

Z

hdk

Zürcher Hochschule der Künste

ZHdK

**Research
Report 2020**

ZHdK Research

96
research projects

Research at ZHdK is carried out in the arts, design and education. It often also takes an interdisciplinary approach and unites theory and practice, basic and applied research, production and reflection. It promotes innovation and makes a significant contribution to our high level of teaching.

3.6m
third-party funds

151
researchers

The Head of Dossier Looks Back

In the 2020 reporting year, the Research Dossier strengthened and further developed the existing structures and strategically developed new tasks, responsibilities and expertise. Under the direction of Dr. Bea Böckem, the transfer to a fully operational office was made, thus completing the establishment of the Research Affairs. This consists of the Grants Office, Research Communication, Research Services Open Science, a PhD Centre and the Office of the Head of Research Affairs, which oversees strategic projects and staff tasks.

The university-wide project «Future Research Organization», dedicated to the structural, organisational and conceptual foundations upon which ZHdK research is conducted, achieved its first goals. In 2020, the framework for research were aligned in a broad-based process.

The University Board approved the new organisational structure for PhD at ZHdK. The aim is to more firmly anchor doctoral programmes at ZHdK, institutionally and strategically, and to develop 3rd cycle offerings. The «PhD Status» project will also clarify the terms and conditions of 3rd cycle employment on a university-wide basis.

Open Science services were also greatly expanded in order to promote an open knowledge culture. In the reporting year, services in various areas (Open Access, research data management and research presentation) also contributed to enhancing the visibility of ZHdK research.

In addition, other strategic issues serving to make researchers visible and to foster their networking were established in the reporting year, including numerous information and training events such as the «International Research Funding Lunch» and the «PhD Summer Course».

Prof. Christoph Weckerle, Head of the Research Dossier, April 2021

Thoughts of the Research Dossier Committee

Our University is on the move. In addition to the pandemic, the year 2020 focused on developing new models in teaching, research and at the staff level. These processes will very much occupy us in the coming years.

The vitality and diversity of research are plainly evident amid these dynamics. Their contribution is important. Just as important, however, is the autonomy of the arts. The key task is to promote both appropriately in teaching, respecting their differences and affording them the scope they need to flourish.

ZHdK research has undergone a remarkable development since the University was established in 2007. But the Swiss funding landscape has also become significantly more competitive in the meantime.

- How do we manage to more clearly recognise, address and make visible the pressing questions of our time through art, design and educational practice?
- How can we exploit our cooperation potential?
- How can we help others grasp and experience our research?

This is how the impact of our work will be measured.

Since its reconstitution in autumn 2020, the Research Dossier Committee has supported these processes and discussed these issues in its role as an advisory body. Most importantly, its work rests on exchanging ideas and information across ZHdK, in particular with researchers.

Prof. Germán Toro Pérez, Chair of the Research Dossier Committee, May 2021

Dossiers in Dialogue

A conversation between Beate Böckem, Head of Research Affairs, and Florence Balthasar, Head of International Affairs. Topics include cooperation, the diversity of research and their understanding of international research.

Beate Böckem: I perceived 2020 as a very intense year, which involved different and contradictory developments. On the one hand, we experienced a kind of standstill as a result of lockdown and the measures adopted to tackle the pandemic. On the other hand, certain research topics and areas pressed on unabated and gained a lot of momentum at the strategic level.

«I would therefore say 2020 was the year of increased access.»

Florence Balthasar: Yes, this was similar in my area. The existing international cooperations largely continued without difficulty. But consolidating fledgling partnerships proved more difficult. This also includes international research cooperation. We wanted to further develop certain cooperations in a targeted manner, which we still haven't managed to do due to the circumstances. However, digitalised communication also has positive aspects. Take the ELIA 2020 Biennial: as a rule, no more than ten ZHdK representatives attend this important conference. Moving the event online, however, enabled many more members of our university to attend and benefit from the 2020 edition. I would therefore say 2020 was the year of increased access. But still: do you feel that some ZHdK departments and their disciplines have benefitted more from digitalisation than others?

Bea: Yes, that's certainly my impression. Already in April 2020, the Research Affairs Office conducted a survey among researchers on how the pandemic was impacting research. The results revealed disciplinary differences. Consider, for example, those areas that are strongly tied to their research infrastructure or where digital data collection and access were

only possible to a limited extent or not at all. Besides, some research areas are anchored chiefly at the national level and therefore face fewer restrictions than ones whose organisational logic requires them to transcend this local anchoring.

Florence: That makes sense. For me personally, artistic research is a new field. I find the understanding of interdisciplinarity within the arts and design at ZHdK very interesting, also because all of these artistic disciplines meet under the same roof here. Internationally, this makes us a strong and attractive partner for collaborations. In the future, we should highlight this asset even more and position ourselves where interdisciplinarity is relevant. In particular «Shared Campus» our international flagship project, focuses on interdisciplinary cooperation and holds great potential for possible research collaborations.

«Depending on the economic context different research areas are supported nationally as well as internationally.»

Bea: What has not changed in the understanding of international research at ZHdK is the basic stance: considering the most diverse formats as independent, and creating good and logical access and opportunities for these formats. The pandemic, however, has changed things, especially in the visual and performing arts. Research in these disciplines has indeed been restricted in terms of opportunities, access and output. This has further heightened the challenge of securing research funding in these fields. Something else that I've noticed is not necessarily related to the pandemic. Depending on the economic context, different research areas are supported nationally as well as internationally. As far as possible, we need to balance the support for sought-after research topics and strengthen less popular ones.

Florence: This is also plainly evident at the EU level. Two areas in particular are strongly

impacting the various research fields. One is sustainability, the other digitalisation. Thus, certain research areas are benefitting more than others because of their affinity with these two overarching topics. Unfortunately, artistic research belongs less to this privileged group. Nevertheless, it is important to keep working and perhaps also to find new international vehicles suited to promoting artistic research. We are currently examining how possible participation in a large European consortium in the «Cultural and Creative Industries» could benefit all disciplines at ZHdK.


Bea: At the national level, we are working with an association of research directors from Swiss art and design universities so as to transform our competitive relationship into a collaborative one. We are seeking to preserve the autonomy of universities while jointly establishing and expanding international connectedness. I am sure that we can make excellent use of our synergies to achieve this goal! As regards ZHdK's future strategy, we can learn from the past years. We ought not strictly separate the perspectives on international and research topics, but always keep in view the big picture, that is, international research. In this way, we will act in the interests of the relevant higher education actors.

Florence: After the current university-wide strategy ends in 2023, it would be really interesting to establish the common goals of the two dossiers and to build a strategic pillar for the next five years on that basis. I consider ensuring more international research opportunities as a common future task of our dossiers. It will, however, be important to weight the different areas and to prioritise them for resource reasons. In any case, I look forward to continuing our good cooperation.

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Research Dossier

Head of Research Dossier: Christoph Weckerle
Head of Research Affairs: Beate Böckem
Research Committee

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Department

Cultural Analysis and Education

Research in Art Education RiAE

Research Focus Aesthetic RFA

Research Focus Cultural Analysis in the Arts RCA

Research Focus Transdisciplinarity RFT

Department

Design

Institute for Design Research IDE

- SA Cast/Audiovisual Media
 - SA Game Design
 - SA Interaction Design
 - SA Industrial Design
 - SA Knowledge Visualization
 - SA Trends & Identity
 - SA Visual Communication
-

Department

Fine Arts

Institute for Contemporary Art Research IFCAR

- RF Forms of Knowledge in the Arts
 - RF Art, Urbanity and the Public Sphere
 - RF Public City
-

Department

Music

Institute for Computer Music and Sound Technology ICST

- RF Technology and Music Practice

Institute for Music Research IMR

- RF Musical Interpretation
-

Department

Performing Arts and Film

Institute for the Performing Arts and Film IPF

- RF Performative Practice
 - RF Film
-

Department of Cultural Analysis, DKV

The DKV pursued an intensive reorganisation project until spring 2020: the institutes were dissolved and the remaining research focuses were assigned to the new structure. Among others, this project aimed to deepen the transfer between teaching and research, to enable a dynamic development of teaching (major/minor system) and to systematically integrate PhD programmes.

The transfer between teaching and research was promoted by consistently implementing the new model of professorial roles. Newly established professorships are involved in the areas of teaching, research and the qualification of junior researchers and thus ensure exchange at the level of research content and staff.

Before the summer break in 2020, the department decided to interrupt its reorganisation to wait for the outcomes of the university-wide «Future Research Organization» project. The relevant decisions on professorships and research structures will be taken into account once available.

*Prof. Christoph Weckerle, Director of the
Department of Cultural Analysis DKV, April
2021*

Department of Design, DDE

As an integrative unit, the Institute for Design Research (IDE) bundles, supports, coordinates and guides the research conducted by the seven design disciplines based at the DDE.

This structure ensures close ties between research and teaching (among others, by involving students and graduates in ongoing research projects). Ties are further strengthened by the «Junior Research in Design» programme, which, in addition to mid-tier staff and core faculty, also offers Bachelor's and Master's graduates the opportunity to transfer the results of outstanding theses into research projects.

The large and diverse research output of all DDE disciplines demonstrates that the department continued to pursue, publish and display (online) its research despite the difficult conditions caused by the global pandemic. At the same time, new ideas were generated, concretised and submitted for funding. In addition to winning prestigious national and international awards and publishing their work, both junior IDE researchers and established design researchers very successfully secured national and international project funding.

The IDE was also actively involved in the first work packages of the ZHdK-wide reorganisation of research.

*Prof. Hansuli Matter, Director of the
Department of Design DDE, April 2021*

Department of Fine Arts, DFA

In 2020, DFA research underwent expansion. In December, Marcel Bleuler was appointed head of PhD studies. He will design and implement a new DFA pre-doc and PhD programme. The programmes will build on the department's existing PhD ventures (PhD group with 12 doctoral students, supervised by Giaco Schiesser, as well as two PhD projects, to be completed in 2021 as part of the Institute for Contemporary Art Research (IFCAR)-based SNSF research projects). The DFA's 3rd cycle was awarded another four years of funding by swissuniversities, as part of the PhD programme «Transdisciplinarity Artistic». The programme promotes exchange at the 3rd cycle level between ZHdK's artistic disciplines. It is directed by a multidisciplinary team involving all five departments. The common focus is on promoting collaboration, critical discourse and the sustainable development of artistic research. The programme partner is Linz University of the Art and Design.

In order to broaden DFA research competencies, and to strengthen ties between teaching and research at the staff level, five research positions (each with a workload of 20%) were awarded for 12 months in the summer of 2020. Funding was awarded to three lecturers (Marc Bauer, Annemarie Bucher and Monster Chetwynd) and two mid-tier staff (Nina Kerschbaumer and Barbara Preisig).

Through its research initiatives in 2020, the DFA intensified the transfer between research and teaching at various levels — an endeavour already pursued consistently for several years. By promoting young researchers and by expanding its research activities, the DFA also aims to ensure the high quality of the research carried out at IFCAR in the longer

term, thus also contributing to making the Institute's research more visible.

Prof. Svetlana Heger-Davis, Director of the Department of Fine Arts DFA; Prof. Christoph Schenker, Head of the IFCAR, April 2021

Department of Music, DMU

When ZHdK musicians began improvising live via the Internet with colleagues in other countries about ten years ago, this was initially considered a playful exercises between friends. Participants wanted to save themselves the trouble of travelling while not giving up playing together spontaneously. The first attempts were beset by many technical problems. They worked nevertheless, and soon the idea grew on those involved that the experiment had opened a door behind which waited far greater areas of insight and experience that were worth exploring. This dabbling has long since become an elaborate, SNSF-funded project, which has not only expanded the expected answers in artistic, didactic and scenographic terms, but also become unexpectedly topical in a year when the whole world was forced to retreat into digital communication.

DMU research builds on and explores questions that arise from artistic urgency. It focuses not on day-to-day events than on downstream indicators of epistemological paths worth pursuing. These explorations begin rather than end with problem solving.

The same also applies to the DMU's historical research, which renders questions about the production and reception of recent and older music fruitful for the present. And it is true of our pedagogic or application-oriented research on music physiology: research questions in these areas arise from practice, while open-ended insight grows from a project's underlying rationale, and the multiple reconnections with the present attest to sustainable value creation.

*Prof. Michael Eidenbenz, Director of the
Department of Music, DMU, April 2021*

Department of Performing Arts and Film, DDK

As far as external funding is concerned, the Institute for the Performing Arts and Film (IPF) will look back at the year 2020 as a failure: none of the four SNSF applications was funded. This unusual lowpoint was put into perspective by the IPF's reorientation as an «enabling institute» and by developing a sustainable research landscape to promote young researchers.

1. Third cycle: PhD

Swiss universities approved two IPF participations. An important milestone was reached by developing a DDK doctoral programme for which four years of funding were secured. The first call for PhD candidates was launched and met with great international response.

2. PreDoc: PEERS

At the same time, the PEERS programme for young artists and academics was launched. This one-year PreDoc programme strengthens institutional networking with our international partner universities and experts.

3. IPF Publications in the subTexte Series

Vol. 16: DisAbility on Stage (Hybrid Media)
Vol. 17: Ausweitung der Spielzone (Chronos)
Vol. 18: Minor Cinema (JRP|éditions), SNSF project «Schweizer Filmexperimente»
Vol. 20: Sinn und Sinne im Tanz (Transcript), Conference proceedings
Vol. 21: Performative Sammlungen (Transcript)

4. Staff

Change of leadership at the Research Focus in Film: After eight successful years, Christian Iseli handed over the directorship to Miriam Loertscher, who had already served as co-director in 2020. Yvonne Schmidt took charge of the 3rd Cycle (PhD/Fellowship/ PEERS) and is supported by Anna Wohlgemuth, IPF research assistant.

5. Awards and Impact

The International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR) has established an award in honour of Yvonne Schmidt, who founded the Working Group on «Performance and Disability». The award is presented annually to «emerging disabled scholars/artists»: <https://www.iftr.org/news/2020/october/new-scholars-award-in-disability-performance>

Marijke Hoogenboom, Director of the Department of Performing Arts and Film DDK; Prof. Anton Rey, Head of the IPF, April, 2021

Aesthetics

8

research projects

246k

third-party funds

8

researchers

Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact

Conference:

- «Hacking the Computable», Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Stuttgart, 16–18 January 2020

Publications:

- Silvia Henke, Dieter Mersch, Nicolaj van der Meulen, Thomas Strässle, Jörg Wiesel, Manifesto of Artistic Research. A Defense Against its Advocates, Zürich (Diaphanes) 2020
- Alex Arteaga (Ed), Architectures of Embodiment, Zürich 2020
- Internationales Jahrbuch für Medienphilosophie, Vol. 6, Berlin 2020
- Farnsworth, Brandon (2020): Curating Contemporary Music Festivals. A New Perspective on Music's Mediation. Music and Sound Culture, 47. Bielefeld: transcript. Online see: <https://doi.org/10.14361/9783839452431>.

→ [Overview «Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact»](#)

Promotion of Talents and Careers

PhD Laboratory ETH / UZH / ZHdK:

«Epistemologies of aesthetic practices»

Completed PhD theses: Katrin Stowasser, Réjane Dreifuss, Ann-Kathrin Hörrlein, Dominique Rämy, Veronika Timashkova, Ania Mauruschat

→ [Overview «Promotion of Talents and Careers»](#)

Cooperation and Internationality

Bern University of the Arts, [Heimatliche Sprache und Kultur Lucerne](#), University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland Basel, University of Potsdam, University of Konstanz, Charles University Prague, University of Lisbon, University of Curitiba (Brazil)

→ Overview [«Cooperation and Internationality»](#)

External Funding

- Actor and Avatar (in association with the Institute for Performing Arts and Film, ZHdK and Klinikum Lengg)
- Denken mit den Händen (in association with the Museum für Gestaltung Zürich)
- Sinergia: Practices of Aesthetic Thinking (in association with Bern, Basel and Lucerne universities of the arts)

→ Overview [«Research Projects»](#)

Event Highlight

[Hacking the Computable. Zur ästhetischen Kritik digitaler Rationalität](#). Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Stuttgart, 16–18 January 2020

The symposium was a cooperation of the German Society for Aesthetics with the State University of Music and Performing Arts and the State Academy of Fine Arts, both based in Stuttgart, Zurich University of the Arts and the Digitalisation Forum of the Society for Media Studies.

Reading Tip

Silvia Henke, Dieter Mersch, Nicolaj van der Meulen, Thomas Strässle, Jörg Wiesel, Manifesto of Artistic Research. A Defense against its Advocates, Zürich (Diaphanes) 2020

→ [More information on the Research Focus Aesthetics](#)

Art Education

8

research projects

0

third-party funds

13

researchers

Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact

In 2020, the strands of Research in Art Education (RiAE) delivered numerous joint presentations, were responsible for panels and participated in several international conferences. We managed to increase the visibility of the field and of our specific approaches, and were able to create impact beyond the field through expanding interdisciplinary considerations.

→ [Overview «Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact»](#)

Promotion of Talents and Careers

The promotion of young researchers is an important basis for establishing and advancing the theorisation and development of art education as a discipline. In 2020, several PhD candidates continued working on their dissertation projects and junior staff were actively involved in ongoing RiAE research projects.

→ [Overview «Promotion of Talents and Careers»](#)

Cooperation and Internationality

In 2020, the RiAE actively engaged in numerous national and international cooperations. These included collaborations with art universities in German-speaking Switzerland and exchanges with French-speaking Switzerland. Internationally, exchanges with art institutions in Germany, Austria and the Netherlands were key.

→ [Overview «Cooperation and Internationality»](#)

External Funding

In 2020, the RiAE consolidated the knowledge it has been building since its organisational realignment in 2019 and further grounded its development of teaching methods in research. This work resulted in two applications for external project funding.

→ Overview [«Research Projects»](#)

Milestone

The RiAE successfully completed its realignment by the end of 2020. Through project developments and applications, three research strands have been established and a fourth one has been developed. By fanning out these various strands, the RiAE created a nationally and internationally recognised research hub and network despite the restrictions imposed by the global pandemic.

International Peer Exchange

Under the title How to method Art Education? the RiAE team invited (inter)national peer experts and internal researchers to exchange ideas and information in autumn 2020. The event aimed to discuss content-related correspondences within and the challenges of advancing research in art education, and thereby to help promote this research area both within and beyond ZHdK.

Transfer Research-Teaching

In 2020, the RiAE developed teaching based on its research findings, carried out research-based teaching and developed research activities out of affiliated teaching activities. Further, one project explored thinking differently about teaching through research. The RiAE, thus, contributed to methodological and didactic discourses, to developing teaching processes and to theory-building centred on educational and artistic practices.

Relevance

In 2020, the RiAE continued to pursue an urgent social mission by responding critically to and also actively shaping important developments in the field of education from the perspective of art: development of college education «Gymnasium 2022», education for sustainable development, anti-discriminating school settings, digitalisation, etc.).

→ [More information on the Research in Art Education](#)

Computer Music and Sound Technology

18

research projects

456k

third-party funds

29

researchers

Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact

In addition to peer-reviewed publications on *haptic feedback*, the ICST released software in the fields of *telematics*, *Ambisonics*, *synthesis/machine learning* (Kivanç Tatar's research exchange) and virtual architecture. The artist-in-residence programme was continued on a reduced scale with three residencies. Only five concerts before an audience could take place at the beginning of the year and in early autumn.

→ Overview [«Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact»](#)

Promotion of Talents and Careers

In addition to existing appointments, the ICST appointed eight new students, graduates and young researchers to research projects in 2020. Daniel Bisig's Marie Curie Fellowship (2020–2022) enabled us to fill a post-doc position (two-year fixed-term). Yuri de Pra (PhD candidate from the University of Udine) completed another research phase at the ICST in 2020 (SNSF project «Hapteev»).

→ Overview [«Promotion of Talents and Careers»](#)

Cooperation and Internationality

Besides ongoing project-based exchanges, two international awards deserve to be mentioned: the prestigious annual «Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik» (Prize of German record critics) for the SACD «Les Espaces Électroacoustiques II» («Performance Practice of Electroacoustic Music», directed by G. Toro Pérez) and the nomination for the S+T+ARTS Prize of Ars Electronica 2021 («Sounding Soil», directed by M. Maeder).

→ Overview [«Cooperation and Internationality»](#)

External Funding

«Spatial Dis-Continuities in Telematic Performance» (SNSF, directed by P. Müller) continued ICST's research in a highly topical field together with the DKV and the Immersive Arts Space. The «Encord» project (SNSF/ Inosuisse BRIDGE, directed by M. Fritsche and G.M. Hutter), initiated by two young ETH developers, found a conducive research environment at the ICST at the interface between technology and art.

→ Overview [«Research Projects»](#)

Award-winning: «Les Espaces Électroacoustiques II»

Awarding the *Jahrespreis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik* (Prize of German record critics) for the SACD *Les Espaces Électroacoustiques II*, the jury wrote: «The album's seven carefully recorded works, including iconic pieces such as *La fabbrica illuminata* [...] by Luigi Nono, *Kontakte* by Karlheinz Stockhausen and two electronic masterpieces by Gottfried Michael Koenig all shine in new splendour. A listening adventure from times keen on experimenting.»

Event Highlight: Telematic Performances

Telematic concerts are part of the SNSF research project *Spatial Dis/Continuities in Telematic Performances*: geographically distant stages are interlinked via communication technologies, enabling performers to interact with each other. The audience at the different venues were given specific insights into the overall event, in which performers' real and virtual presence overlapped.

Worth a Visit: «Paléograph'»

Paléograph', an interactive installation on permanent display at the *Musée de Préhistoire – Grottes de Saulges* (F), invites viewers to discover the almost 30,000-year-old paintings of the Saulges caves through scenes projected onto a large interactive screen. The ICST's *Immersive Lab* technology enables visitors to recreate or reinvent the paintings on a virtual discovery tour.

Fruitful Exchange: «Performing Live Electronic Music» Workshops

The *Performing Live Electronic Music* project involves a practice-based investigation of electroacoustic works from the last three decades. The work is based on a close dialogue between performers and composers and involves expert support and an international network of specialised institutions. The main form of exchanges is a series of workshops dedicated to discussing, analysing and performing the works.

→ [More information on the Institute for Computer Music and Sound Technology](#)

Contemporary Art

10

research projects

566k

third-party funds

42

researchers

Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact

In 2020, IFCAR researchers produced an extraordinarily large number of exhibitions and publications. Most of them were part of successful SNSF research projects and reflect IFCAR researchers' international artistic and scientific network.

→ [Overview «Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact»](#)

Promotion of Talents and Careers

Twelve candidates are conducting their artistic and scientific PhD projects as part of the cooperation (funded by swissuniversities) with Linz University of the Art and Design. In 2020, Nicolas Vermot-Petit-Outhenin and Petra Köhle successfully completed their joint PhD. IFCAR is currently also employing two PhD candidates (Julia Weber and Valentina Vuksic) as part of ongoing SNSF research projects.

→ [Overview «Promotion of Talents and Careers»](#)

Cooperation and Internationality

In recent years, IFCAR has developed a strong international orientation, both through its own ventures (e.g. the «Draft» project, since 2014; the «InOctober» network, since 2016) and as part of cooperation-based SNSF research projects (e.g. by researchers such as knowbotiq, Nils Röller, Felix Stalder, Hannes Rickli). Its increasing internationalisation is opening new research fields for IFCAR.

→ [Overview «Cooperation and Internationality»](#)

External Funding

The large share of external funding (50%) acquired in 2020 reflects the outstanding quality of IFCAR research. Still, ZHdK's inadequate research structures and, in particular, insufficient basic funding prevent IFCAR from reaching the «critical size» needed to attain the desired performance.

→ Overview [«Research Projects»](#)

Award-Winning

In 2020, Kris Decker became the first ZHdK researcher to receive a Spark grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation for the research project [«Academized Artists»](#).

Event Highlight

Hannes Rickli organised two highly acclaimed exhibitions in the year of the coronavirus. As part of an ongoing research project, the exhibition [«Afrikanischer Buntbarsch #3»](#) and the conference [«Datennaturen»](#) were held at Kunstraum Walcheturm. The exhibition [«Wired Nation»](#), realized at Sternwarte ETHZ, marked the end of Rickli's five-year fellowship at the Collegium Helveticum.

Reading Tip

The anthology [«Swiss Psychotropic Gold»](#), co-edited by knowbotiq and Nina Bandi, explores the entanglements of the global metabolism of gold and the role of Switzerland. The publication includes contributions by Nina Bandi, Rohit Jain, Jakob Tanner, Yolanda Ariadne Collins, Ayesha Hameed, Jordy Rosenberg and others. It received the European Design Award 2020.

Worth a Visit

Since 2019, Kris Decker and Barbara Preisig have regularly organised the colloquium [«Nachtmethoden»](#). The joint readings lead participants into the confusion and realities of everyday research practice and enable outlining the nocturnal contours of research. The colloquium is open to all ZHdK researchers.

→ [More information on the Institute for Contemporary Art Research](#)

Cultural Analysis in the Arts

8

research projects

285k

third-party funds

20

researchers

Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact

RCA staff was very active also during the pandemic: it published a considerable amount of research, as well as organised workshops, exhibitions and talks. Besides a series of journal publications, RCA activities in 2020 included an exhibition and a series of events titled «Über/Brücken», workshops on «artistic-ethnographic complications in the field», «ideological topologies» and «artistic forms of film education», as well as discussions with artists on «Material Transformations».

→ [Overview «Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact»](#)

Promotion of Talents and Careers

The RCA's core team is developing the PhD programme Cultural Critique in cooperation with the Cultural Studies Department of Linz University of Art and Design. As part of the Zeichenwerkstatt, regular colloquia aimed at promoting young researchers were also held online due to the pandemic and enabled PhD candidates to present and discuss ongoing and prospective research. Simon Harder successfully completed his dissertation.

→ [Overview «Promotion of Talents and Careers»](#)

Cooperation and Internationality

The RCA expanded its cooperation for professional exchange and the planning of joint research projects with Linz University of Art and Design and began complementary discussions with researchers at Vienna Academy of Fine Arts. Cooperation with Elke Bippus and her team opened up contact with the *Gesellschaft für künstlerische Forschung* and the HKW Berlin I.

→ [Overview «Cooperation and Internationality»](#)

External Funding

Funded by the SNSF and the DFG, the RCA's three ongoing projects focus on participatory criticism, materialised memories and the artistic-scientific analysis of cultural transmission processes. Project work continued in 2020 despite coronavirus restrictions. Four dissertation projects were funded as part of the RCA's three major projects.

Overview [«Research Projects»](#)

→ [More information on the Research Focus Cultural Analysis in the Arts](#)

Design

33
research projects

1.4m
third-party funds

79
researchers

Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact

In 2020, IDE researchers produced highly diverse output. Besides hosting online conferences, the team published several research papers and made its research approaches publicly accessible. Research topics included Care and Health Futures, Visual Culture Studies, Virtual Reality and Knowledge Transfer, Embodied Interaction, Game Studies and Media Technologies.

→ [Overview «Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact»](#)

Promotion of Talents and Careers

In 2020, the Junior Research in Design programme provided seed funding for nine projects. The twelve junior researchers include Bachelor's and Master's graduates as well as mid-tier staff. The submitted applications were selected and supervised by the R&D Council. The Institute also continued to develop its PhD programme in design.

→ [Overview «Promotion of Talents and Careers»](#)

Cooperation and Internationality

The IDE undertook numerous research collaborations with other universities of applied sciences, Swiss and international universities, as well as with project partners from the health and environmental sectors. Networking took place mainly in externally funded projects and through exchanges at international conferences, as well as through active involvement in panel discussions, juries or expert committees.

→ [Overview «Cooperation and Internationality»](#)

External Funding

IDE researchers acquired external funding worth just under CHF 1.4 million. Twelve applications were submitted to the Swiss National Science Foundation, Innosuisse, others foundations and an EU programme. Submissions included projects by young researchers (based on their outstanding Bachelor's or Master's thesis) or were initiated and conceived by IDE research associates.

→ Overview [«Research Projects»](#)

Immersion

Two IDE projects — [«Expedition 2 Grad»](#) and [«ExerCube»](#) — adopted an immersive approach to explore research questions on climate change and the playful fostering of physical activity. «Expedition 2 Grad» was awarded the [German Federal Ecodesign Award](#) while «ExerCube», developed by Sphery, a ZHdK spin-off, received the [German Innovation Award](#).

Discovery

«Care Futures» is one of wide variety of IDE research topics. The newly launched [«Heavy Mental»](#) app addresses the [altered aesthetics of psychological suffering among young people in the digital sphere](#).

Using an innovative and interdisciplinary approach, the research project [«Sterbesettings»](#) (Deathbed Settings) examines how our society deals with dying and with palliative care.

Experience

[Project Circleg](#) won the prosthetic leg race at ETH Zurich's [CYBATHLON 2020](#). The event involves participants with disabilities competing against each other, supported by state-of-the-art technical assistance systems in solving tasks relevant to everyday life. At the «Swiss Medtech Day» in Bern, the project [«Tongue fitness training for sleep & speech therapy \(TOFI\)»](#) won the audience prize for the best presentation at the 2020 Science Slam Award.

Networking

The new publication tool [«Cache»](#) invites researchers to interlink their research topics and materials and to expand their exchange of ideas and knowledge sharing through [blog-based](#) replicas.

The [Digital Library Space](#) — an interdisciplinary laboratory operated jointly by University of Zurich Library, the UZH Faculty of Humanities and ZHdK — is intended to foster cooperation at the interface between science and design and to combine visual and digital skills.

→ [More information on the Institute for Design Research](#)

Music

8

research projects

195k

third-party funds

18

researchers

Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact

Due to coronavirus restrictions, the IMR was unable to offer any lectures, symposia and concerts in 2020.

→ [Overview «Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact»](#)

Promotion of Talents and Careers

Completed dissertations: Stephan Klarer and Karin Wetzel (KuG), Iris Eggenschwiler (UZH). Ongoing dissertations: Bernhard Rietbrock (UdK) and Martin Zimmermann (HfM Freiburg i. Br.).

→ [Overview «Promotion of Talents and Careers»](#)

Cooperation and Internationality

German Society for Music Physiology and Musician Medicine, European Society for Dispokinesis, German Association of Musicians, European String Teachers Association, Society for Music Research, German Society for Psychoanalysis and Music, Cantus planus Study Group of the International Musicological Society, International Study Group for Gregorian Chant.

→ [Overview «Cooperation and Internationality»](#)

External Funding

Das Hören der Anderen, Konzepte des Polywerks, SRG composition assignments, Heard Abroad: Perspectives on Fritz Muggler, The Influence of an Instrument's Dimensions, String Length-dependent Finger Spacing and Position on Muscle Activation and Perceived Effort in Viola Playing

→ Overview [«Research Projects»](#)

Reading Tips

- Jörn Peter Hiekel, ÖFFENTLICHprivat. (Zwischen-)Räume in der Gegenwartsmusik, Mainz: Schott, 2020
- Helga Váradi / Dominik Sackmann, Stefi Geyer: Materialien zu ihrer Biographie, Bern: Peter Lang, 2020
- Erich Schmid, Klavierwerke, 2 Volumes, ed. by Christoph Keller (Erich Schmid Edition. Historisch-kritische Edition für die Praxis, ed. by Lukas Näf), Berlin/London: Boosey & Hawkes, 2020

→ [More information on the Institute for Music Research](#)

Performing Arts and Film

10

research projects

246k

third-party funds

34

researchers

Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact

The subTexte series includes five new publications: «DisAbility on Stage» (in a low-threshold hybrid media format); “Minor Cinema: Experimental Film in Switzerland” (the outcome of an SNSF research project); and «Sinn und Sinne im Tanz» (the proceedings of the annual conference of the Gesellschaft für Tanzforschung). See www.subtexte.ch for all volumes published in the series.

→ Overview [«Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact»](#)

Promotion of Talents and Careers

The IPF further developed its PhD programme, which was submitted to swissuniversities for funding. In addition, with the launch of the Peers Programme for young artistic and academic researchers, a new, low-threshold format for promoting young researchers was established, which aims to help develop a sustainable research landscape.

→ Overview [«Promotion of Talents and Careers»](#)

Cooperation and Internationality

Every year, the [RESEARCH ACADEMY](#) invites twelve artists, practitioners and theorists from the field of theatre and performance to an international research laboratory. The 2020 edition, «The Situational Self: Acting and Identity» was held online and co-hosted by Gunter Lösel and Rick Kemp.

→ Overview [«Cooperation and Internationality»](#)

External Funding

The four ongoing projects funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation entered their final phase in 2020. Three new submissions were completed in time for the spring deadline, but unfortunately were unsuccessful.

→ Overview [«Research Projects»](#)

Award-Winning

[Patrick Gusset received the Best Practice Award](#) for the most outstanding presentation of a PhD project at the international festival ARTikulationen. Hosted by the PhD School of Graz University of Art and Design, this artistic research festival explores artistic and scientific research approaches. [New Scholars Award in Disability Performance in honour of Yvonne Schmidt.](#)

The International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR), the largest international network in theatre research, has established an award in honour of Yvonne Schmidt, head of the SNSF research project [«DisAbility on Stage»](#) (2015–2019). From 2021, the award will be given annually to «emerging disabled scholars/artists» from underrepresented countries to enable them to become members and to participate in IFTR conferences.

Reading Tip

«subTexte 18: Minor Cinema: Experimental Film in Switzerland» by François Bovier, Adeena Mey, Fred Truniger, Anton Rey and Thomas Schärer.

Did Switzerland have an experimental film scene? As the first comprehensive exploration on the subject, this book traces the development of Swiss experimental film from the mid-1960s to the early 2000s.

Event Highlight

Shortly before lockdown in Switzerland, the IPF hosted the symposium [«Schwarz auf Weiss. Politische Zeichnungen und Bildräume»](#). Invited guests included Hannes Binder, Leela Corman, Prof. Dr. Monika Dommann, Anja Kofmel, Prof. Ulli Lust, Kai Pfeiffer and Hamid Sulaiman.

Using picture series, comics and graphic novels, diverse forms of graphic storytelling were discussed that capture and condense an exploratory view of historical events, political and social issues through autobiographical, documentary or fictional drawing styles.

→ [More information on the Institute for the Performing Arts and Film](#)

Transdisciplinarity

3

research projects

208k

third-party funds

13

researchers

Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact

Although 2020 was marked largely by cancelled events, the RFT nevertheless transitioned into the digital sphere, also thanks to many years of research projects on the topic and experience.

Several RTF projects attracted widespread attention: Michael Günzburger's exhibition «Das Ende der Spur» (shown at the Hans Erni Museum), Florian Dombois and Fabian Gutscher's «The Venice Session» and the Chinese touring exhibition «Between the Mountains, Hills, and Lakes» displaying Christoph Oeschger.

→ [Overview «Scientific, Artistic and Creative Output and Impact»](#)

Promotion of Talents and Careers

The RFT accepted new PhD candidates (in cooperation with universities of the arts in Linz, Graz and Bonn) and actively developed several formats for artistic doctoral studies. Researchers were given the opportunity to teach on the Master of Arts in Transdisciplinarity and on the Bachelor of Arts in Art Education. The RTF continued to employ a student assistant.

→ [Overview «Promotion of Talents and Careers»](#)

Cooperation and Internationality

The «X-cene» series of events by ~tilde (Helene Romakin & U5), in which Isabel Lewis and Clemens Krauss performed in ZHdK's wind tunnel, attracted international recognition. Other achievements included establishing a filmallmende.net involving international video artists. RFT staff made numerous online appearances (e.g. at ELIA, the CA2RE Platform, KHM Cologne) before an international audience.

→ Overview [«Cooperation and Internationality»](#)

External Funding

Together with colleagues from all ZHdK departments, the RFT developed a new «Transdisciplinary Artistic PhD Programme», which received funding from swissuniversities and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation. The RFT also developed an international research project on sound kites.

→ Overview [«Research Projects»](#)

Reading Tip

Twice a year, the RFT publishes the [«Wind Tunnel Bulletin»](#) which presents condensed but as not-yet unified disciplinary materials to a wider public (according to the motto «proto-disciplinary, not-yet art»).

Blog

The [RFT blog](#) provides insight into the unit's research into and with wind. It documents artistic experiments, public events, sub-projects of larger research undertakings and practical activities in and around the wind tunnel.

Listen In

[The Venice Session](#), [Dinzu Artifacts](#)

Residencies

The RFT regularly offers artists and scientists residencies lasting several weeks. While all 2020 residencies had to be postponed, US filmmaker Leslie Thornton and Finnish artist Tuula Närhinen will be seizing their missed opportunity in 2021.

→ [More information on the Research Focus Transdisciplinarity](#)

Other Research Units

artists-in-labs program

The [artists-in-labs program \(AIL\)](#) has been promoting artistic research since 2003 by curating, organising and supporting artist residencies lasting several months in renowned scientific laboratories. Exhibitions, publications and various forms of exchange bring the AIL's transdisciplinary projects into dialogue with the general public. The AIL is temporarily based at the Research Focus in Transdisciplinarity (Department of Cultural Analysis).

Immersive Arts Space

With its [Immersive Arts Space](#), ZHdK has created an interdisciplinary teaching and research space dedicated to artistically exploring new technologies in the fields of virtual reality, augmented reality and real-time simulations.

Kuratorium Ökologie

The [Ecology Curatorium](#) is committed to the targeted promotion of transdisciplinary research and teaching between the arts and sciences by making visible and by interrelating existing activities, actors and initiatives at ZHdK.

PhD in Practice in Curating

In association with [ZHdK's Postgraduate Programme in Curating](#), the Department of Art at the University of Reading offers an English-language PhD programme in research in and as curatorial practice. The programme provides a critical framework that enables established curators, artists, art critics and designers from all disciplines to focus on specific curatorial and cultural research topics.

Shared Campus

[Shared Campus](#) is a cooperation platform initiated by seven art institutions and aimed at developing and operating sustainable international educational formats, research networks and co-productions.

Zurich Centre for Creative Economies

As an international research and competence centre, the [Zurich Centre for Creative Economies \(ZCCE\)](#) engages in research, teaching, promotion and consultancy in and with the creative economies.

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Acknowledgements

Research Affairs wishes to thank all ZHdK researchers and research leaders, the heads of departments, institutes and research focuses, as well as their staff. They have all constructively supported the reconceptualisation of this online research report. Their contributions have helped to establish the research report as a recognised format that provides insights into and information on the exciting and manifold research findings obtained across the University every year.

We would also like to thank: the heads of the Research Dossier (Christoph Weckerle and Marijke Hoogenboom), ZHdK Controlling and the Grants Office, ZHdK University Communications as well as Florence Balthasar, Patrik Ferrarelli and Regula Bearth.

Last but not least, many thanks to Mirjam Bastian, research communications at Research Affairs, and to Nina Debrunner. We are grateful for their circumspect and meticulous preparation of this report, from its initial conception to publication and, most of all, for their fresh ideas and suggestions, which enable the report to shine in new splendour.

Imprint

Published by

Research Dossier, Zurich University of the Arts

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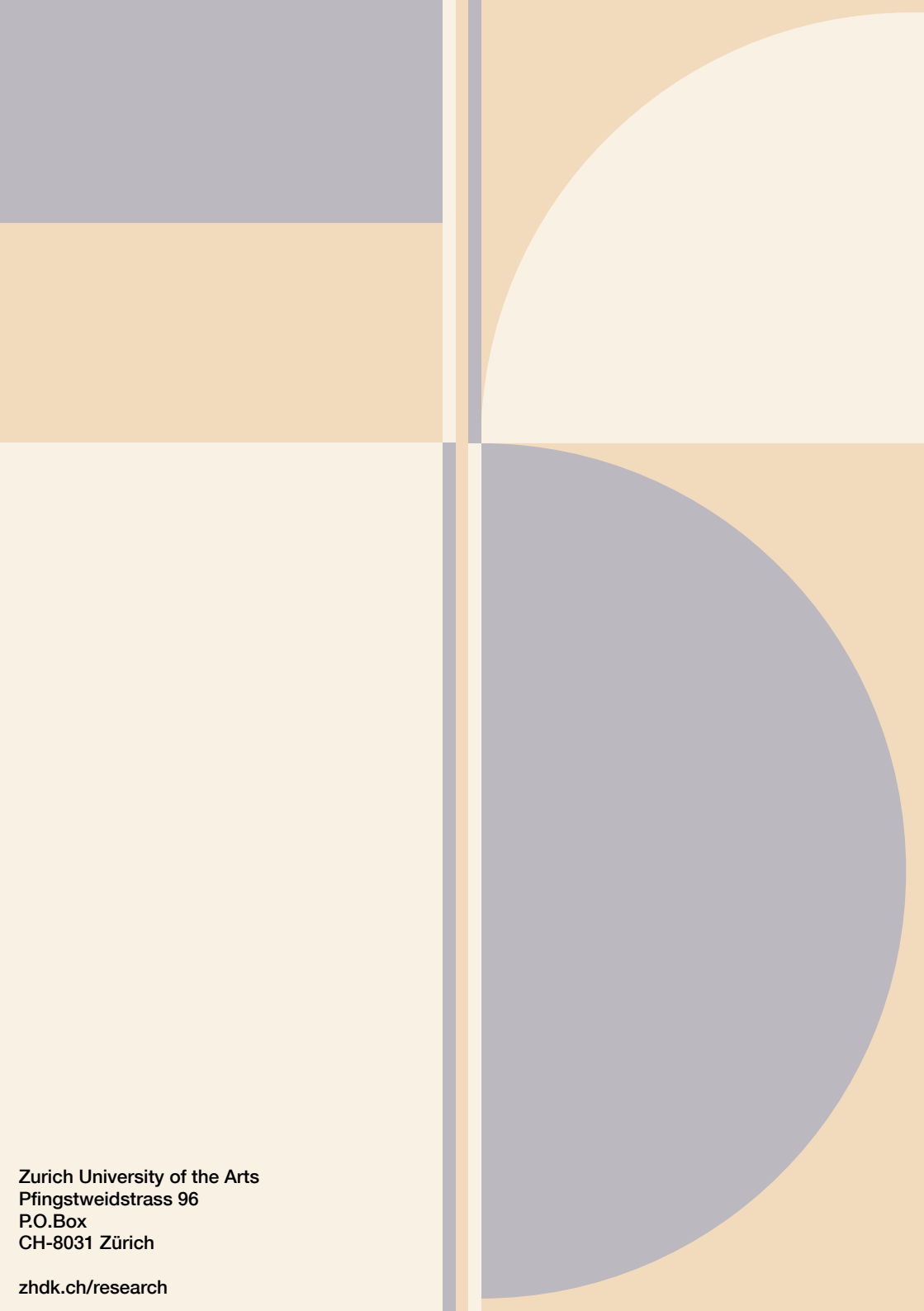
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