

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

# THE ART OF NOT DOING

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE ON  
REST, RESISTANCE AND PLEASURE ACTIVISM

FREE / TRAVEL BURSARIES AVAILABLE / 17 OCTOBER 2019 / GORDON SQUARE



**Keynote speakers: Prof Saidiya Hartman, Prof Felicity Callard and Dr Gail Lewis**

In a culture that valorises busyness, productivity, pace and “progress”, stillness can be radical. Refusing, ignoring, omitting, not doing: sometimes the most political actions look like doing nothing at all. But who gets to not do? When and how is not doing a politicised, racialised, privileged, resistant or utopian act?

This conference explores what it means to ‘not do’. Centering pleasure as a strategy for resistance, we want to explore the erotics and potentialities of the still, inactive, restorative and unproductive—all those actions that are traditionally dismissed as preparation or reward, but not action itself. Is it possible, by exploring these everyday rituals and feelings, to help create “a politics of healing and happiness that explodes the dour myth that changing the world is just another form of work” (adrienne maree brown, *Pleasure Activism* [2019])?

Through conversation, provocation, installation and self-care, we look at unproductivity as an activist practice and the ways in which caring, resting, suspending, pausing and breaking can be re/claimed as political acts by and for everyone, particularly those marginalised by the racial and gender inequalities of neoliberal capitalism.

**\*\*\*CALL EXTENDED FOR BIRKBECK STUDENTS AND STAFF\*\*\***

**SUBMIT PAPERS, LIGHTNING TALKS, INSTALLATIONS, WORKSHOPS, ARTWORKS, SHORT FILMS,  
PERFORMANCES AND ACTS OF CARE BY 10th JUNE 2019**

**Find the full CFP on [WWW.THEARTOFNOTDOING.COM](http://WWW.THEARTOFNOTDOING.COM)**



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