

Beyond Participation: Reaching Institutional Openings

Dr. Yvonne Schmidt (ZHdK Zurich and HKB Bern):

Scenarios - Entanglements between theatre and ecology

Friday 9th April 2021, 10 am via zoom, please register [online](#) by 30th March 2021

The session will complete the methodology workshop on new approaches to the research of the changing institutional contexts of contemporary theatre and art production, held online in December 2020 and organized by Prof. Alexandra Portmann, Bern University/CH, and Prof. Peter M. Boenisch, Aarhus University/DK

Scenarios – Entanglements between theatre and ecology

Fridays for Future, climate emergency, «net zero» – after the call for the participation of many such as Occupy, the Pirate Party and the public focus has shifted to the climate movement. The discourse on climate change and ecological issues is also reflected in the arts, and several emerging initiatives in Switzerland follow transdisciplinary approaches in order to overcome the gap between science, arts, and society. In this context, theatremakers engage with ecological issues, by focussing on the physical, biological, cultural and political relationship between humans and the environment (Kagan, 2014). Internationally known artists, such as Katie Mitchell or Rimini Protokoll, created pre-enactments in response to climate crisis. The installation *Parlament der Dinge, Tiere, Pflanzen und Algorithmen* at Zurich's Theater Neumarkt deals with the Anthropocene, which marks a geological era in the history of the planet in which mankind is changing the environment (Haraway 2016). The input presentation discusses the entanglements between theatre and ecological issues. The question raises how these performances not only represent future scenarios, but also update them experimentally within the framework of the performance. Furthermore it explores to which extent the design of performative setups provide a space in which potentially social innovation processes can be tested before they can be transferred into sustainable structures (Peters 2013).

Yvonne Schmid, Dr. is the Deputy Head of the Institute for the Performing Arts and Film at Zurich University of the Arts and responsible for the 3rd Cycle programs. She is also the head of the field arts mediation at the Bern University of the Arts, where she initiated the EcoArtLab, a transdisciplinary do and think in collaboration with scientific and artistic partners, as well as the Co-President of the Swiss Association for Theatre Research. She teaches transdisciplinary classes at the Bern University of the Arts on arts and ecology as well as in the MA Theater at ZHdK. She studied Theatre and Dance Studies and Comparative Literature in Mainz, Paris and Bern and received her PhD from the University of Bern in 2013. In 2012, she was a PhD researcher fellow at the University of Illinois at Chicago. In 2015 she was a Guest Lecturer in Theatre Studies at the University of Bern. In 2018 she was a Visiting Scholar at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, in the context of her recently completed SNSF-research project "DisAbility on Stage" (2015-2019). Her research areas include socially engaged theatre and performance (performance and disability, theatre with non-professional actors), transdisciplinary approaches to arts and sciences (arts and climate change), and acting theory. She founded and co-convened the International Federation for Theatre Studies (IFTR) working group "Performance and Disability". Her works appeared in peer-reviewed journals such as *Theatre Research International*, *RiDE-Research in Drama Education*. The *Journal for Applied Theatre and Performance* or *Forum Modernes Theater*.