

[school of commons]

SCHOOL OF COMMONS (SoC) IS A ZURICH-BASED INITIATIVE FOR COLLABORATIVE AND SELF-ORGANISED LEARNING PRACTICES. FIRST CALLED INTO BEING IN 2017 BY STUDENTS OF THE ZURICH UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS, TODAY SoC OFFERS GUIDANCE, RESOURCES AND SUPPORT TO EXPERIMENTAL FORMS OF KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION AND PEER-LEARNING. SoC PROVIDES SPACE FOR MEANINGFUL SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE WITHIN AN INFORMAL SETTING. IT IS AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH FORMS OF LEARNING AND TEACHING ARE EXPERIMENTED WITH AND IN WHICH DIFFERENT METHODS AND APPROACHES CAN BE DEVELOPED, IMPLEMENTED AND INVESTIGATED. WE ARE ACTIVE IN THE FOLLOWING THREE LABORATORIES:

[LEARNs]

SHORT FOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND RESEARCH NUCLEUS, LEARNs ARE COLLABORATIVE AND SELF-DIRECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS WHICH ARE SUPPORTED BY SoC FOR THE INITIAL DURATION OF ONE YEAR. SoC SUPPORTS BETWEEN 9 AND 12 LEARNs PER YEAR.

[STUDY LAB]

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCIES WHICH ARE DIRECTED TOWARDS THE THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL RESEARCH OF SELF-ORGANISATION AND ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION.

[STUDIO]

WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL DISCOURSE SURROUNDING SELF-ORGANISED EDUCATION BY COLLECTING AND PUBLISHING THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SPRINGS FORTH FROM THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF SoC.

SoC AIMS TO PROMOTE SELF-ORGANISED LEARNING WHILST MAINTAINING AN ADAPTABLE AND SELF-CRITICAL ATTITUDE, OPEN TO CHANGE AND EVALUATION. WE UNDERSTAND SELF-ORGANISED EDUCATION AS A COLLECTIVE ENTERPRISE IN WHICH THE PARTICIPANTS JOINTLY DETERMINE WHICH FORM OF PRACTICAL RESEARCH CORRESPONDS TO THEIR INTERESTS. COLLABORATION, PARTICIPATION AND RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE ARE CENTRAL VALUES OF SoC. WE ENCOURAGE AN INTERDISCIPLINARY AND OPEN-ENDED ATTITUDE, WHICH ALLOWS PROJECTS TO DEVELOP FLEXIBLY AND ACROSS DISCIPLINARY BOUNDARIES. SoC PLACES VALUE IN OPENNESS AND IMPARTIALITY TO THE CONTENT, METHODS AND FORMS OF THE OUTCOMES GENERATED, AND CREATES SPACE FOR REGULAR JOINT REFLECTION. WE ARE COMMITTED TO FOSTERING AN EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH ALL PARTICIPANTS BECOME ACTIVE LEARNERS AND CO-CREATOR OF THE SoC PROGRAMME.



OPEN CALL FOR LEARNS

LEARNs are collaborative and self-directed research projects which are supported by School of Commons for the initial duration of one year. LEARNs are intended for those who want to conduct self-organised research in a topic of their interest in a supportive and reciprocal environment. SoC wishes to provide participants with the opportunity to dig deeper into the themes and practices that matter to them, to find new ways of learning and doing, and to forge meaningful connections by working together. Cross-disciplinary collaborations are welcome, but not required. We offer financial and infrastructural support, an ongoing critical dialogue as well as possibilities for public exposure. Have a look at our [archive](#) for examples and documentation of past LEARNs. Anyone can apply for a LEARN, but before you do, please read the terms and conditions below.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Deadline for submissions is **February 3rd 2020** (23:59 UTC+1)
- Applications may be submitted in **English or German**.
- Please **save and fill out the Application Form** below
- Send the Application Form as a PDF to **apply@schoolofcommons.org**

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for selection, each LEARN must consist of the following:

- A minimum of **2 members** per LEARN (there is no maximum)
- At least 1 member per LEARN must be somehow **affiliated with the ZHdK**, or otherwise LEARNs must find a collaborative partner that is affiliated with the ZHdK before the end of the year.
- If applying for financial support, a **detailed budget** must be provided.
- LEARNs not seeking financial support are also welcome to apply.
- Selected LEARNs are expected to be present for the following **key dates**:
 1. **Kick Off**: 26 February 2020 (15:00 - 18:00)
 2. **Weekend Intensive**: 28/29/30 August 2020
 3. **Final Event**: 27 November 2020

LEARNs are very welcome to invite (international) guest researchers or outside input, and these may be budgeted in the application form. The contributions of guest researchers should be made accessible to all participants of SoC. Therefore, such visits must be planned together with the SoC team and integrated into the events calendar.

SoC may reject applications for formal shortcomings, incomplete submissions, or if the application content is considered unethical and/or counterproductive to SoC's goals or standards.

SoC acts as facilitating entity. Although the SoC team may be asked for support, LEARNs and their work is generally self-organized and self-sustaining.



SELECTION PROCEDURE

In working towards a more inclusive and democratic selection process, SoC has decided to include a pool of peers-reviewers independent from SoC in evaluating and selecting the project proposals. Applicants will be selected through a voting system in order to provide an equal chance at selection.

SoC wishes to offer existing LEARNs the possibility for further extension beyond one year, in order to support longevity and sustainability in the projects. Therefore, SoC withholds the right to offer a maximum of 4 positions per year to re-applying LEARNs.

All applicants will be notified by email within two weeks of the submission deadline. Selected applicants will be asked to provide additional information about their LEARN shortly thereafter.

EXPECTATIONS

Upon selection, LEARNs are expected to organise at least two public moments in a manner of their choosing in which they disseminate the knowledge, methods, or any other information relevant to the LEARN to a wider audience. LEARNs are responsible to plan and organise such public events themselves, possibly in collaboration with other LEARNs. LEARNs are encouraged to have a playful approach in developing public formats that are suitable to their research topics. It is recommended to plan these public moments together with the SoC team well ahead of time.

LEARNs are asked to regularly document and publish their findings within the SoC Archive, as well as sharing their outcomes by contributing to the end-of-year publication.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Each year, SoC has a limited budget for LEARNs. For 2020, LEARNs can apply for financial support amounting up to CHF 3000.- each. Additional funding can be provided on a case-by-case basis.

Financial support is granted for expenses evidentially facilitating the LEARNs' research goals and disclosed in the LEARN's budget. SoC follows the rule of thumb, that not more than 20% of the submitted budget may go towards salaries, fees or personal remuneration of LEARN members.

CLIMATE POLICY

In the case of international travel, SoC strongly encourages to use forms of travel other than flying. Please keep this in mind when budgeting for your proposal. SoC will gladly assist in finding appropriate train connections or other means of transport if required.



APPLICATION FORM

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1. ABOUT YOU

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

2. ABOUT THE MEMBERS OF YOUR LEARN

Please provide the **full names of the members** of your LEARN, as well as the **function, expertise, and/or specific interest** each member of your LEARN brings to the table. Please specify **each members' affiliation or lack thereof with the ZHdK**. You may also mention **vacant positions** in your LEARN. These are functions or expertise you would like to get involved in your LEARN but haven't managed to acquire so far.



3. ABOUT YOUR LEARN (max 500 words)

Please provide a **title/name** for your LEARN, a **general description** of your LEARN, as well as your **research goals and interests** and/or your **methodological approach(es)**.



4. ABOUT THE OUTCOMES OF YOUR LEARN (max 250 words)

As of now, what format(s) do you see the **public events** for your LEARN taking on? How would you like to **share the findings of your LEARN** with a wider audience?

5. ABOUT THE BUDGET FOR YOUR LEARN

Please provide a **detailed budget** for your LEARN, including material costs, travel costs, fees and other costs. Please be as specific as possible.



6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Is there anything you'd like to add?

Thank you for your interest in being a part of School of Commons. For questions, don't hesitate to contact us on hello@schoolofcommons.org.

We're looking forward to receiving your application!