

## **Implanting the Archive Workshop**

There is a long tradition of research in medical science and, to an extent, medical humanities, on medical implants, where they are positioned as technologies that structure images and representations of the body. Research has been conducted on how medical technology can enforce socio-cultural and political control over bodies by scholars in the humanities. However, very little research has been done documenting personal, situated knowledge and experiences of implantees in either of these domains. Given this, medicalized models of the body take precedence in academic and popular writing on implants: they become the norm and ultimately structure the parameters, activities and codes of the implant and the body. This precedence produces models that are problematic, as they are embedded in normative paradigms of the body that determine who or what should be valued. In doing so, they perpetuate, among other things, ableism, misogyny and racism.

The Implanting the Archive Workshop, hosted by a transatlantic team, will address these issues, presenting first-person interviews with implantees alongside historical information about implants from medical archives. The project aims to expose the deeply engrained thinking about medical devices and processes, as well as offer counter humanist and medicalized models of the body with a more inclusive theory of bodily experience, through a post-humanist approach to the implant, looking specifically at the recipients of implants, positioning them, their stories and their experience with implants as primary and integral to both the implantation process as well as contemporary concepts of the body and its relationship to technology.

### **Faculty Coordinators**

Ilya Brookwell (UCR, Media and Cultural Studies) is a media and cultural theorist, specializing in video gamers, live-streaming and digital communities. He is the Director of the Live-streaming and Virtual Reality Research Lab at UC Riverside.

Phaedra Shanbaum is a media and cultural theorist at the Center for Postdigital Cultures at Coventry University, studying the relationship between the body and technology in contemporary digital media art installations and performances.

Kevin Walker is reimagining cultural heritage through artistic research and practice at the Center for Postdigital Cultures, Coventry University.