

Plastic Frictions

PENNSTATE



A one-day interdisciplinary symposium
Monday, April 13, 2015 – 022 Deike Bldg

Plastic is a seemingly ubiquitous material, and as such is often taken for granted. However plastic is central to the systems that define contemporary globality. From the circulation of food and goods, to electronics and telecommunications, to building materials and medical technologies, it could be argued that we have entered the Age of Plastic. Emerging from the ingenuity of chemical engineering, plastic has a longer history in the arts as it describes the ability to form and mould matter. It is a material that is mundane and awesome, deadly and life enhancing, what Anna Tsing calls a 'friction'. This friction emerges from plastic's contradictory nature, at once endlessly pliable and incredibly persistent. This symposium will be dedicated to thinking through the aesthetic, political, economic, and philosophic entwinements of plastic.

3:45-5:45 pm:

Brian Black

Professor of History and Environmental Studies,
Penn State

A "Burping Bowl" in Every Cupboard:
Tupperware and the Construction of the
American Ecology of Oil

Jennifer Wagner-Lawlor

Associate Professor of English and Women's
Studies, Penn State

Where is "Away"? Mapping Plastic Pollution

Tom Lauerman

Assistant Professor of Art, Penn State

Hacking Plastic: Open-Source 3D Printing,
Experimental Plastics, Art, and Access to Tools

Melik Demirel

Professor of Engineering Science and Mechanics,
Penn State

Bioplastics and Squid Proteins

5:45-6:30 pm: Reception

6:30-8:45 pm: Keynotes

Odile Madden

Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute

Lessons from our lives with Plastic

Pinar Yoldas

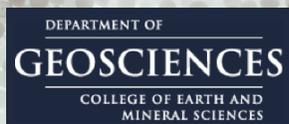
Artist and Ph.D. student, Duke University

An Ecosystem of Excess

Dianna Cohen

Founder of the Plastic Pollution Coalition

Plastic Pollution Revolution



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For more information, please contact the Institute for the Arts and Humanities at 865-0495 or arts-humanities@psu.edu.
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