

Synthesizing Knowledge: Methodologies, Epistemologies, Worlds

Symposium on interdisciplinary, collective, reflexive, affective, and socially engaged research in art, design, humanities, and social sciences

Monday 5 December 2022 (from 1 pm) to Wednesday 7 December (till 2 pm)
Faculty of Fine Arts, Brno University of Technology

Synthesizing consists in composing, combining, joining, and togetherness. Synthesis describes bringing things together, causing them to interact with one another in ways that give rise to a higher order of emergence, exceeding the sum of its parts. Synthesizing, as characterized by the action of multiple components interacting in entangled and situated ways, begets complexity, nonlinearity, randomness, collective dynamics, and sympoietic becoming.

Building upon the notion of synthesizing, this symposium aims to explore methods and formats of research with worldbuilding capacities; research that can configure and reconfigure worlds, affording new, desirable realities and futures. To this end, this symposium convenes researchers in the fields of art, design, humanities, and social sciences to discuss the ways in which they work (or want to work). In this forum, researchers shall share their experiences with situated research (whether embodied or materially embedded), reflexive research, collective research, collaboration and sharing, interdisciplinary experiments, and affective and socially engaged approaches to research.

The format for this symposium will be an *unconference*. “Unconferencing” constitutes an innovative approach to scholarly assembly that abandons the traditional program of individual presentations in favor of a lively collective debate. Unconferences are participant-driven gatherings without pre-planned sessions, thus enabling attendees to set the agenda according to their most urgent and unfolding needs. Unconferences facilitate and promote peer-to-peer learning, collaboration, and collective, imaginative creativity.

The symposium seeks to provide a rewarding experience to its participants without excessive emissions. Regional researchers who can access the symposium via rail are invited to participate. Participation is free of charge and all participants shall receive travel and accommodation support. Tea, coffee, and vegan snacks and lunches will be provided.

Scholars and practitioners from a plethora of diverse backgrounds working as artists, designers, humanities researchers, and social scientists are encouraged to join the symposium debate about the way we work now.

To ensure a meaningful unconference, the number of participants is constrained to a maximum of 20. Places will be attributed on a first-come-first-served basis. To attend, please send a short bio note outlining research interests to Lenka Veselá (xvveselal@gmail.com) by 10 October 2022.