

Mapping the Frontiers of High Finance: Art, Anthropology & the Material Culture of Markets

A Joint Royal Anthropological Institute & London School of Financial Arts Workshop

Saturday 25th April 2015, 10.00-17.30

Royal Anthropological Institute
50 Fitzroy Street, London, W1T 5BT

Speaker Biographies

[Brett Scott](#) is an anthropologist, economist, former broker and author of '[The Heretics Guide to Global Finance](#)' (Pluto 2013). Brett is the founder of the [London School of Financial Arts](#), through which he offers a set of courses and workshops designed to equip people to explore and experiment with the apparently opaque financial sector.

[Paolo Quattrone](#) is Professor of Accounting Governance and Social Innovation at Edinburgh Business School. Paolo's research explicitly engages with the [visual power of accounting techniques](#), and has produced fascinating work on the relationship between ethics, [doubt](#), certainty and accounting in different historical periods, with a particular focus on the [Jesuit Order](#).

[Paul Crosthwaite](#) is Lecturer in English Literature, also at Edinburgh, whose research engages with the intermingling of financial logics and literary traditions, with a particular interest in the [economic figures](#) who animate [financial crisis](#). Along with [Nicky Marsh](#) (Southampton) and [Peter Knight](#) (Manchester), Paul runs the [Image of Finance Project](#), an exhibition engaging with artistic depictions of, and visual representations within, financial markets from 1700 to the present.

[Mark Curran](#) is a practice-led researcher & educator. He lectures at the Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT), Dublin & is Visiting Professor on the MA in Visual & Media Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin. Incorporating multi-media installation informed by ethnographic understandings, Mark has undertaken a cycle of long-term research projects on the predatory context resulting from flows of global capital. Continuing the cycle, his current transnational multi-sited project, [THE MARKET](#), focuses on the functioning & condition of the global markets. Recent installations include Gallery of Photography (Dublin), Belfast Exposed & Centre Culturel Irlandais. More information is available [here](#).

[Femke Herregraven](#) is an artist whose work traverses global finance, information and geopolitics. She investigates which new material base, geographies and value systems contemporary financial technologies and infrastructures carve out. Online works are, for example, [Taxodus](#) an online game based on realistic data in which players acting on behalf of multinationals need to avoid as much tax as possible, and [Liquid Citizenship](#) which explores the current landscape in which the liquidity of citizenship is accelerated by its commodification and deprivation.

[Paolo Cirio](#) is an artist whose works engage with algorithmic cultures and hacker practice, and include the much-discussed [Loophole4All](#), [P2P Gift Credit Cards](#), and the more recent [Daily Paywall](#) which also engages with questions about the flow of financial information. Paolo has also written for [The Institute of Network Cultures](#) on social network design.

[Gemma Aellah](#) is an anthropologist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Research Officer at the RAI. Gemma's ethnography investigates [medical research that is carried out in Western Kenya](#), and also engages with issues surrounding entrepreneurship, brokerage, '[hustling](#)' and electoral violence.

[Paul Gilbert](#) is an anthropologist at the University of Sussex, researching the production of 'frontier' markets for the extractive industries. He blogs at [Sociology Lens](#), has previously worked on [seed exchange](#) in the UK and the [anticipation of development in Papua New Guinea](#), and is developing a project looking into student-led calls for reform of economic education since the financial crisis.