

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

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## SIXTH ANNUAL ‘THEORIZING THE WEB,’ CONFERENCE ABOUT THE INTERNET AND SOCIETY, TO TAKE PLACE AT MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

**Keynote panels explore intimacy in the digital age, viral videos of death and hate, how the web changes storytelling, and the personality of bots**

**April 15 & 16, 2016, at Museum of the Moving Image**

Astoria, Queens, NY, April 12, 2016—**Theorizing the Web** is an inter- and non-disciplinary conference where scholars, journalists, artists, activists, and technology practitioners think conceptually and critically about the Internet and society. Now in its sixth year, the two-day conference will take place for the first time at Museum of the Moving Image, the nation’s only museum devoted to film, television, and digital media, on **Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16, 2016**. Programs begin at 12:00 p.m. on each day. Advance registration is pay-what-you-wish and includes access to both days, and to a Friday evening party. (Registration at the door will be the cost of Museum admission: \$15 adults / \$11 students and seniors).

**Theorizing the Web** appeals to a broad audience, emphasizing accessible language and public engagement and welcoming all interested attendees. Discussions highlight thoughtful ideas about technology and culture from a diverse range of perspectives. Over the course of two days, the conference will present **seventeen panels**, with topics and participants culled largely from a competitive submission process, plus **four evening keynote sessions**:

**“Chill Theory”** (Fri., Apr. 15, 6:00 p.m.): A discussion about intimacy in an age when technology has created an abundance of opportunities (and expectations) for attention and connection. Speakers: Rob Horning (presider), Dawn Shepherd, Eve Peyser, Alana Massey, and Faith Holland.

**“Automated Personality”** (Fri., Apr. 15, 7:30 p.m.): A look at how artificial intelligence rearticulates our (in)humanity and what it means to attribute a personality to a bot. Speakers: Jenny L. Davis (presider), Darius Kazemi, Dorothy Santos, Kate Losse, Joanne McNeil, and Judith Donath.

**“Cool Story”** (Sat., Apr. 16, 6:00 p.m.): This session explores how the web, with its timelines, threads, selfies, and videos, changes the stories we tell and how we tell them. Speakers: David A. Banks (presider), Ales Kot, Laurie Penny, Alexandra Kleeman, Jenna Wortham, and Natasha Lennerd.

**“The Virality of Evil”** (Sat., Apr. 16, 7:30 p.m.): A look at social video’s relation to violence, hate, and death, and the questions it poses to journalism, policy, and content moderation. Speakers: Moira Weigel (presider), Zeynep Tufekçi, Ava Kofman, Jade Davis, Adrian Chen.

The full program is available at <http://theorizingtheweb.tumblr.com/2016/program>

“Theorizing the Web was founded on the premise that we must understand the web as part of one reality, rather than as a virtual addition to the natural,” said Nathan Jurgenson, Co-Founder and Chair of Theorizing the Web. “This year’s conference is focused less on wires, circuits, and gadgets, and is more attuned to the web as something embodied, intimate, and visceral.”

Jason Eppink, the Museum’s Curator of Digital Media, who brought Theorizing the Web to the Museum and is overseeing its role in the conference, said “Anyone who is curious and thoughtful about the impact of technology on society will walk away from this weekend with their head spinning. What you will hear at these panels are the beginnings of conversations we will be having as a society for many years to come.”

For more information, visit <http://theorizingtheweb.org> and <http://movingimage.us>. Participate in the online conversation by using **#TtW16**. Individual sessions also have unique hashtags, available in the Theorizing the Web program guide.

All presentations in Theorizing the Web will be **broadcast live** at <http://theorizingtheweb.tumblr.com/2016/livestream> and the recordings will be archived.

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### **MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Museum of the Moving Image ([movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facilities—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

Hours: Wednesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday–Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Holiday hours:** The Museum will be open on Monday and Tuesday, April 25 and 26, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$15 adults; \$11 senior citizens (65+) and students (18+) with ID; \$7 youth (3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$12 adults / \$9 students and seniors / \$6 children 3–12 / free for Museum members at the Film Lover level and above. Advance purchase is available online. Ticket purchase may be applied toward same-day admission to the Museum’s galleries.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)

Membership: <http://movingimage.us/support/membership> or 718 777 6877

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and located on the campus of Kaufman Astoria Studios. Its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals.