Call – Big Data Aesthetics / Big Aesthetics

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This call addresses the phenomena of Big Data and its – viable and probable – impacts on aesthetics.

Since 2012, within the broader field of media and aesthetics, an ongoing discussion concerning the emergence of ‘New Aesthetics’ from the impact of virtual and digital platforms and data formats on ‘the real world epistemology’ is proliferating. The claim is that, since the digital and the everyday ‘spheres’ are increasingly interpenetrating each other into ‘unified cultural patterns a new mixed epistemology emerges. This issue wants to address aesthetics from the point of view of ‘Big Data’? What are the aesthetics of Big Data? What cultural patterns are emerging for Big Data? And what, in turn, might that tell us about mixed epistemologies – the impact of the digital on real world representation and vice verca? Is it possible to discern something like ‘Big Aesthetics’ out of this?

These are possible areas of focus. Other, possible, questions that could be asked might encompass: Is there beauty to be found in data, and how does that then manifest itself? How does Big Data affect urban life and citizenship? Who is Big in Big Data – man or machine? How may Big Data be visualized and objectified? How does Big Data affect Net Art and Digital Art? What about the body and perception … ?

We welcome proposals with theoretical, methodological as well as more case/practice-oriented approaches.