

## Evaluating Artistic Research

Friday, 11 April, 1.30pm-5pm

3.30pm: Half-hour break for coffee and cake

Venue: Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)

Limmatstrasse 65, Room 105 (Art Education), Zurich

Please register here: <http://doodle.com/rm7evrix2rvxi9qz>

Evaluation processes are omnipresent in the promotion of culture, in art, and in science. With the establishment of artistic research in Swiss arts universities, appropriate forms and instruments for the promotion and evaluation of such research are the subject of ongoing controversy and fierce debate.

Does the adaptation to certain evaluation processes lead to a dependency that, while doing justice to such processes, is not actually relevant to artistic research? Do evaluation processes format and limit artistic idiosyncrasies, and thereby impede or even render impossible ways of expressing the approximate and the unfinished? Or do funding application requirements on the contrary present both a challenge and an opportunity for artistic research to find out what appropriate evaluation criteria could or indeed should look like and how such impulses might benefit processes used to evaluate other areas of knowledge?

The workshop invites participants to discuss existing types and mechanisms of evaluation for artistic research and those that we aspire to. It continues the debate initiated at the first workshop, held at ZHdK on 31 October 2013.

The first workshop focused on three artistic research projects, which each devised and critically reflected on their use of specific evaluation questions and criteria for documenting certain phenomena.<sup>1</sup> Comparison revealed that the

---

<sup>1</sup> Stefan Wagner's Stadt auf Achse is situated at the interface between art and politics. His research process involves the ongoing evaluation / documentation of his cooperation with various actors (research, art, public administration, general public). Wagner is using a specially designed tool to map project development so as to facilitate future collaboration between various actors in artistic urban development projects.

Meret Wandeler's contribution (based on her Visuelle und Auditive Wahrnehmungsdispositive project) focused on the need for art to adopt a clear position and a stringent approach: developing a *dispositif* to document the auditory-visual perception of spatial change in Schlieren has revealed that within conventional urban development evaluation mechanisms it is precisely an approach to spatial change based on aesthetic criteria that provides critical impulses and shows that evaluation also always means that some aspects attract more attention than others, which might be just as or even more important.

Linda Cassens Stoian (Perform Body Situated Space) observed that in relation to performance, that is, a dynamically conceived notion of art, it

development of evaluation criteria is context-sensitive. The evaluation criteria used in the three projects depended largely on the research approach, on the actors' various interests, and in particular on the role that art plays in the research process.

The second workshop considers how evaluation mechanisms affect artistic processes in their preliminary stages. It explores public funding programmes and their application requirements. Other discussion topics include the procedures used to take publishing decisions, that is, to retrospectively evaluate the quality of artistic projects. One key issue of the workshop will be so-called peer reviews, an evaluation procedure widely used within the (scholarly) research community. One of the main ideas behind peer reviews is that acceptance increases with the number of opinions formed.

The inputs will be in German; discussion in German and/or English.

Programme:

1.30-1.40pm Welcome (Selma Dubach, Institute for Contemporary Art Research, ZHdK)

1.40-1.50pm Brief Review of Last Workshop (Head of Arts Materials Research, HSLU D&K)

**Research Applications**

1.50-2.05pm: Anton Rey, Head of the Institute for the Performing Arts and Film (IPF), ZHdK

2.05-2.15pm: Questions

**Promotion System(s)**

2.15-2.25pm: Corina Caduff, Member of the Research Council of the Swiss National Science Foundation Section I, Humanities and Social Sciences (since 2011)

2.25-2.40pm: Questions

**Peer Review**

2.40-2.55pm: Martin Reinhart, assistant professor, Sociology of Scientific knowledge, Research of Evaluation, HU Berlin (Key research areas: science studies/sociology of science, evaluation procedures/peer review, sociology of evaluation)

---

proves worthwhile to question conventional documentation and evaluation criteria (museum documentation still adheres strongly to the concept of the individual work) and to risk another approach by developing one's own instruments and evaluation criteria.

SARN: : Swiss Artistic Research Network - Workshop I/2014 ::  
[www.sarn.ch](http://www.sarn.ch)::

2:55-3:05pm: Questions

15:05-15:20: The peer-review process in JAR - Journal of  
Artistic Research: Julie Harboe, (Head of Arts Materials  
Research, HSLU D&K)

3:20-3:30pm: Questions

3.30-4pm: Coffee and Cake

4-4.45pm: Discussion

4.45-5pm: Summary