

# Sofya Must (Elsie Lappoh)

Vienna · sofyamust@pm.me · sofyam.xyz · elsie.world · [ACADEMIC CV](#)

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## PRACTICE

Researcher, artist, and producer working at the intersection of experimental media, sound, theoretical research, and installation. Audiovisual work screened at 30+ venues across 20+ countries. Currently developing ELSIE — a claw machine installation functioning as a prototype of a gamified governance system — simultaneously an artwork, research object, and experimental governance platform.

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## EDUCATION

BA Philosophy — University of Vienna 2021–2025  
Erasmus exchange — Erasmus University Rotterdam 2024  
BA Computational Linguistics — HSE University, Moscow 2018–2019, not completed  
BA Graphic Design — HSE University, Moscow 2016–2018, not completed

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## RESEARCH & INSTALLATION

ELSIE 2025–present

*Independent research project investigating coordination under complexity. Installation and gamified experimental economic environment as a site of inquiry into governance and collective decision-making. elsie.world*

Vienna Circle 2.0 — Reading Group, Vienna 2025–present

*Weekly interdisciplinary reading group (~20 researchers, mathematicians, philosophers, artists). Focus on category theory, cybernetics, governance theory.*

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## SCREENINGS & EXHIBITIONS

Project Space Sekhmet, Pristina Nov 2025  
Derigny 39, Athens Oct 2025  
Vinzenz, Vienna Sep 2025  
Shanthy Road Studio Gallery, Bangalore Aug 2025  
The Bird, Perth Aug 2025  
BIM Garden, Milan Jun 2025  
Sands Films Studio, London May 2025  
Gavu, Prague May 2025  
Kunst Kultur Kräftner, Graz Apr 2025  
Bayt Al Mamzar, Dubai Mar 2025  
89 Church Street, Cape Town Jan 2025  
Casa do comum, Lisbon Jan 2025  
COA, Milan Jan 2025  
Kyojima, Tokyo Feb 2024  
Farewell, Kansas City Nov 2024  
Private screening, Hong Kong Nov 2024  
Flat Earth Film Festival, Seyðisfjörður Nov 2024  
P3 Annihilation Eve, Manchester Oct 2024  
Impronta Gallery, Cholula Oct 2024  
LAAF\_TeoriaMnogości festival, Łódź Oct 2024  
Soft Systems, Chicago Oct 2024  
Spectacle / Lubov NYC, New York Sep 2024  
Secret location, Tehran Aug 2024  
Echoes of Decay, Garage Noord, Amsterdam Oct 2024  
Technocene Digital, Tempelhof, Berlin Jul 2024  
Re-Fest CULTUREHUB, Seoul/New York Jun 2024

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## LIVE PERFORMANCE

Sonic Fever — Ars Electronica, Kunstuniversität Linz Sep 2024  
velak 20th birthday gala, Zacherl Fabrik, Vienna Aug 2024  
Open Secret (with polymorphic engine), Creative Cluster, Vienna Jul 2024  
CHAIR (with Natasha Moreno), WUK Kunstzelle, Vienna May 2024  
Glistening, A4, Bratislava Apr 2024  
AAA, die Angewandte (VZA7), Vienna Jan 2024  
Archival Sites of Speculation (with Arina Nekliudova), VBKÖ, Vienna Jan 2024  
Last Supper, die Angewandte (VZA7), Vienna Dec 2023  
Soundbrain (Serious Serious), Studio Thimiggasse, Vienna Dec 2023  
MEGAWORLD XYZ (with Natasha Moreno), flucc, Vienna Oct 2023  
HEAVEN IS A PLACE (with Natasha Moreno), Zirkusgasse 28, Vienna Sep 2023  
Sad\*Crab Radio, Rhiz, Vienna Mar 2023

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## CURATION & PRODUCTION

Vienna Circle 2.0 — conception, reading group facilitation 2026–present  
Lecture (co-organised with Ilya Lobanov) by Reza Negarestani (online), venue TBA Vienna May 2026  
Lecture (co-organised with Felix Diefenhardt) by Robin Holt (Univ. of Bristol), Erdstall, Vienna Jan 2026  
Open Secret, Creative Cluster, Vienna — organisation, concert curation Jul 2024  
PLASTICITY (UN)LOADED: A190B2, Vienna — curation & organisation Mar 2024  
Sad\*Crab Radio presents: edition 2, Celeste, Vienna — co-curation Oct 2023  
HEAVEN IS A PLACE, Zirkusgasse, Vienna — curation & organisation Sep 2023  
Sad\*Crab Radio presents: edition 1, Rhiz, Vienna — co-curation Mar 2023  
Various concerts, RRR Vienna 2022

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## SOUND & COLLABORATIVE WORK

Brief vom Vater (dir. Azelia Opak) — sound design Jul 2024  
PLASTICITY (UN)LOADED: A190B2 (NAS) — sound design Mar 2024  
Radio Loss (Barnabás Bácsi) — composition 2024  
Ö1 ÖRF, velak im Zeit-Ton Porträt — live performance excerpt 2024  
BIGOS QUE LES VOIX (dir. Ksenia Kuklinovskaya) — sound design & composition 2023

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## ACTING

As Xenia in IKONOV (dir. Alexey Lapin) 2024  
As Vladich in ON UGODNICHESTVO (dir. Yelyzaveta Burtseva) 2024  
As Elsie Lappoh in MONAD+ (dir. Dana Dawud) 2024

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## PUBLICATIONS & WRITING

ŠUM magazine, issue 26 2026  
Ethics magazine, issue 02 2024  
syg.ma/@elsie-lappoh — essays and texts ongoing

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## SKILLS & LANGUAGES

### Languages

Russian (native), English (C1), German (C1), French (A1)

### Technical

HTML, CSS, JS, Python, Git, TYPO3, WordPress, Figma, Adobe Suite

### Research

Qualitative & quantitative methods, thematic analysis, R, STATA, SQL

# Sofya Mustetsova

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## RESEARCH PROFILE

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from the University of Vienna (2021–2025). Throughout my studies I worked across the domains of history and philosophy of technology and science, epistemology, philosophy of mathematics and logic, media theory, critical studies, aesthetics, political philosophy, and philosophy of religion.

Across these fields I developed a consistent interest in the political and economic implications of phenomena, propping the central question driving my research inquiry: how are complex processes organised and how can they be reorganised? My current trajectory is preoccupied with the application of theory to practice, while paying attention to the inevitable processes of reduction and compression: what constitutes those processes and what is being lost through this. Thus the inquiry into loss and how it shapes modern subjecthood, following an apophatic logic imported from theology.

I wrote ten papers in the course of my studies, two of which were bachelor theses.

The first, written in 2023 under the supervision of Wessel Reijers, was an analysis of cybernetic concepts in Elena Veduta's work. It traces the history of cybernetics in the Soviet Union and examines how that tradition is being rethought today, mostly through reductionist frameworks that do not manage to grasp the very reason why cybernetics failed at achieving its goal of automating the planned economy. Several earlier papers, written in 2021–2022, preceded and fed into this research strand, tackling questions of scientific responsibility and the problem of collective human endeavours, namely what human endeavours cannot be planned, and where *emergence* is necessary and inevitable. This thread opens directly onto questions about decentralised economies, the failing frameworks of emancipation via decentralisation and how they might be re-evaluated, as well as where their potential can be redirected. It connects to the present transformation of labour markets under rapid AI development, to questions of what redistributive frameworks like UBI could mean in this context, and to the deeper question of the relationship between labour and the economy in becoming. I am convinced there are insights from the Soviet experience and experiments that can be reappropriated and redirected toward these questions.

The second thesis, written in 2025 under the supervision of Evan Sandsmark, is titled "The Limits of Immanence: Kenosis and Algorithmic Temporality." It reconciles theological material, specifically theological phenomenology, with media studies, investigating immanentising frameworks and how they affect the very idea of change on a theoretical level and feed into learned political helplessness on the practical level. Concretely, it deals with the rhythms that emerge through affective flows in the Borromian knot of user–interface–content interaction, treating the three as an inseparable constellation. The weight of the interface design is largely undervalued but is in fact determinative of the window of possible interaction between humans and technology. Drawing on older and more contemporary frameworks in media theory, the thesis asks: What do new types of interfaces do to human subjectivity? What are the co-produced limits of emancipation? What new forms of cooperation and competition do they engender? More broadly, how do they alter conditions of possibility? Through this work, I moved toward the idea of transcendental cybernetics, which I currently investigate on both theoretical and practical levels.

These two strands converge in deeper questions about future educational frameworks, as well as future economies that we might or might not affect consciously.

## EDUCATION

**BA Philosophy — University of Vienna** 2021 – 2025

*Vienna, Austria*

*Grade: 1.75 — with distinction in Philosophy of Science, History of Philosophy, and thesis work.*

**BA Computational Linguistics — HSE University Moscow** 2018 – 2019

*Moscow, Russia · Not completed*

*Coursework in quantitative research methods, field studies, and data analysis. Skills directly inform current work on experimental interfaces and coordination systems.*

**BA Graphic Design — HSE University Moscow** 2016 – 2018

*Moscow, Russia · Not completed*

*Coursework in visual communication and interface design. Design practice informs ongoing research in cultural institutions.*

## RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Initiator & Convener — Vienna Circle 2.0 Reading Group** Dec 2025 – present

*Vienna, Austria*

*Initiated and leads a weekly philosophy reading group with PhD students and independent researchers. Developed focus on transcendental cybernetics, category theory, and experimental coordination frameworks.*

**Independent Researcher & Artist — ELSIE · elsie.world** 2025 – present

*Vienna, Austria*

*An independent research project investigating coordination under complexity. Currently developing an installation and a gamified experimental economic environment as a site of inquiry into governance and collective decision-making.*

**Collection Management Assistant — Private Collector** Jul – Sep 2025

*Vienna, Austria*

*Organised art collection documentation, catalogued metadata, researched pricing and provenance.*

**Research Assistant — Central European University & WU Vienna** May – Aug 2025

*Vienna, Austria · Multidimensional Social Mobility project*

*Data management and analysis using R, STATA, and SQL on large-scale entrepreneurial datasets (ORBIS/FIBU). Prepared datasets for hypothesis testing on economic mobility.*

**Qualitative Researcher — Open Future Lab, ERSTE Foundation** Jul – Aug 2025

*Vienna, Austria*

*Conducted interviews on individual and collective futures and attitudes towards social investment. Thematic analysis, research documentation, and internal coordination.*

**Gallery Assistant — WAF Gallery & UA26** 2022 – 2025

*Vienna, Austria*

*Gallery sitting, visitor engagement, administrative tasks including accounting and invoicing.*

**Curator & Event Organiser — Independent** 2021 – 2025

*Vienna, Austria*

*Conceived and produced interdisciplinary events combining experimental media, sound, and performance. Brought international artists and scholars to Vienna, including Open Secret screenings and a lecture by Robin Holt (Professor of Strategy, University of Bristol).*

**UX/UI Designer & Frontend Developer — Freelance** 2019 – present

*Vienna, Austria*

*Designed and developed responsive websites and digital infrastructure for cultural organisations, NGOs, galleries, festivals, and private clients. Full project lifecycle from concept to deployment. CMS: TYPO3, WordPress, Elementor. Stack: HTML, CSS, JS, Git.*

**Artist & Performer — Various Contexts** 2020 – present

*International*

*Experimental sound and media work screened at 30+ festivals and venues internationally. Live performances at Ars Electronica and Vienna experimental music spaces. Fiction writing published in international anthologies. Work created under various pseudonyms.*

## SKILLS & TOOLS

**Languages** Russian (native), English (C1), German (C1), French (A1), Polish (A1)

**Research** Qualitative & quantitative methods, thematic analysis, interview methodology, R, STATA, SQL

**Technical** HTML, CSS, JS, Python, Git, TYPO3, WordPress, Figma, Adobe Suite, Jira, Excel

**Management** Project coordination, budgeting, documentation systems, cross-functional team coordination

# Academic Papers

## Philosophy of Logic and Language

- "From Truth-Conditions to Inference: Rethinking Meaning in the Age of LLMs" (2025) Seminar paper, Universität Wien
- "Analysis of Dummett's argument against Putnam's realism" (2022) Seminar paper, supervisor: Iulian Toader, Universität Wien

## Philosophy of Technology & Epistemology

- "Analysis of cybernetic concepts in Elena Veduta's work" (2023) BA thesis, supervisor: Wessel Reijers, Universität Wien
- "Logical structure of cybernetic phenomena and human reasoning" (2022) Seminar paper, supervisor: Arantzazu Saratxaga (trained by Peter Sloterdijk), Universität Wien

## Media theory & Philosophy of Religion

- "The Limits of Immanence: Kenosis and Algorithmic Temporality" (2025) BA thesis, supervisor: Evan Sandsmark, Universität Wien

## Political Philosophy & Critical Theory

- "Political efficacy of art in contemporary Russia" (2023) Seminar paper, supervisor: Erik M. Vogt, Universität Wien

## History & Philosophy of Science

- "Cybernetics, value-neutral science and scientific responsibility in the United States and the Soviet Union" (2022) Seminar paper, supervisor: Christian Damböck, Universität Wien
- "Functional account of translation procedure in Kuhn's Structure of scientific revolutions" (2021) Essay on theory choice and incommensurability
- "'Different worlds' in philosophy of science and anthropology" (2021) Essay examining Kuhn's concepts through the ontological turn

## Sensory Studies & Philosophy of Religion

- "'Sacred' or 'magic' musicality and supremacy of hearing" (2023) Essay on theosophical approaches to sound and Ultra-Modernist composers, supervisor: Anna Kvicalova, Universität Wien