

Seasonal Computing: Collective Rhythms for Resourcefulness

Reflection on 2025

In 2025, we expanded on *Seasonal Computing*, organising our activities under three distinct ‘seeds’ (research threads): Access, Counter Coloniality and Homebrewing. Alongside our public activities, internal developments included: selecting our supervisory board, accommodating two new Varia members, and re-working our decision-making protocols.

Seeds

Access Seed

The main focus of *Access seed* has been to consider how different access needs evolve within the changing seasons:

- **How to Organise?** was attended by 8 collectives, and will develop as a solidarity network among the group. Several interviews also took place for next year’s edition of Self-Organised Spreads, a publication on collective work.
- **Doodle Dabble** explored ways of storytelling with children by using audio cassette tapes, players and recorders. The drawings and recordings from the session have been turned into a zine publication and a mixtape.
- **Openings** will host a collective exhibition opening in December 2025. Within Openings we explore how we can host a small-scale exhibition that is in fruitful dialogue with the more usual activities of our space.
- **Caregivers Unite** met quarterly, hosting 2 workshops and a check-in session. The community, which has grown to 43 members centres on discussions of urgent topics.

Counter Coloniality Seed

Counter Coloniality further investigated the ways in which colonisation is deeply embedded into the technologies we use every day:

- **Colonial Infrastructures: Hair as Global Commodity** hosted a ‘Hair Recycling Workshop’. We watched the film by Bo Wang, and hosted a conversation to deepen our understanding of this politicised commodity.
- **Haunting the Network: Gendered Surveillance and Media Memory** was organised with Nabila Ernada.
- Within the theme of **Cold War Current** we organised a listening Session with NDNMK Solutions!, an experiential analysis of the CIA’s Gateway Experience Tapes. Furthermore, we facilitated the worksession ‘What would a socialist database look like?’ and the artist talk with Francis Hunger.
- Part of the **Miscalculating Risks** series, we invited Sanne Stevens to look with us at the relationship between Big Tech operated everyday technology and human rights offenses.
- In **Transnational Tech Resistance**, the eeefff collective will present the fieldwork of The School of Algorithmic Solidarity, where we will explore how emotions and affects get shaped by technologies.
- In **Coloniality Infrastructures: Knowledge Erasure** we are working with Clara Balaguer on the topic of knowledge under duress and its circulation in times of repression.

Homebrewing Seed

The *Homebrewing seed* co-created explorations of different ways of knowing and using technology:

- **Self-medicated practices** organised two events and one publication in two parts, documenting the research for each event.
- **Common Dirt** launched the publication of a walking map of the neighborhood to cap off a series of nature walks. In addition to this, we organised a **visit with the Irish collective** ^ with whom we are working on a collective publication.
- **Poetics of Computing** working group has hosted two sessions with a third one planned in November. Each session explores a different way in which computing could be poetic.
- **Rural Technology** programme is a series of radio shows in which we interview a variety of different organisations that work in-between the urban and the rural.
- **Homemade Computer Club** will hold two gatherings during Autumn/Winter where we bring people together to continue exploring whether different aspects of computing could be done in a ‘homemade’ manner.
- **B(r)oilplates for Fictionality** invited three guests to give distinct hands-on workshop presentations, to generate various material for the zine-making in 2026.
- **Pibliotheque Workshops** brought the research group Les nouveaux habits du colportage (BE) to Varia for a two-day workshop centred around the filesharing software Pibliotheque.
- **Extratonal** organised a series of events, performances and workshops connected to our collective research and in dialogue with Rotterdam-based scenes and festivals.

Collective Publishing

- **SomeTimes** is Varia’s occasional printed newsletter. Issue 1 of SomeTimes was published as a sticker set and issue 2 is dedicated to the theme: Seasonal Computing.
- **SumTimes** took the form of a public event, titled **Money Talks**. We invited the Amsterdam collective Hackers & Designers to discuss topics around funding and cultural work.

Varia’s Working Groups

- **Communication workgroup** streamlined communication protocols improving outreach for our events. We took publications produced by Varia to bookfairs around Europe. At the start of 2025, we hosted a public gathering around alternative social media platforms. We repeated this workshop for iii in The Hague and Roodkapje in Rotterdam.
- **Finance workgroup** has started using a professional book-keeping software to manage our finances. We continue to collaborate with our accountant and tested different work flows. We are distributing SumTimes in our network and hosted **Money Talks**.
- **Infrastructure workgroup** further developed the new website and archiving system. Four workshops were given to spread Varia's unique knowledge on maintaining your own digital infrastructure. A new chat service was launched for non-members to communicate with Varia more directly.
- **Mediation workgroup** continues to work on interpersonal relations, conflict resolution, and facilitation skills by organising specific moments, strategies and tools to address different experiences in the group.
- **Space workgroup** continues working on the adaptability and availability of the space and its resources for members, guests and other groups using the space.

Our 2026 programme

Varia's 'seasonal computing' – envisioning diverse and potentially strange seasonalities that reject techno-solutionist status quo discourses – means a collective observation and adoption of appropriate methods and tools for creating solidarity and resilience. In 2025, we emphasised the value of slowing down in order for Varia to collectively reflect and co-create based on seasonality, essentially the need for Varia to do less to have deeper engagements with the topics of our research and our locality in the south of Rotterdam. In 2026, Varia is cultivating regenerative practices that foster reflection, documentation, and publication of the 2025 programme, to further develop and professionalise our organisation. By making more space for reflection, we hope to strengthen social and environmental infrastructure laid down in 2025 in order to create stronger connections between our members and our community outreach.

Seeds

Access Seed

In 2026, the Access Seed aims to continue our work on the relationships that we have formed with our local and extended communities. We want to continue to give agency to different groups to engage with the space according to their needs and desires.

Continuing from the interview series with collectives that took place throughout 2025, we will publish a **second edition of Self-Organised Spreads**, further contributing to our solidarity network. **Caregivers Unite** and **Doodle Dabble** will also continue into 2026. Another activity that will have a follow-up in 2026 is **How to organise**. Building from the basis of the solidarity network that has been growing for the past couple of years, we will work together with other collectives to think of mutual support structures. We will make use of our existing digital tools, and adapt them as needed.

Building up from our 2025 **Doodle Dabble** workshops, we want to further explore what it means to have a "Children's Publication", ways of storytelling, and gathering stories from the children's surroundings. We will also collaborate with the follow-

ing artists for each session. Irmak Ertas's "Picture This: where I Belong" which will explore themes of home, identity and belonging through a playful photowalk in the neighbourhood, collage, storybox, storytelling and collaborative zine making. Paul Gangloff's "Scroll for Today's Weather", creates a space to talk about the (Dutch) weather and tell stories through a weather report using a Freinet letterpress a printing device developed for children, and other printmaking techniques.

New activities from Access Seed include **Game on**, a session to learn about games as a format for art, culture and collective learning. This is a development of Game & Watch (Counter Coloniality Seed 2024), this time focusing on table top games and RPG's that cover pertinent topics including housing, exploitation in the arts and how to self-organise. Another gathering will be **with artists and cultural workers that also work in horeca**. It is quite a common phenomenon to seek additional income in the food industry, but for some people this is more than a side-job. We want to come together with people who are equally invested and passionate about both industries, organise a public event and perhaps work together at sharing our experiences in a collective publication.

Counter Coloniality Seed

In 2026 Counter Coloniality Seed proposes a new format of a recurring public study group. This is to highlight the, sometimes discrete, interlocutors that appear throughout our research; the colonial - and anti-colonial – resonances across time, geography, media and political shifts.

In previous years our seed has gathered attentive participants, and through a repeating event structure we will foster cross pollination between them and the different research strands of the seed. Led by a different Varia member or co-programmer each month, the study group will cover the following themes: **Cold War Current: Radio Waves**, **Cold War Current: Crossing Wires**, **Defragmenting Data**, **Feminism in South Asia/AFSAR**, **Green Data Colonialism**, and **Divesting**. For each of the sessions, a host will invite a guest to bring in some perspective on the topic.

A motivation for the formats and themes of our events has been to open and share the process of knowledge production and transmission, as an anti colonial practice. Colonisation is deeply intertwined with these processes, through the extraction and exploitation of indigenous or lower class knowledge it appropriates, filters and redistributes under re-politicised, "objective" forms. These processes are still currently enacted, notably by private companies involved with the development of AI technology, which reinforce Western knowledge epistemologies and further alienate society from what it knows and how it learns. This study group is therefore a way to collectively reclaim a relationship to knowledge where we can choose whose voices we wish to listen to, embrace a variety of sources, accept the possibility for contradictory and uncertain narration or allow ourselves to sit with discomfort, between other experiences that contribute to learning.

Colonial Infrastructures continues in event format, as complementary experience alongside the **Feminism in South Asia** studies. In 2026 we deepen our knowledge of South Asian perspectives through collaboration with poster making workshop, 'Moving Fragments' by Yen Yi Lee, co-initiator of Asian Feminist Studio for Art and Research (AFSAR).

Homebrewing Seed

In 2026, the Homebrewing Seed will continue to host events and create publications that deepen our investigation in homebrewing as a technique and practice in relation to technology and society. Some series of events will continue on a similar trajectory

whilst will adapt and develop to focus on more specific topics such as Permacomputing. As well as continuing to develop the network we have already established through the past two years of activities, we hope that these specific focuses can continue to bring in new ideas and people into the programme. The focus on **Permacomputing** will be developed by hosting a variety of events in conjunction with other organisations around the Netherlands and beyond that are currently organising under the umbrella of permacomputing.net. Alongside this technologically focused programme we will be continuing to host the **Homemade Computer Club** as a small series of gatherings for those interested in understanding whether computing can be something “homemade”.

Self-medicated Practices will continue its programming focused on DIY healthcare with another public session, as well as a continuation of the publication that we began in 2025. We aim to focus further on reflecting and documenting the research that has happened in the past year, while imagining new ways to bring focus to this topic. Together with various collaborators, **B(r)oilplates for Fictionality** will compile a publication that gathers the materials from its 3 events as well as the previous work and material from the 2024 Fictionality series into a “Toolkit for Fictionality”.

The **Homemade Computer Club** will continue as a club focused on learning and sharing knowledge. We will organise another session around another question related to foundational elements of computing. Alongside this event we will prioritise documenting the various activities we’ve so far hosted, share projects of those who have participated in the gatherings and any knowledge we’ve collected on a website.

Together with Alternative Food Network Rijnmond (AFN-R), a project funded to help explore and improve the Urban-Rural dynamics in and around the Rotterdam area, **Rural Technology** will continue our conversations surrounding the Urban and Rural in 2026. Varia will host and maintain the project’s webpage, where radio shows carried out with participating organisations will continue to inform our Radio Series and the AFN-R project. We will work with co-programmers. By analyzing the radio discussions, Varia hopes to co-create an easily accessible and useful toolbox that facilitates urban-rural collaborations.

‘**Common Dirt**’ will continue to investigate and relate to the natural surroundings of Varia by organizing walks, talks and workshops. The plan for 2026 is to invite at least one guest per season to discuss prevalent current techno-ecological themes. We want to dive deeper into the topic of agroecology by organizing an event/workshop with Toekomstboeren, represented by designer, researcher and cheese maker Will van Twuijver. A second will focus on animal rights for working animals, through a worksession with the Animal Union, represented by Marjolein de Rooij. A third event shall explore the theme of animal language and AI with the help of Anne Hofstra and her project Bio/Bot.

Extratonal In 2026 we will organize at least 10 events under the name ‘Extratonal’ with a strong emphasis on community and thematic research. To achieve this we will collaborate with a number of artists that will co-curate a thematic programme with us. The first of these has already happened in 2025 curated by Djatá Bart-Plange. A second is planned for February 2026 with the PostPeople collective, followed by an exchange with Bernat Sanjuan in April and Joseph Knierzinger in June. At least 5 events will be organized in such a manner this year. The other half of the programme will consist of so-called ‘extratonal specials’ that focus on specific tech- and sound-related questions. One such programme will focus on the amalgamation of sound design and video games. Another will be the second edition of our ‘Multispecies Festival’, with a focus on non-human collaboration. A third relates to computation and velocipedic movement.

OSP Plotterstation Print Party The [Plotterstation](#) is a research initiative of the Brussels-based design collective OSP (Open Source Publishing) around machines known as pen plotters. The results of several workshops in 2026 will be shared at Varia in a “print party” event, where pen plotters will be used to draw posters from the outcomes, alongside guest presentations from members of OSP.

Professionalization and research into self-sustainability

Varia continues to prioritize professionalization and hold onto self-sustainability as an integral aspect of our work. In the coming year we will focus on building collective resilience in times of austerity. We will make a dedicated research group to investigate and propose new models for the professionalisation of our collective. This research group will have recurring public gatherings where interested people in these topics are welcome to join and share their knowledges and questions. Each session will be organised by a Varia member who defines a theme for the day. Considering how Varia can network in fun and innovative ways, we intend to work together on a collective Varia publishing project, design our own merchandise, and present the work of Varia further afield. Also, by actively seeking greater involvement in conferences and gatherings of peers across Europe.

Regarding self-sustainability, Access Seed continues to foster and support our local and international solidarity networks. Knowledge-sharing with other collectives and groups helps us tend to our common and uncommon practices around our tools, resources, spaces and time. Active research in Homebrewing and Counter Coloniality Seed helps us to divest from mainstream, extractionist technologies, and utilise, develop and maintain autonomous digital tools for ourselves and our network. Integral to the self-sustainability proposal is Varia’s engagement with different forms of knowledge exchange and distribution, such as zines, newspapers, stickers, online articles, radio.

Collective publishing

Over the years, Varia’s publishing output has included a variety of printed and web publications in support of our activities and research threads. In 2026, we want to join these together into a collective effort with a printed publication that acts as a catalogue of the various activities and expands upon the research in the form of reflective writing and essays.

We would like to experiment with using “wiki-to-print” digital publishing infrastructure to gather together and edit the contents of this publication. Wiki-to-print makes use of a wiki as a content management system, with the possibility to collectively collate material and design layouts for PDFs in a web browser. This publishing system has already been used in collaborations between Varia and [APRJA \(A Peer Reviewed Journal About\)](#) to produce newspapers and academic journals. We would like to use wiki-to-print to add to our existing documentation on our wiki, re-use and reflect on what is in the wiki, invite collaborators to make reflective contributions on the material and make a collective printed publication of the year’s activity.

This requires an experimental division of roles and budget in our efforts to explore a collective publishing project, which include writing of Varia’s research seeds and projects; setting up digital infrastructure and learning how to use it, editing and copyediting of the manuscript; manuscript design; printing; and the establishing of protocols for how to embed publishing as a common activity more easily amongst Varia members.

Additionally we will continue with our existing publishing

formats, *SomeTimes/Af en Toe* and *Sumtimes*.

Sometimes/Af en Toe

Our biannual publication, *SomeTimes/Af en Toe*, has been developing and adapting to what and how often we want to publish in Varia. In 2026, we will continue to push this format further by publishing more often and aligning *SomeTimes* with the general desire from members of Varia to find more ways to make documentation, reflection and writing public. This means we will aim to publish an edition of *SomeTimes* once every two months.

Sumtimes

SumTimes continues in 2026 as our Money Talks programme. At the end of the year a loose 'reader' will be printed, bundled and distributed.

Workgroups

Communication

In 2026 the communication workgroup will continue to consolidate and streamline communication flows and channels within and around Varia. This will mean taking stock of the different tools, protocols and methodologies for making things public and building on top of the already existing foundations to strengthen our modes of communication. This will mean experimenting with formats beyond the event publishing ecosystem on our website, developing new tools for documenting activities and publishing in realtime and reimagining some of the already existing formats we use such as *SomeTimes*.

Finance

In 2026 we will continue to look for ways to make financial issues in the cultural sector more transparent. We will organise new iterations of **Money Talks**, based on the positive feedback that we have received this year. We will continue to work on improving our workflows within the workgroup, and continue to collaborate with our accountant. For 2026 the Finance Workgroup reminds themselves of their seasonal rhythms, by programming 3 **Money Talks** alongside the times of our BTW declarations. These gatherings will be a moment for facilitators and participants to submit their BTW declarations together. Each time we will read excerpts from text detailing alternative economic models.

Infrastructure

For 2026 infrastructure will look outward to further collaborate on digital infrastructure with other local initiatives aligned with Varia's mission statement. For this we will focus on training other members to increase our capacity to help others. The internet connection of Varia's infrastructure will be upgraded to fiber to host more digital projects of these local initiatives. To further increase accessibility of this expanded set of digital platforms we will switch to a new login system that is easier for others outside of Varia to use.

Mediation

Mediation workgroup feels the growing importance of finding moments for Varia members to gather and connect, in and outside of planned working hours. Increasingly, we have different commitments regarding our work, health, care roles, grieving and travel commitments. With this in mind, in 2026 the workgroup will attend to different ways of bringing the collective together, and sharing introspections on how we are doing across different aspects of our lives. We observe that sharing our needs - for our time, communication preferences and working styles -

very much strengthens our collaboration. In the year to come, we will plan collective sessions to keep attending to our needs and values, we will continue with facilitation training sessions for all Varia members, and we will reschedule the Active Bystander workgroup with Ying Que as expert guest.

Another activity would be the Death-Care workshop session with Staci Bu Shea, a holistic death-care worker, curator and author of "Solution 305: Dying Livingly". We will learn from her practice on death midwifery, death wellness and grief companionship. This will gather Varia members and also open to interested participants who want to discuss having access to death and grief education.

Space

We will revisit the modularity of the space in 2026. The combination of workshops, music performances, lectures and informal gatherings creates friction in how to space is used. Increased use of Varia by other local initiatives creates the need for a guidebook on space usage instead of strict list of rules.

We will organize a pillow making workshop using crochet techniques in the process lead by Riccardo Santalucia. We will create community moment for sharing stories and making comfortable sitting surfaces for Varia's activities.

Changes in Varia's communication & digital strategy

In 2026 we will continue to maintain Varia's existing communication channels, such as our email newsletter and decentralised social media. We will continue developing channels such as Zulip, our community-hosted chat platform. We are also focused on developing an updated website and archive to better disseminate collective publishing projects.

New Varia website and archive

Over the past two years we have been developing a renewed website and software for a web-based digital archive. Our motivation is to reflect more of what is going on within Varia, and make it more comprehensible to a distant audience through these platforms.

Publishing infrastructure

As part of our wish to publish more in 2026, we will explore and experiment with web and print publishing infrastructure, such as the aforementioned wiki-to-print publishing system. We anticipate that these efforts will open up the research and development of collective publishing infrastructure that has been and will continue to go on inside of Varia.

Varia, the Governance Code for Culture and Diversity and Inclusion

As part of Varia's growth and path towards professionalisation, we nominated a Raad van Toezicht (supervisory board). We are currently in the process of confirming our candidates and will proceed with our first meeting in 2026.

We will also increase Varia's hourly rate to €40, in order to align our pay to the inflation rate and so ensure that those who work with Varia (members and non-members alike) are paid fairly. This results in an additional €6.112 above the expected budget for 2026. We continue to remunerate all work at the same rate, no matter the task and equal payment for guests and members. This is an act of fair practice that we uphold in our cultural network. As recipients of public funding we must continue work-

ing on ways to make information about our finances transparent and accessible.

It is crucial that we continue to provide value to the local cultural sector. We do this by sharing the internal work we do - self-organisational models, collective protocols, collaboration agreements, code of conduct (CoC) - as good practices for careful self-management.

By continuing to implement and make visible our CoC - both in our physical and digital spaces - we keep working on how Varia can be an inclusive space. We will work on a comprehensive set of social protocols, similar to the CoC, to clearly communicate the collective learning of Varia. Facilitating a space where we are attentive to one another and avoid assumptions about each other's knowledge base, gender identity, background, age or communication style puts effort into making a space that can hold diversity.

We are continuing our working relationships with “co-programmers”: non-Varia members who we collaborate with to produce our public programme. Each co-programmer brings their different position to the collective and shifts our thinking for the better. Being challenged helps us to change.