

What is Erkki Kurenniemi Thinking?: An Aesthetics of Consciousness

standard lecture

Erkki Kurenniemi's life has been full of performances, but arguably his most significant is the one he's planning for after his death. Kurenniemi's been a formidable figure of the Finnish avant-garde, distinguishing himself as an innovator in technoscience, art, and philosophy. The culmination of his experiments is his present project: archiving every moment of his life, so his consciousness can be resurrected on his 107th birthday. Kurenniemi believes his archive has the potential to produce "him," his thinking. But what allows Kurenniemi to think that his thinking exists somehow in the materiality of the detritus of his life? I address this question by stepping *away* for a moment from technoscience and life science and *toward* aesthetics and psychoanalysis—not toward a psychoanalysis of Kurenniemi, but toward the form of psychoanalysis that has been rendered possible because of aesthetics and also toward the possibility in aesthetics for non-thought to think.

Bio:

Dr. Wade Hollingshaus is the chair of the Theatre and Media Arts department at Brigham Young University in Utah, U.S.A. He recently co-edited a special section on "Performance Philosophy Pedagogy" in *Theatre Topics* with Dr. Will Daddario. He and Daddario also co-authored an essay in that section: "Performance Philosophy: Arrived Just in Time?" Hollingshaus is the author of *Philosophizing Rock Performance: Dylan, Hendrix, Bowie* (2013). His new book project centers on Peter Gabriel and theatricality. He also publishes on Finnish theatre and drama.

