlage Institute	
	www.manifesta.es	
2004	**Trans-European Picnic (Novi Sad):** event concept, co-curator, and moderator	
	www.transeuropicnic.org	
2004	**Free BitFlows Networking Conference (Vienna):** text authoring and project development	
	freebitflows.t0.or.at	
2003	**International Open Systems Conference (Goethe Institute):** concept and moderation	
	www.v2.nl/projects/opensystems	
2003	**DEAF 03_Dutch Electronic Arts Festival (Rotterdam)**; curatorial and event development	
	deaf.v2.nl/03	

1991 - 2002	**Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, Germany** (selected projects)	**www.bauhaus-dessau.de**
2000 - 2002	**Addis Ababa City Forum / Urban Master Plan**; exhibition curator and trainer master-plan	
1998 - 1999	**Bauhauskolleg - post graduate studies in urbanism;** academic program development	
1993 - 1999	**OSTRANENIE - the International Electronic Media Forum**; Director	
1991 - 1993	**Experimental Studio - Dessau North**; Director, int. studio program on German unification	

selected publications, academic, artistic, design and cultural infrastructural work

2020 **Slipping from Threat to Destruction: Where Social Media, Propaganda and Hate Speech Fuel Hot Conflict** in *Affect, Algorithms and Propaganda: Interdisciplinary Research for the Age of "Post-Truth" Media* ed. Megan Boler and Elizabeth Davis, University of Toronto.

2019 **CAMP Folio – Critical Artistic Media Practice**, Stephen Kovats and Victoria Wenzelmann, icebauhaus South South Media Lab Exchange 2018

2016 **Digital Media Literacy in Conflicts: The Increasing Role of Social Media in South Sudan**, Anke Fiedler and Stephen Kovats, in *International Handbook of Media Literacy Education*, B. De Abreu, P. Mihailidis, A. Lee, J. Melki, J. McDougall. eds., Abingdon: Routledge, 2016

2015 **#OSJUBA, l'urbanisme ouvert dans la transformation post-conflit,** *MCD*, « Art et politique », March 2015

2014 **#OSJUBA: Open Urbanism in Post-Conflict Transformation**, Leonardo Journals, MIT Press
http://www.mitpressjournals.org/toc/leon/0/ja

2013 **The Future of Open Systems Solution, Now!** UNESCO Commissioned Research Report
http://www.wsis-community.org / http://r0g-media.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/unesco_opensystems_.3_final.pdf

2012 **Open Source & DIY Culture in Post-Conflict Development** article
http://www.conceptlab.com/

2011 **An Open Web: transmediale parcours 4** book sprint publication / concept
http://openweb.flossmanuals.net

COUNTERBLAST 1954, McLuhan re-print concept / co-publisher (ISBN: 978-1-58423-456-2)
http://bit.ly/hl2Z36

2010 **Bandung Declaration on Open Cultures, Technologies and Ecologies** co-chair / arte-polis3
http://bit.ly/w9hbZ3

education

1990 **B. Arch. with Distinction**, Carleton University School of Architecture, Ottawa
The Archi-Tonomy of Desire: Our Photographic Culture / Research Thesis
1984 **Canadian Award of Excellence** in Design
1984 **Ontario Scholar,** Nepean High School, Ottawa
1979 completed participation in the first **French Immersion Program** in Canada

personal / contact data:

place, date of birth	**Ottawa, February 19, 1965**	citizenship	**Canadian / Hungarian**
		residency status	**Germany / EU**
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email	**kovats@openculture.agency**	tel (DE)	**+49 170 588 7806**
twitter	**@intertwilight**	facebook: **https://www.facebook.com/opencultureagency/**	
languages	**English, German, French, Hungarian (advanced), Italian (basic), Dutch (basic)**		