# Research project – Peripher\_ies / Institut Hyperwerk / HGK / FHNW

#### **Abstract**

Where does perception end and design begin, or is perception already principally to be understood as design? In the intercultural exchange program and research project Peripher\_ies we compare and interpret soundscapes produced with field recordings by students and academics. We discuss the dimension of the intercultural differences in understanding, meaning and quality of the soundscapes and the dimension of the acoustic ecology which we receive through perception. All this is a way to think about two specific Common Goods—our landscapes and resources and our social and cultural relations—on a global and a local scale as starting point.

#### **Keywords**

Student & Academic online exchange / Soundscape & Landscape / Acoustic ecology / Commons / Intercultural Practices & Interpretation / Concepts of Periphery & Center

#### **Background**

Peripher\_ies is based on an international network with around ten partner institutions from five continents founded on the basis of the former research project Cultural Spaces in Design. We are conducting online workshops concerning the production and shared interpretation of locally recorded soundscapes since April 2020. Through the creation of such a community of listeners we sought to explore how the shared perception of soundscapes can open up a differentiated intercultural dialogue and lead to a change in mutual understanding. This led us, in turn, to develop soundscape approaches to the question of landscape as a designable commons and ultimately to reflect on the self-conception of design as a discipline. This activity of commoning has been at the center of the discussion on the Commons for several years now (Elinor Ostrom, 2012, p.246). Can we understand design as an activity of jointly developing rules and procedures, as a practical aesthetic action? The experience of being involved in Peripher\_ies has led us towards an ecological understanding of mutuality and away from hierarchies like periphery and center.

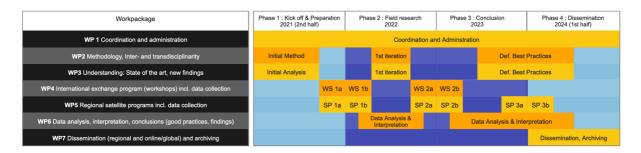
### **Research dimensions**

- Soundscapes as a medium
  - Sonic experience and perception of sound. Acoustic ecology as emerging from sonic manifestations of actions of human and non-human beings.
  - Sound design as everyday practice, sonic agency, politics of sound
  - Aesthetic qualities of sound as medium of being, communicating and creating in the digital-analog world
- Collaborative design practices
  - Soundscapes and soundscape recordings as starting point, pivotal point, or catalysts of online educational exchange in Art & Design Studies.
- Intercultural practices and interpretation
  - Common understandings in social, cultural and educational dimensions starting from the concepts of periphery, decolonalisation and commons.

#### **Project plan**

The project is divided into two parts.

- 1. The *practical exchange* includes international online exchange-workshops coupled with regional satellite projects.
- 2. The *theoretical framework* includes design, social and cultural sciences combined with international exchange (lectures and conferences). The work starts with the interpretation of the practical exchange.



## **Approximation Budget/Financing**

### **Budget**

<b>0</b>	
Coordination, administration (WP1)	40'000
Methodology and Understanding (WP2&3)	60'000
Exchange program and Satellite programs (WP4&5)	120'000
Interpretation, Conclusions and Dissemination (WP6&7)	140'000
Material	40'000
Total	400'000
External costs (as part of this calculation)	80'000

#### **Financing**

Foundations	150'000
Research funds	150'000
Local funds	50'000
Sponsoring	50'000
Total	400'000

Network (Status 1.1.21):

Australia, Canberra ANU, College of Arts & Social Sciences, Research School of Humanities

and the Arts, School of Art & Design / Amanda Stuart, Pia van Gelder

Austria, Graz FH Joanneum & University of the Arts, Sound Design / Daniel Fabry,

Orhan Kipcak

Botswana, Gaborone University of Botswana, Industrial Design and Technology / Richie

Moalosi

Canada, Montréal, Université du Québec, Faculté des Arts, École des arts visuels et

médiatiques / Susan Turcot, Philippe-Aubert Gauthier

Finland, Rovaniemi University of Lapland, Department of Art and Design / Tomi Knutilla

Greece, Thessaloniki Artbox Creative Arts Management / Christos Savvidis,

Lydia Chatziiakovou

Island, Isafjördur University of Akureyri, University Centre of the Westfjords

Matthias Kokorsch

Japan, Niigata Nagaoka, Nagaoka Institute of Design / Yorck Bühler

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