

Bergen Assembly

PRESS RELEASE 6.6.2019

THE *PARLIAMENT OF BODIES* IN BERGEN – A *PARLIAMENT OF BITCHES*

Saturday, 15.6.2019, 7pm–7am

The Parliament of Bodies

Conceived by Paul B. Preciado and Viktor Neumann

A night programme of discussions, music, performances, screenings, and rituals

Belgin, Rasmus Meyers allé 3, 5015 Bergen

Admission free, in English

No registration necessary, pop by any time throughout the night

With Aérea Negrot, Betty Apple, Synnøve Bendixsen, Nikita Dhawan, Sarah Diehl, Tsaplya (Olga Egorova) and Kolyan Tatyana (Nikolay) Oleynikov from Chto Delat, María Galindo, Jack Halberstam, An-Magritt Hanssen, Caspar Heinemann, Max Jorge Hinderer Cruz, Nelli Kambouri, Theodore (ted) Kerr, Ewa Majewska, Daniel Mariblanca, Jota Mombaça, Mari Norbakk, Narcissister, Elin Már Øyen Vister, Margarita Tsomou, Sunniva Vik, and others

The Parliament of Bodies (PoB) announces its first public gathering in Bergen, calling for an anti-fascist, transfeminist, and anti-racist coalition and the celebration of many voices fighting against the techno-patriarchal and colonial regime worldwide. This gathering will be the first of many activities of the *PoB* in Bergen, aligning itself to the conceptual framework of *Actually, the Dead Are Not Dead*. The *PoB* calls disenfranchised bodies and subaltern organs to gather in joyful assemblies commending somatic dissidence, transfeminist critique, the celebration of the vulnerable body, and affective belongings beyond identity politics.

For the first gathering in Bergen artists, musicians, philosophers, performers, activists, writers and scholars will constitute a *Parliament of Bitches* while approaching summer solstice. The *Parliament of Bitches* gathers on 15 June for around twelve hours on a night of brightness to celebrate and extend the underground traditions of feminist resistance and heretical assemblies of witches and somatopolitical dissidents, of female, trans-female and non-female, anti-colonial, and anti-patriarchal sexual warriors and healers with discussions, music, performances, screenings, and rituals.

For Bergen Assembly 2019 the *PoB* will present already established and newly created *Open Form Societies*: self-learning, self-organised counter-publics that generate their own activities and set their own critical agenda.

The newly created *Society of Friends of Bergen* will be introduced for the first time on 15 June at Belgin, Bergen Assembly 2019's public space. It calls for all bitches and witches to come together and joyfully celebrate anger towards patriarchy while aiming to draw the contours of a new utopia for planetary transformation. The names of both the society and the venue are reminiscent of the Turkish singer Bergen (1958–1989), otherwise known as

Belgin Sarılmışer. The singer's life story influenced her music and manifested her status as an icon of feminist resistance against patriarchal power and domestic and sexual violence. When a rising star, her husband threw nitric acid in her face during a concert leading to the blinding of one of her eyes. Though she continued to be involved with her predator, she refused his violent attempts to silence, victimise, objectify, and domesticise her. Fatally shot by her husband in 1989, she has remained a complex symbol of sorrow and emancipation in Turkey to this day.

The *Apatride Society of the Political Others*, established in Athens in September 2016, will further challenge the tropes of the nation-state through exploring anti-colonial discourses and practices. The *Society of Friends of Lorenza Böttner*, established in Kassel and inspired by the eponymous mouth and foot painter and her practice of somatic and gender dissidence, will begin its activities which will lead to the *Impossible Parliaments* during the Opening Days of Bergen Assembly (5–8 September 2019). The *Society of Black Milk*, established in Warsaw in order to face the Polish parliament's violent attempts to outlaw abortion, will further explore the biopolitics and necropolitics of the nation-state and reproduction, and its relation to the development of patriarchal power technologies.

In Bergen, the *PoB* collaborates again with the architect and artist Andreas Angelidakis to create a new iteration of his *soft architecture* that can be assembled and reassembled in countless ways. Angelidakis' latest iteration called *LOGOS* (2019) brings together quotations by some of the artists and thinkers who have inspired the programme of the *PoB* for Bergen Assembly, including among others, Joanna Hevda, Mykki Blanco, María Galindo, Virginie Despentes, Pedro Lemebel, Jack Halberstam, Audre Lorde, and Bergen.

Originally conceived by Paul B. Preciado as the *Public Programs* of documenta 14 and subsequently joined by Viktor Neumann, the *PoB* has since mutated into an apatride institution-in-becoming without constitution, seeking bonds with other institutions to provoke politicisation and critical metamorphosis. The *PoB* understands itself as a site for cultural activism, a critical device to collectively imagine and construct other ways of producing, reproducing, and governing knowledge and life, visibility and affect, implicating bodies (human and non-human, objects, *dispositifs*, ensembles, etc.), subjugated knowledges and artistic practices.

After editions in Athens, Kassel, and Warsaw, the *PoB* establishes a counter-parliament of living bodies, beyond markets and nations, beyond national belonging and identity politics in Bergen, a city within one of the allegedly most progressive democracies for those with citizenship but certainly not for those without, and within a nation entangled in ecological exploitation, where 'even the revolution would be state-funded', as described by one of the many voices that the *PoB* encountered during research in Bergen. From 15 June 2019 onwards, the *Parliament of Bodies* and its *Societies* will spread their activities in and beyond Bergen to create synthetic alliances between different struggles for minor and dissident forms of sovereignty, recognition, and survival.

The detailed programme for 15 June 2019 will be announced soon on our website.

[Read more](#) on *The Parliament of Bodies* and its activities in Bergen.

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