

[It] and Ecology

a found poem by Laura Watts

Each line of this 42 line poem is a quote from a presentation or discussions during the event, **AI and Ecology**, hosted by Kjetil Rommetveit, Centre for Advanced Study at the Norwegian Academy of Sciences & Letters, Oslo. The quotes are as I recorded them by hand in my notebook. The poem was created and performed during the event on 12-13 March 2026.

With thanks to everyone at AI and Ecology, who all inspired its writing.

This poem is both academic and creative practice. For the theory behind this practice see: Watts, Laura. 2020. 'Poetry and Writing' in *Transmissions: Critical Tactics for Making and Communicating Research*, edited by Kat Jungnickel. MIT Press. <https://sand14.com/poetry-and-writing/>

I.

What if we never said [it]?
[It] is not a data centre.

From innovation to inaction:
Imaginarities that run counter to generally accepted knowledge.

How to get to a utopian future?
Oil rigs don't go very fast.

Transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society:
It's a race. What are we willing to sacrifice to win?

In order to win the technology race, we need to win the [it] race.
The [it] race is overlapping with the arms race.

In order to build and deploy [it] you need a lot of stones;
In a material sense we will be fine.

Cables of resistance:
Nationalise [it]!

II.

[It] will lead to human extinction in three decades,
Future of life institute.

Global [it] moratorium;
Small farmers have been eradicated from the face of the planet.

But I have a problem for every solution:
All you need is attention.

How can we do maintenance with money for innovation?
More humble ways of working with technology.

What does it mean to outsource systemic risk;
Why can't we scale down?

Siren servers:

Pick me up, take me with you.

What kind of fuel will you be using in forty years?

A murmuration of [it].

III.

Common-ing;

Community mining goes back millennia.

In this case [it] is data mining technology;

It has been around before we labelled [it].

Responsive organising;

Regulatory managerialism:

Vulgar, heartless, heartbreaking,

Search for language that says, this is the only thing that matters.

Remember, we are in this together:

The wind warps the paper.

This is a meteorite.

It's the key shiny object.

You can listen to the planet.

The physics of it...

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