

# Schwerpunkte 9 - On Authorship

7-8 June 2021

## Open Call for Abstracts

Interested participants are invited to apply with a short bio (50-100 words) and a 300-word abstract clarifying how one's research relates to the overarching topic of authorship and one of the sessions. Participants will be asked to give a 5 to 8 minute presentation and take part in two full days of workshops and group discussions.

Abstracts and bios are to be submitted to [schwerpunkte@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:schwerpunkte@arch.ethz.ch) by **1 April 2021**.

### Session 1: AUTHORSHIP AND EPISTEMOLOGIES

Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Bronfen, University of Zurich

The disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture, and urbanism draw from the humanities, the social and natural sciences, which have each developed their own epistemologies that frame particular relations between the author and their subject matter. The author's adopted epistemologies, along with their role and academic background, influence the way they communicate specific knowledge, and are received as an 'expert' (or not).

This session will focus on the concept of authority and the notion of narrative position, which varies greatly from discipline to discipline. While an author's voice may be recognized within the borders of a specific discipline, as soon as authors place themselves outside the norms established by their peers, the scientific character of their texts is promptly called into question. The difficulty of positioning ourselves at the intersection of a wide diversity of fields of knowledge, each with their own epistemologies, is a challenge but also an opportunity to draw from different traditions.

How do epistemologies define the notion of authorship, and vice versa, how does authorship define different epistemologies? How can different writing formats and styles (monographic, polemic, speculative, experimental) reinforce or challenge epistemologies and 'expert' authorship within academia?

### Session 2: AUTHORSHIP AND SITUATEDNESS

Prof. Dr. Jane Rendell, The Bartlett School of Architecture

As researchers we take position. This position is shaped not only by our academic work, but also by our personal experiences. Our education, institutional framework, former employment or chance encounters with a person, an object, a text, or an image may fuel our curiosity and instigate a research project. Our personal trajectory as well as race, gender, and broader socio-cultural identity shape the position(s) we take and the perspective of our research, thus shaping our contribution to our respective fields.

This session will reflect on our individual situatedness within the research we undertake and aims to clarify the researcher's own perspective. Taking Donna Haraway's concept of situatedness and Jane Rendell's practice of site-writing as starting points, we look into productive ways of integrating our position in academic writing. Which material, spatial, conceptual and ideological positions do we create, integrate and appropriate as authors?

### Session 3: AUTHORSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Antje Stahl, Independent Journalist and Art Critic

While it is not unusual in many disciplines for many different skills and fields of knowledge to be combined through collaborative work, in publishing the results, the emphasis is often still on a single, autonomous individual. Scholarly success is still often measured in terms of individual accomplishment.

This session will tackle collaborative knowledge creation as a multidisciplinary approach in collaborative writing in academia. The main research questions will be directed at ways to generate common ground, allowing collaboration to take place. This session will further discuss how collaborative writing can be established in academia, and work out new tools and methods of collaboration to tackle the rigid system based on individual authorship. How might collaboration open up opportunities to rethink authorship? What could be the forms of these practices?