

University of Goldsmiths London - Biennale Sessions 2025

The *Reflective Intelligences* roundtable explores how intelligence extends beyond computation, emerging instead through deliberation, resistance, and collective practice. Moving beyond the idea that artificial intelligence (AI) simply imitates human or biological cognition, the discussion emphasizes how AI is shaped by labour, social relations, and collective forms of knowledge. Philosophers and researchers join the conversation to reflect on the ways intelligence is embedded in social and material practices, highlighting how AI development is inseparable from the human and social contexts in which it is produced. The roundtable critically examines the environmental and labour dimensions of AI supply chains. From the extraction of minerals to the energy-intensive operation of data centres, we will discuss the material and ecological footprint of AI, foregrounding the labour struggles and environmental consequences often hidden behind its rapid expansion. By framing intelligence as deeply entwined with ethical, social, and ecological considerations, the discussion invites rethinking AI as a product of human and non-human reflective acts of cognition rather than an isolated technological achievement driven entirely by industry.

The gathering takes place within the framework of the special project Biennale Sessions, addressed to Universities and Higher Education Institutions, within the context of this year's International Architecture Exhibition theme, *Intelligens. Natural. Artificial. Collective* curated by architect Carlo Ratti, and the theme of the Chilean Pavilion entry, *Reflective Intelligences*, which problematizes the concept of the roundtable—or mesa de trabajo—a rhetorical figure employed by the Chilean government that refers both to a physical object and to an assembly of diverse actors discussing pressing public issues, in this case controversies arising from national policy on AI and Data Centre industry regulations.