

Kristin Flugel, Alexander Lang,
Christina Lechtermann, Norbert Ricken,
Tatjana Scheffler, Joachim Scholz,
Estrid Sørensen (eds.)

Infrastructures of (Non-)Knowledge

Virtuality and Epistemic Transformations



[transcript] VIRTUAL
Lifeworlds

Kristin Flugel, Alexander Lang, Christina Lechtermann, Norbert Ricken,
Tatjana Scheffler, Joachim Scholz, Estrid Sørensen (eds.)
Infrastructures of (Non-)Knowledge

Editorial

Virtual Lifeworlds is a book series emerging from the DFG Collaborative Research Center 1567. It brings together interdisciplinary perspectives on how virtuality has become normalized. By tracing knowledge production, practices, negotiation processes, and network dynamics, the series shows how virtual lifeworlds have taken shape and how diverse forms of virtuality have become drivers of social and cultural change. It examines the functions and consequences of the virtual for the constitution of subjects, lifeworlds, and aesthetic practices; for social organization and processes; and for the scientific disciplines themselves.

The Collaborative Research Center unites education, history, art history, linguistics, literary studies, media studies, and the social sciences. Across these fields, research converges on the media and technological conditions under which virtual worlds are produced and perceived – worlds that can be narrated, calculated, experienced immersively, modeled, or imagined. The series foregrounds the concept of virtuality, the uses of virtual spaces, modes of interaction with them, and forms of participation in them. It maps the infrastructures and imaginaries that sustain virtual environments, reflects on their historical trajectories, and illuminates the ways virtuality reshapes everyday life, institutions, and knowledge.

The series is edited by Stefan Rieger, Florian Sprenger and Anna Tuschling. They represent the CRC 1567 “Virtual Lifeworlds”.

Kristin Flugel is a PhD candidate and research assistant in the project “Virtual Education” at the CRC 1567 “Virtual Lifeworlds” at Ruhr University Bochum.

Alexander Lang is a PhD candidate and research assistant in the project “Virtual Education” at the CRC 1567 “Virtual Lifeworlds” at Ruhr University Bochum.

Christina Lechtermann is a professor of Medieval German literature at Ruhr University Bochum and leader of the project “Virtual Texts” at the CRC 1567 “Virtual Lifeworlds”.

Norbert Ricken is a professor of theory and philosophy of education at Ruhr University Bochum and co-leader of the project “Virtual Education” at the CRC 1567 “Virtual Lifeworlds”.

Tatjana Scheffler is a professor of digital forensic linguistics at Ruhr University Bochum and leader of the project “Virtual Common Ground” at the CRC 1567 “Virtual Lifeworlds”.

Joachim Scholz is a professor of the history of education at Ruhr University Bochum and co-leader of the project “Virtual Education” at the CRC 1567 “Virtual Lifeworlds”.

Estrid Sørensen is a professor for anthropology of knowledge at Ruhr University Bochum and leader of the project “Virtual Information Infrastructures” at the CRC 1567 “Virtual Lifeworlds”.

Kristin Flugel, Alexander Lang, Christina Lechtermann, Norbert Ricken,
Tatjana Scheffler, Joachim Scholz, Estrid Sørensen (eds.)

Infrastructures of (Non-)Knowledge

Virtuality and Epistemic Transformations

[transcript]

Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) – Collaborative Research Centre 1567 Virtual Lifeworlds (470106373).

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available online at <https://dnb.dnb.de>



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons License BY-SA 4.0. For the full license terms, please visit the URL <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>.

Creative Commons license terms for re-use do not apply to any content (such as graphs, figures, photos, excerpts, etc.) not original to the Open Access publication and further permission may be required from the rights holder. The obligation to research and clear permission lies solely with the party re-using the material.

2026 © Kristin Flugel, Alexander Lang, Christina Lechtermann, Norbert Ricken, Tatjana Scheffler, Joachim Scholz, Estrid Sørensen (eds.)

transcript Verlag | Hermannstraße 26 | D-33602 Bielefeld | live@transcript-verlag.de

Cover design: Maria Arndt

Cover illustration: ABDUL and BerkahStock / AdobeStock

Printing: Druckhaus Bechstein GmbH, Wetzlar

<https://doi.org/10.14361/9783839478462>

Print-ISBN: 978-3-8376-8244-1 | PDF-ISBN: 978-3-8394-7846-2

ISSN of series: 2943-6915 | eISSN of series: 2943-6923

Printed on permanent acid-free text paper.

Contents

Editorial

*Kristin Flugel, Alexander Lang, Christina Lechtermann, Norbert Ricken, Tatjana Scheffler,
Joachim Scholz, Estrid Sørensen* 7

Introduction

On Knowledge

Remarks from an Epistemological Perspective
Norbert Ricken 15

From Memo to AI

On Observing Infrastructures
Matthias Bickenbach 41

On Practices of (Non-)Knowledge

The (Non-)Knowledge of Practice

Praxeological Considerations on the Concerted Formation of Knowledge in Practices
Thomas Alkemeyer 61

›Bildungswissen‹ and its Transformation in a Historical Perspective

Joachim Scholz 81

Continuities and Discontinuities of Practices and Logics of (Non-)Knowledge

A Comparative Case Study of Student Practices in University Courses
around 1900 and 2025
Alexander Lang, Kristin Flugel 97

The Ritual Infrastructure of Conversation	
<i>Sam Berstler</i>	127

On Infrastructures of (Non-)Knowledge

Remains of the Disc, or Respinning the History of CD-ROMs and GIF 0.0	
<i>Till A. Heilmann</i>	159

How to Know a Data Centre without Leaving your Cosmology at the Door?	
An Augmented Reality Field Study	
<i>Sandra Abels, Jens Fehrenbacher, Mace Ojala, Estrid Sørensen</i>	183

A Virtual University, envisioned by Hans Magnus Enzensberger	
<i>Armin Schäfer</i>	225

Text—Codex—Library	
The <i>Sunte Marien Wortgarde</i> between Institutional Practices and Literary History	
<i>Christof Kleinfelder</i>	243

Understanding the System in its Entirety?	
Digital Corpora, Language Models and Low Resource Languages	
<i>Gabriel Viehhauser</i>	267

Wikipedia	
Opportunities for an Infrastructure of Knowledge	
<i>Henrike Haug</i>	293

An Outlook

The Virtual University	
<i>Patrizia Breil, Anne Dippel, Christoph Engemann, Estrid Sørensen, Iris van der Tuin</i>	319

List of Authors	339
------------------------------	-----