

The 128th Science Cafe Sapporo

A Dialogue on Imagination

from Art & Philosophy of Science

《datum》 Hirakawa Norimichi, 2017



guest

Roman Frigg

London School of
Economics and Political Science
Artist

Norimichi Hirakagawa

commentator

Masahiro Matsuo

Professor, Faculty of Science,
Hokkaido University
Lecturer, CoSTEP, Hokkaido Univ.

facilitator

Hyunjung Park

2023

2.24 fri

18:00-20:00

Sapporo Municipal Library
and Information Center

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Sapporo Municipal Library and Information Center

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Roman Frigg

Roman Frigg is a philosopher of science. His research interests lie in general philosophy of science and philosophy of physics, and he has published papers on scientific representation, modelling, statistical mechanics, randomness, chaos, climate change, quantum mechanics, complexity, probability, scientific realism, computer simulations, reductionism, confirmation, and the relation between art and science. His current work focuses on the nature of scientific models and theories, the foundations of statistical mechanics, and decision making under uncertainty.

Norimichi Hirakawa

Born in 1982, his interest lies in the most primitive of technologies, calculation. His work is focused on installations that use either mathematical processing itself as conducted through computer programming or the results of that processing. In 2016, he began creating the series datum at a residency at The Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe (Kavli IPMU), and datum was shown at the Toyota Municipal Museum of Art and at a pre-event of the Sapporo International Art Festival. In 2017, he created one of the works in that series through a residency at the ALMA telescope, located at Chile's highest point of approximately 5000 meters and it's awarded as Excellence Award in Art Division of the 22nd Japan Media Arts Festival. He has also participated in creating the work of Japanese artists, such as Ryoji Ikeda and Seiko Mikami, and is the artistic director for ARTSAT: Art and Satellite Project.

Masahiro Matsuo

Masahiro Matsuo is a professor at the Graduate School of Science, Hokkaido University. He specialises in philosophy of science. His main publications include *Messages from the Philosophy of Science* (2020, Morikita Publishing), and his main translations include E. Sober's *Evidence and Evolution* (2012, Nagoya University Press) and M. Weissberg's *Simulation and Similarity* (2017, Nagoya University Press).

Imagination is the ability to imagine things that do not occur in reality. It is very important to use the imagination both in the process of expressing artworks and in scientific enquiry. In this science café, we will discuss the relationship between imagination in art and science with guests who have unique perspectives in the fields of art and philosophy of science.

Artist Norimichi Hirakawa focuses on 'calculation' as the most primitive technology. Behind our world there are countless systems, and calculations running to grasp those systems. However, the world behind, consisting of countless systems, is usually not visible. His installations, such as the 《datum》 exhibited in Moerenuma Park, in which he reconstructs the world through the results of calculations, make us imagine the existence behind the world.

Another guest, Roman Frigg, is a philosopher of science who advocates fiction theory. Imagination, Frigg argues, is not only essential to scientific enquiry, but is at the heart of the activity of science. The idea that imagining models, rather than calculating or experimenting, is essential to science is one that has received much attention in the field of philosophy of science in recent years.

Masahiro Matsuo (Professor, Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University), who has collaborated with Frigg, will also be a commentator. He will comment on the presentations by Hirakawa and Frigg.

Does imagination differ in art and science? How do the stories created by the imagination relate to the reality seen through that imagination? In this science café, we will imagine the imagination from different perspectives.



youtube live
streaming

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