“The transformation of waste is perhaps the oldest pre-occupation of man.”
– Patti Smith

Recent research into the human body biomes and fecal microbial transplants (FMT) has led to better understanding of both the important function of bacteria in our bodies and the ecological systems that sustain us. These include microbiota – ecologies within the body.

Kathy High, an interdisciplinary artist working in the areas of technology, science and art, explores these new developments through metaphors of interspecies love, immunology and bacteria as players.

Waste Matters expands ideas around imbalances of internal biomes as a mirror to the imbalances in our larger ecological sphere, where the gut is a ‘hackable space’. As a patient with Crohn’s disease, her knowledge of autoimmune disorders and the body’s ecology is first hand: “Having dealt with issues around shit all my life, I see my own attempts to make this material invisible as reflecting our culture’s ways of covering waste.

Through a holistic view that encourages dialogue between ecologists, biologists, activists and artists, I seek to catalyse the imaginary around the abject”

‘Waste Matters: You are my future’

Chair: Sonja van Wichelen, Department of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Sydney
- Kathy High, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY
- Astrida Neimanis, Gender & Cultural Studies, University of Sydney
- Catherine Simpson, Macquarie University

When: Tuesday 12 April 2016
6.00pm – 7.30pm
Where: Law LT024, New Law School, Eastern Ave, University of Sydney University of Sydney

More information: Sydney Environment Institute