

# Complexity Spectacles & You!

We live in a complex world! We are embedded in complex systems and as human beings we are complex ourselves. Are people predictable? Can we influence our complex world and if so what influence can I personally have?

How do my choices relate to collective emergent behaviour? Would my life be better if I could see and understand complexity more clearly? We think so.

Insight into complex systems colours your perception of order and disorder, self-organisation and self-neglect. It offers a new perspective on your essential questions.



Installation Anthony McCall in the LaM (2018)

The Complexity Spectacles will challenge you to explore complex phenomena in relation to your own reality, interests and self.

You will investigate how you personally relate to complexity and how it can give direction to your life.

## Program and approach

### Part 1 (Mon-Tue) – Complexity Spectacles

Part one explores the nature of complexity. Our approach weaves theory together with examples and personal/collective experiences as we seek deeper understandings together. Alongside scientific theories we will also explore the metaphorical qualities of complex phenomena. We ask a profound commitment of participants. The whole is a dynamic and associative

interweaving of many theoretical concepts and metaphorical qualities related to our actual lives.

How can insight in complexity contribute to your life and what you mean to others?

A new perspective.

Important concepts that will be addressed:

- Complex, complicated and simple
- Emergence and self-organisation
- The edge of chaos
- Attractors and phase transitions
- Adaptivity, resilience and evolution
- Networks

With different pathways to meaning-making such as:

- Reality games
- The collective improvisation practices of *InterPlay*
- Challenges and assignments
- Cases and experiences from practice
- Conversation and dialogue

We will also make space in this section to go in search of meaning for your own life. Where do you encounter complex phenomena and what happens if you look at them through the lens of complex systems science?

### Transition to part 2 (Wed)

This bridging day serves as an open space for experimentation and sharing insights & harvest from the first days (including with any new participants joining for part two). You will also get a chance to develop and refine your core question(s) to take forward to part two of the program, which focusses more on you.

### Part 2 (Thur-Fri) – You!

What does it mean to act wisely in a complex world? In part two we will be exploring our core questions together via a journey. This will be both a metaphorical and a literal journey into the beautiful environment of the place where we are staying. Along the way you'll encounter your

unconscious, explore how your ways of seeing influence you and come into deeper contact with yourself and others. Throughout this journey, we will focus on:

- Connecting with others, with yourself and with your questions
- Exploring your ways of seeing in relation to complexity
- Tapping into your body knowledge and creative expression using InterPlay, an embodied practice that taps into your tacit ways of knowing
- Exploring who you are in the context of complexity and what you could mean to others

We'll also look at where we go from here:

- Collective and individual harvest from what the process brought us and what it could further bring in the future
- Considering what other issues are still waiting to be explored from a complexity point of view

### This course uniquely offers

- An organically unfolding program tapping the creative and generative power of the group as a whole
- New possibilities for personal experience
- A reflective journey into yourself as part of a complex human system
- New perspectives on complex personal issues
- A dynamic balance between the meaning of complexity for you as a person and what you could mean within the complexity of the world
- A grounding in academic knowledge and experience whilst taking into account the interests of the group
- We 'walk the talk' and will not shy away from complex dynamics within the group
- The flexibility to check in and out the program as needed
- A focus on nourishing human interactions and diversity

## Practicalities

### Midweek

#### Faculty

Liesbeth Debruyne (whitemergence.org), Oscar Meijn (whitemergence.org), Maarten Swinkels (changetrek.nl) and Sophia van Ruth (animatearts.net)

#### Pricing

We prefer you to enroll for the entire program, but it is possible to choose one part only (3 days).

- **Complexity Spectacles & You!**

Mon 10u-Fri 17u

- **Part 1 – Complexity Spectacles**

*The nature of complexity*

Mon 10u-Wed 17u

- **Part 2 – You!**

*Who are you in a complex world?*

Knowledge of complex systems science is a prerequisite if enrolling for part 2 only

Wed 10u -Fri 17u

<i>eur vat incl.</i>	Chambre	Twin room	Single room	No room
<b>Week</b>				
<b>Part 1 or 2</b>				

These prices include full board, all meals, coffee, tea and water. Other drinks are available at democratic prices.

#### Registration and further information

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