

**The Nuclear Bunker as an Archive of the Future:
On the Brink of Time**

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This paper was inspired by a recent visit to one of Nürnberg's eighteenth nuclear bunkers. The bunker was built right underneath the Hauptbahnhof, the city's main train station, during the construction of the city's subway from 1973 to 1977 as a response to the Cold War nuclear anxieties. It was meant to ensure that almost 2,500 people could survive at least 14 days after a nuclear war. Prepared for a nuclear but also biological and/or chemical attack, the bunker was designed to accommodate each person in only 0,5 square meters. Fifty people would have to use one sink and one toilet, while sleeping and seating would take place in shifts. Each person had to lie down for eight hours and sit for sixteen. In 2015, the city of Nürnberg decommissioned most of the nuclear bunkers, apart from the one beneath the train station and a smaller one closer to the city center. The visit to this dystopian space reminded me Jacques Derrida's analysis of the archive and its derivation from the Greek word *arkheion*: "initially a house, a domicile, an address, the residence of the superior magistrates, the archons, those who commanded." Today, the nuclear bunker stands not only as a museological experience of nuclear disaster and a time-capsule to the Cold War era, but also as an archive of a future, which, given the re-emergence of Cold War tensions, also appears to subsist on the cusp of the present.