AN ONLINE ACTIVATIONS SERIES

OCEAN / UNI

WEBS OF WATER

APPLY

Apply by filling **this application form.**

OCEAN / UNI

WEBS OF WATER

TBA21–Academy, in collaboration with Tactical Tech's "Exposing the Invisible" project and artist-researcher Federico Pérez Villoro, invites applications for "Webs of Water", an online activation series exploring the relationship between technology infrastructures, freshwater scarcity and water distribution issues in the Caribbean.

Taking place from March to May 2025, this program invites journalists, researchers, artists, scientists, and activists to collaboratively investigate the environmental impact of tech industries on water access. Participants will analyze the physical and geopolitical dimensions of computing infrastructures through workshops and collective mapping. The series will culminate in the creation of public knowledge resources hosted on Ocean-Archive.org, inspiring further research and action.

PROJECT OUTLINE

The Webs of Water activation series, developed in collaboration with Tactical Tech's "Exposing the Invisible" project and Federico Pérez Villoro, examines the intersection of technological infrastructures in the Caribbean. By combining Tactical Tech's investigative strategies with Pérez Villoro's research on the industrialization of water, and drawing on the diverse expertise of participants, the series aims to identify specific regional issues and expose the industries and political actions—or inactions—that cause them.

As global data networks expand, sovereignty is increasingly tied to control over information flows rather than physical territories. Yet, these infrastructures are inherently dependent on physical spaces, including the Ocean, which is becoming a new frontier for data processing and storage. This raises urgent questions about how tech companies can extend private interests and influence specific territories, often bypassing local regulations and increasing ecological risks.

Over the course of five online sessions, we will study the impacts of tech industries in relation

to water scarcity in the Caribbean as we seek to identify the growing presence of computing infrastructure in the region—from data centers or underwater fiber optic cables to artificial intelligence training farms. Together, we will investigate the resource consumption required by these systems and critically reexamine the narratives needed to shift their current path.

This series is an invitation **not only to investigate the impact of technologies on our environment, but to rethink together our own complicity with extractive dynamics.** Through collaborative development of counter-forensic methodologies, we aim to envision regenerative possibilities for ecosocial transformation rather than perpetuate current trajectories of capitalist extraction.

IN A NUTSHELL

What? - Five workshops and skill-sharing sessions (2 hours 20 minutes each) focusing on the impact of tech infrastructure development on water distribution in the Caribbean.

Who? - We are looking for practitioners who already have experience in journalistic and citizen investigations, cartography, data science, hydrology, geology, artistic interventions around water access, evidence-based campaigning. Successful participants will have knowledge of the area and be based in or working on related topics.

Why? - To create a network, a collaborative space and a knowledge resource that socializes the group's findings and methodologies, serving as a public tool for future initiatives.

When?

* March 18

* April 1

* April 15

* April 29

* May 13

6 pm–8:20 pm CET, 11 am–13:20 pm CST (Mexico City), 12 pm–14:20 pm EST (Kingston), 1 pm–15:20 pm (Santo Domingo)

Where? – online

Application deadline – February 5, 2025.

Application form - HERE

Facilitators – Federico Pérez Villoro (Ocean-Archive.org Digital Resident), Laura Ranca (Tactical Tech / Exposing the Invisible), Aleksandra Czerniak (TBA21–Academy)

Costs – free to attend, no stipends for participation will be provided for selected participants.

WHAT WILL WE DO?

The working group will:

Analyze water and tech industries:

*   Study the impact of computing infrastructures, such as data servers and AI processing, on freshwater scarcity.

*   Examine the economic and political dynamics driving the placement of tech industries in the Caribbean.

*   Expose power imbalances prioritizing private interests over communal benefits.

*   Discuss the ways in which data distribution moves the understanding of geopolitics towards the field of information flows.

*   Track corporate interests and relationships between companies and governments.

Develop counter-mapping methodologies:

*   Create maps and visualizations highlighting connections between water stress and industrial activities.

*   Locate potential risk zones near water sources.

Produce public knowledge resources:

*   Share evidence and bring to surface forms of abuse at different scales produced by extractive technologies and to recognize, honour and support expressions of resistance and organizing in the region.

*   Share findings on Ocean-Archive.org to inspire further action and collaboration.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

These are some of the questions we will explore during the sessions:

*   What is the relation between technology and water and how do both influence each other?

*   How do tech industries affect access to fresh water in the Caribbean?

*   Can we measure the hydric impact of tech infrastructures like data servers and AI processing?

*   Can we identify trends of tech industries located in the Caribbean?

*   Are there economic reasons why technology companies are located in the Caribbean?

*   What are the protocols and industry best-practices of water use?

*   Is there enough public knowledge of the locations of surface and groundwater sources in the Caribbean region?

*   How are companies regulated in relation to their use and proximity to water sources?

*   How to address the relationship between technology and the environment, not by blaming but by uncovering and analyzing critically?

Participants are encouraged to share additional questions and refine these collectively.

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for practitioners, with previous experience in relevant fields:

* **Journalists** and citizen investigators exploring the intersection of technologies and the environment.

* **Artists, writers, researchers, and other cultural agents** investigating water politics.

* **Cartographers** with expertise in collective mapping tools.

* **Activists** with local knowledge of struggles around water and tech industries.

* **Hydrologists and geologists** interested in hydro-social cycles.

* **Data scientists and engineers** focused on geography and spatial analysis.

* **Legal experts** with insights into regulatory frameworks around water use.

* Anyone else with an evidence-driven background and intentions/will to organize around the common concern of freshwater scarcity in the Caribbean and the world at large.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply by filling **this application form.**

SELECTION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

We aim to select 15 participants for the activations

February 5 – Application deadline

February 5–28 – Selection of participants (including possible interviews)

March 3 – Announcement of participants

March 18 – First session of the activations

CONTACT

For any future questions, please write to: aleksandra.czerniak@tba21.org

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS AND FACILITATORS

Laura Ranca is an investigator and trainer with Tactical Tech's ["Exposing the Invisible"](#) (ETI) project since 2018, where she trains emerging and experienced investigators on OSINT and follow-the-money techniques and tools, conducts digital investigations into the corporate use of personal data, develops learning resources (guides, curricula), public outreach and collaboration opportunities for investigators and independent media worldwide. Laura has 20 years of experience in cross-border collaborative research, investigations and policy projects, having worked with journalists, activists and technologists across Europe, Africa and South America to enhance transparency in the public interest. Laura holds MA degrees in Media Policy and International Relations from the Central European University in Hungary.

Federico Pérez Villoro is an artist and researcher living and working in Mexico City. Through texts, installations, videos and performances, Federico explores the ways in which state, corporate and institutional power materializes through the

strategic use of information technologies. His recent work addresses the industrialization of water as an example of the imposition of technical operativity upon living ecosystems. His work has been exhibited internationally and published by Luna Córnea, ADOCS, DELUS, The Serving Library, Printed Matter, C Magazine, Gato Negro Ediciones, diSONARE, and the Walker Art Center. Federico has taught at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) and California College of the Arts (CCA). He has lectured, facilitated workshops and acted as a guest critic at schools such as Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), New York University (NYU), ETH Zurich, Rutgers University, CalArts, and The New School. In 2019 he founded Materia Abierta, a summer school on theory, art, and technology in Mexico City.

Aleksandra Czerniak is a multifaceted creative interested in technological development and performing arts. She works across education, digital culture and art management. Initially inspired by performing arts, she finished her HND Acting & Performance degree at Edinburgh College. Her interest in interdisciplinary knowledge led her to expand her education in Art History, obtaining her BA and MA at the University of Wroclaw and

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. She is currently based in Vienna, working as a digital project manager at [TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary](). In her free time, she knits and performs as a DJ.

"Webs of Water", an online activation series is developed as part of 2024/2025 OCEAN / UNI Program.

OCEAN / UNI is an initiative dedicated to art, activism, and science that invites fluid thinking with the Ocean as a way to move beyond the binaries of land and sea. OCEAN / UNI's curriculum provides students, researchers, and the public with access to wide-ranging ideas and explorations through regular live sessions, reading groups, small-scale workshops or activations, and other online material, free and accessible to everyone on Ocean-Archive.org.

[2024/2025 OCEAN / UNI cycle](#), titled "bárawa" ("Ocean" in the Guatemalan Garifuna language), is conceived by curator Yina Jiménez Suriel as part of [The Current IV: Caribbean](#). This overarching program explores the Ocean as the epicenter of contemporary emancipatory processes, examining what it means to engage with this idea from the Caribbean context. The "bárawa"cycle has been developed in collaboration with OCEAN / UNI Research Lead Pietro Consolandi and the TBA21 Digital Team.

ORGANISATIONS

TBA21 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary is a leading international art and advocacy foundation. Established in 2002 by philanthropist and art patron Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza, the foundation stewards the **TBA21 Collection** and its outreach activities, which include exhibitions as well as educational and public programming.

TBA21 is based in Madrid, working in association with the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, and has other important poles of action in Venice (Italy) and Portland (Jamaica). All activity at TBA21 is collaborative and fundamentally driven by artists and the belief in art and culture as accelerators in social and environmental transformations and ultimately in the service of peace. We understand peace as a continuous practice in the affirmation of life, diversity, and coexistence, and aim to theorize, rehearse, and advocate for peacebuilding practices together with artists.

TBA21–Academy is the foundation's research platform, fostering a deeper relationship with the Ocean and wider ecologies by working as an incubator for transdisciplinary inquiry, artistic

production, and environmental advocacy. For more than a decade, the Academy has catalyzed new forms of knowledge emerging from the exchanges between art, science, policy, and conservation in long-term and collaborative engagement through commissions, fellowships, residency programs, and activities in a wide variety of formats.

Among its main projects are the art center Ocean Space (Venice), the independent study program Organismo | Art in Applied Critical Ecologies (Madrid, Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza), programs at Alligator Head Foundation (Port Antonio, Jamaica), *The Current* Pacific/Mediterranean/Caribbean, the online initiative Ocean-Archive.org with OCEAN / UNI, and the European program Bauhaus of the Seas Sails.

The Academy offers artist residencies at the **Alligator Head Foundation**, a Jamaica-based marine conservation organization initiated by TBA21 in 2015, focusing on the intersection of science, art, and community. During their stay, artists engage in community-focused practices and workshops, strengthening the integration with local initiatives, enhancing national and global policy for ecological resilience, and, in turn, informing

and expanding TBA21–Academy's regenerative methodologies.

Tactical Tech is a creative international NGO with two decades of experience dedicated to exploring the profound impact of technology on our lives. Through creative, collaborative and impactful public interventions, exhibitions, investigations and learning resources that promote critical thinking, it enables individuals and communities to navigate the ways digital technologies change their lives and transform societies. Exposing the Invisible (ETI) is a Tactical Tech project that develops learning resources, training and collaborations promoting investigation as one of the most important forms of public engagement. ETI's flagship project is the "Exposing the Invisible Kit", a collaborative, self-learning resource that makes investigative techniques and tools used by experienced investigators accessible to everyone interested in starting their own investigations with safety and ethical considerations in mind.