PENELOPE

HOMO TEXTOR CONFERENCE

Weaving as technical mode of existence.

The title of this conference, *homo textor*, refers to three dimensions of humans where weaving (texere in Latin) is at stake. First of all, textile production is one of the oldest technologies and constituted the exchange of homo sapiens with the world longer than any other craft. The title (and the featured image) also alludes to the fact that the human body and brain both consist of connected fibres. Furthermore, recent studies in ethnology and anthropology suggest that the concept of weaving stands in for the inner connection of societies and their proper relation to the world, today all pervasive in the idea of the world-wide web.

Understanding weaving as a mode of existence means to look at the logic and practice of patterns and weaving as a generic principle that is able to structure a whole community, its art and knowledge, and its way to think about nature and the cosmos.

HOMO TEXTOR will be a conference rethinking ancient weaving and pattern technologies as paradigms for order in ancient Greece and exploring ancient weaving as a *technē* at the junction of art, craft and technology. We want to address ways in which the distinctive logic of weaving and its patterns shapes early Greek modes of thinking about order in a range of domains. In order to show that the binary structure of patterns still provides ample possibilities beyond the mere textile domain, we will also have sessions and short performances of contemporary digital examples.

We approach the topic from the perspective of various disciplines (philology, ethnology, mathematics, art, computer science) along four main topics:

▪ Weaving as Order in Ancient Greece
▪ The Textile Production of Weaving and Song
▪ The Textile Production of Knowledge and Science
▪ Pattern Machines: Alternative Histories

17th and 18th September 2019
Kerschensteiner Kolleg of Deutsches Museum, Munich
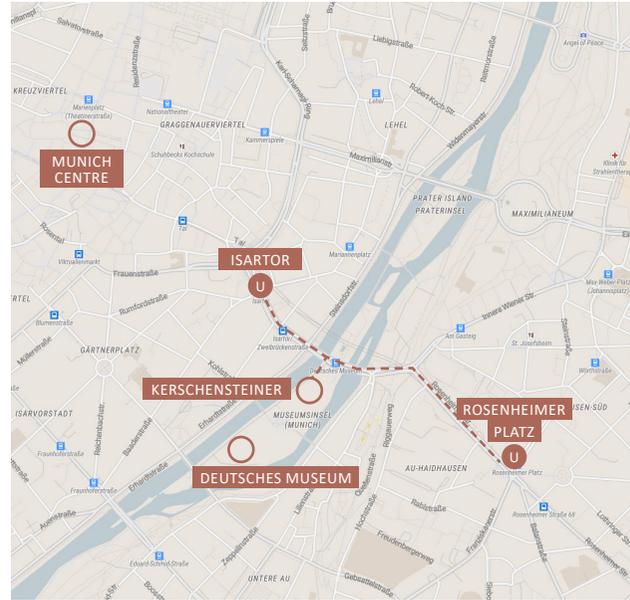
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penelope.hypotheses.org

Deutsches Museum

HOMO
TEXTOR

C O N F E R E N C E

PENELOPE

Conference Programme

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH

9:00	Coffee
9:15 – 10:30	**Introductory part**

Welcome
Helmuth Trischler

HOMO TEXTOR:
An Introduction
Ellen Harlizius-Klück

Archaeology of Textile Production and Consumption in Archaic Greece: State of the Art and Future Direction
Margarita Gleba

10:30	Coffee Break
10:45 – 12:15	**Weaving as Order in Ancient Greece – Part 1**

Modular patterns: A Survey on the Textile Origin of Neolithic Design
Kalliope Sarri

Temple Dressing: Sacred Architecture and Textile Design
Deborah Steiner

12:15	Lunch Break

13:30 – 15:00	**Weaving as Order in Ancient Greece – Part 2**

***Poikilia*, Geometry and the Patterns of Nature in Greek Archaic Mind**
Adeline Grand-Clément

How Poetry appropriates (Textile) Technology: One Methodological Point in the Investigation of the Vocabulary of Ancient Weaving
Giovanni Fanfani

15:00	Coffee Break
15:15 – 17:45	**The Textile Production of Weaving and Song**

Touch, Memory and Song: Knowledge in the Socio-Technical Ensemble of Weaving
Annapurna Mamidipudi

Woven witness: Mnemonics, Textiles, and the Myth of Philomela
Anthony Tuck

Reflections on References to Textile Technology in the Diction of Archaic Greek Lyric and Epic
Gregory Nagy

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH

9:00	Coffee
9:15 – 10:45	**The Textile Production of Knowledge and Science – Part 1**

The Rapport of Weaving and Geometry in Archaic Greece
Ellen Harlizius-Klück

The Textile Expression Gap
Lars Hallnäs
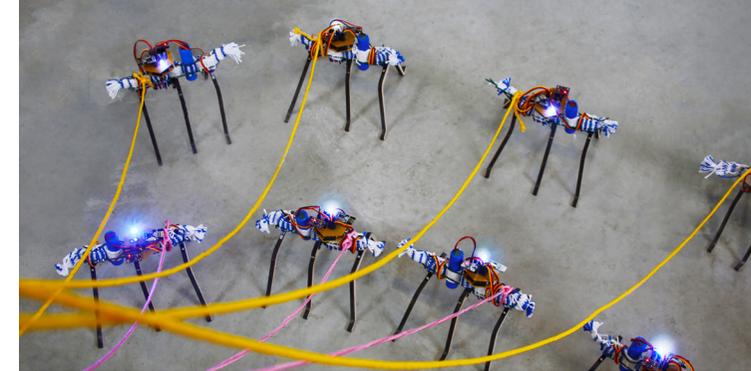
10:45	Coffee Break
11:00 – 12:30	**The Textile Production of Knowledge and Science – Part 2**

Comparative Reflections on Andean Weaving as Science
Denise Arnold

Braiding and Dancing: Embodied Rhythm and the Matter of Pattern
Victoria Mitchell

12:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 15:00	**Pattern machines: Alternative histories – Part 1**

The Machinery – Challenging the Automaton: Creative Resistance and the Nineteenth Century Cotton Worker
Caroline Radcliffe

Rewiring Women and Electronics: Textiles as Radical Tech-Art
Ebru Kurbak

15:00	Coffee Break
15:15 – 16:45	**Pattern Machines: Alternative Histories – Part 2**

Merge, Weave, Trap. Programming and the Paläoanthropology of Concepts
Julian Rohrhuber

Closing the Loop between Live Coding and Ancient Greek Technology
Alex McLean and Dave Griffiths

16:45	**Sum-up and Prospects**