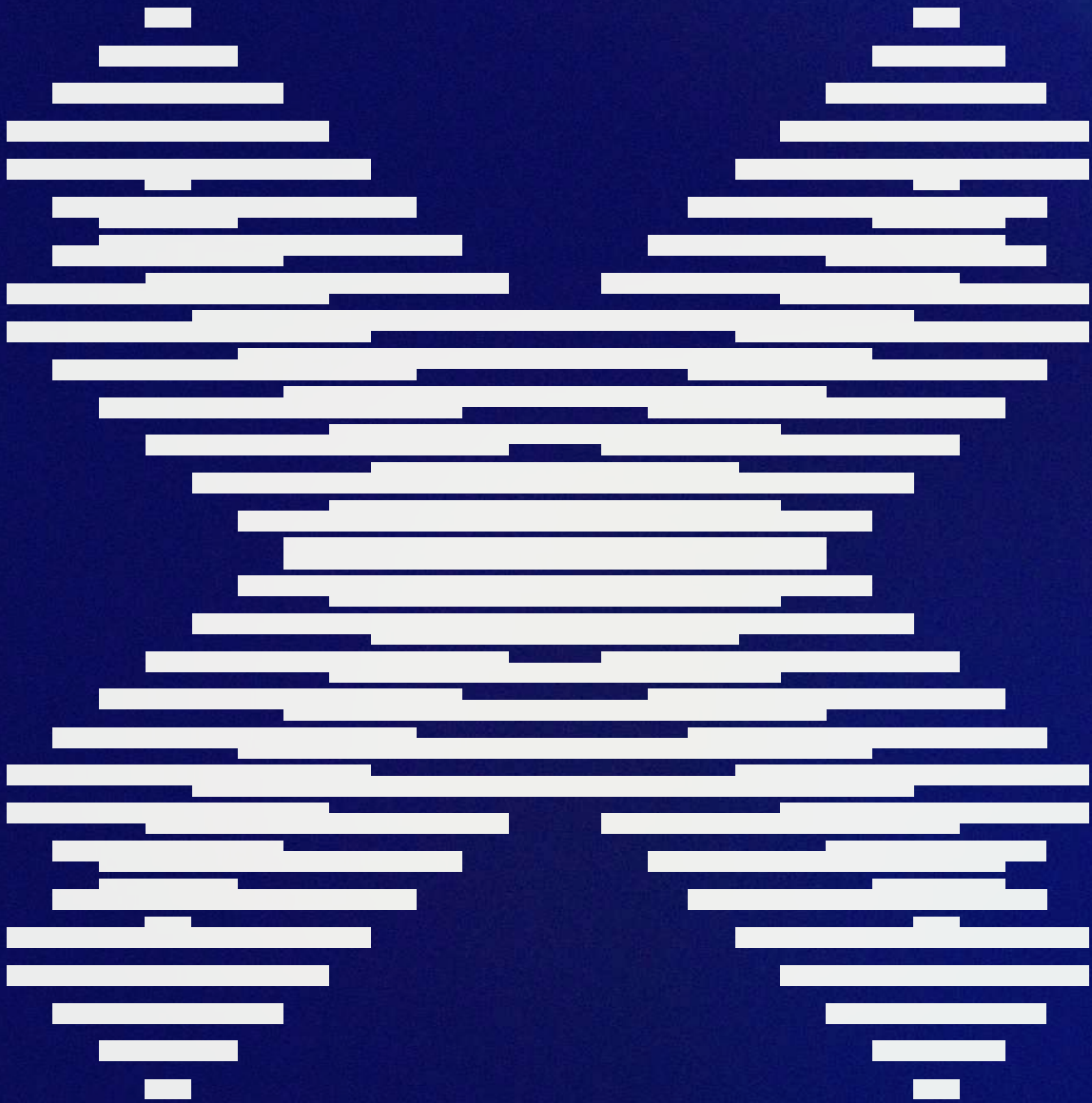


xCoAx 2025



Dundee



13th Conference on Computation, Communication, Aesthetics & X

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Foreword

Fait accompli logic, or the logic of the accomplished fact, is a strategy based on presenting a decision or action already brought to completion, leaving others with little to no choice but to accept it. This rationale carries a somewhat manipulative and unilateral connotation, because it essentially aims at forcing acceptance through inevitability.

The most upsetting events that have recently brought immense turmoil and pain to the world are marked by *faits accomplis*: acts of terrorism and military aggression have abruptly forced many people across different regions to confront radically altered lives, where survival and the effort to cope with profound loss have become their primary, if not sole, focus.

In this disquieting scenario, where the prospect of a global war no longer seems like a dystopian fantasy, even those whose lives are not directly at risk appear compelled to accept a considerable number of “facts”. From a sociological perspective, this includes newly imposed regulations on migration flows, asylum policies, citizenship laws, and visa and work permit frameworks. From an economic standpoint, it encompasses the implementation of new tariffs and the emergence of international conflicts that further drive up the cost of everyday goods, already strained by persistent global inflation. From a scientific and technological perspective, it involves increasing difficulties in securing funding for research, as well as a precarious management of global infrastructures, controlled by a select few yet capable of impacting millions.

All things considered, we at xCoAx consider ourselves incredibly fortunate to organize an event where artists, performers, and researchers come together not only to present their work but, crucially, to discuss it. We place particular emphasis on the *discussion* aspect, as everything included in the programme, be it a paper, a performance, or an artwork, is open to dialogue and debate. The fallible and ever-evolving nature of scientific theory, the postmodern skepticism toward fixed meaning and singular authority in art, and the relational aesthetics that understands performance as a co-constructed experience are all relatively recent yet profoundly important achievements of human culture. These are values we deeply cherish and are committed to upholding for as long as we can.

One might wonder whether it makes sense to work on computation, communication, and aesthetics in a world where the most advanced facets of computation are applied to warfare, where the very essence of communication is threatened by deep fakes and echo chambers of manipulation and radicalization, and where aesthetics is increasingly instrumentalized for commercial persuasion and reduced to metrics of engagement.

Of course it does. In fact, it makes sense *now* more than ever, to fight the logic of accomplished facts.

Thank you for bringing your knowledge, your critical thinking, and your free spirit to xCoAx.

Let the meaning of the X, as crossroads and exchange, shine ever more brilliantly.

X

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