

Afterwork: On Political Imagination and the Relation Between Human Labour and Automation through the Exploration of Post-Work Scenarios by Ana de Almeida

Chapter 0

INTRO

Afterwork by Ana de Almeida is a participatory, speculative writing and live action role-play project developed in 2023 as part of the exhibition *In the Meantime, Midday Comes Around* at Kunsthalle Wien. The work explores the question of what a world beyond the current structures of labor might look like. It invites participants to imagine a future society where life is no longer organized around traditional notions of work—where the boundaries between labor, leisure, purpose, and survival are redefined or dissolved altogether.

Rooted in methods borrowed from science fiction, creative writing, and world-building, *Afterwork* serves as a collaborative and imaginative platform. Participants engage with ELIZZA 2.0 in chat sessions where they speculate on new ways of living, envisioning forms of social organization, economy, and identity in a post-work world. These speculative exercises are not just abstract fantasies—they are shaped by real hopes, fears, and desires regarding labor, time, and meaning.

The outcomes of the process are documented in written form, creating a collective record of imagined futures that reflect both personal and political dimensions of the participants' contributions. Rather than producing a fixed narrative, *Afterwork* functions as an open-ended writing experiment that evolves collectively.