M.A.P.P.

MAPP (Methods, Affects, & Practical Pedagogies) is one of three 'labs' at School of Commons (SOC). Centered around hands-on practices of learning, MAPP offers space to the research, development, and implementation of alternative education within a small, supportive community. MAPPs are intended for individuals and collectives who have a practicing interest in the field of experimental pedagogy and iterations of commoning. Through self-conducted research, the creation of practical exercises and work sessions, and close collaboration with other SOC labs, MAPP aims to produce practicable tools, methods, and prompts in support of different forms of living, learning, and working together.

ABOUT MAPP

Background

Methods, Affects & Practical Pedagogies is one of three laboratories at the School of Commons (SoC), a community-based initiative dedicated to the study and development of self-organized knowledge, located at the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). Promoting a broad, integrative understanding of knowledge, we focus on matters of organization surrounding the production and mediation of knowledge with a focus on self-organized practices and knowledge decentralization. As the SoC facilitation does not itself define a research program, SoC research is conducted in its three labs, all of which are run as peer-based collaborative enterprises with annually changing members. While labs work mostly independently, they follow two overall goals: (1) Analyzing knowledge and its production within its social contexts; (2) experimenting & innovating with different forms of mediation (learning, teaching, publishing etc.). All research at SoC will be published online (freely available to anyone) on the SoC platform.

Summary

MAPP encompasses the environment in which practice-based research into different forms of knowledge production are translated into workable practices, exercises, and methods for learning. MAPP aims to experiment with and develop practical tools for collaborative & peer learning, educational environments & encounters, and different forms of knowledge production, pedagogical models, and commoning. MAPP proposes a (re-)mapping of the broad scope and complex layers of entangled knowledge, leading to new cartographies of education. We'd like to invite individuals and collectives with a practicing interest in alternative education to dive deeper into their research and develop experimental pedagogical models within the framework of SOC.

Aims

With MAPP, we hope to address the following:

o   #1: Persons with an interest in alternative pedagogies and commoning practices, who have the wish to engage in practical research that is rooted in reciprocal action with the other labs at SOC and the SOC team

o   #2: Through practice-based research, we hope that participants in our MAPP programme uncover and support different forms of learning and working together, shaped according to their own interests and affects.

o   #3: The creation of an expanding open-source archive of tools, methods, models and prompts that relate to knowledge production, collaborative learning, and the social commons, that could be implemented in a variety of learning environments.

MAPP 2020

Overview

For 2020, we would like to host two MAPPs for a period of 3 months, who each conduct practice-based research in two different specific topics: 1) Decolonising practices in the production and distribution of knowledge, and 2) The digital realm as educational environment. More information on each topic below. MAPPs are decentral, that is, participants can work from wherever they want. However, we would welcome participants to come for an optional short term (1-2 week) residency in Zürich during which time they can put their research into practice. Key information:

o   Duration: 3 months; 14 weeks (31 August – 06 December 2020)
o   Compensation: CHF 1500 (including salary, material costs, expenses)
o   Travel compensation: CHF 500 (travel, stay, and expenses — flexible budget)
o   Estimated effort: 100 hours (roughly 8 hours per week)
o   Self-determination of working hours/effort and content

Decolonising practices in the production and distribution of knowledge

For this MAPP, we are looking for individuals or collectives who have an interest in decolonising practices within the educational sphere. In what ways have colonialist rule shaped our current educational systems? Which knowledges have been overlooked or omitted in this process, and how can we move towards a more inclusive and holistic form of education that allows for difference and a multiplicity of voices? Participants are invited to approach this topic from an angle of their choice, and may include (but is not limited to) the uncovering and applying of (indigenous) knowledge practices that have been eradicated under imperialist rule, a (re-)contextualisation of existing learning methods, developing parameters for education that increase accessibility; decrease homogeneity; incorporate polyphonic learning; etc.

The digital realm as educational environment

For this MAPP, we are looking for individuals or collectives who have an interest in the role that technology and the digital realm plays and/or can play in education; what are the possibilities and what are the limits of digital learning? Which tools can be employed when learning or collaborating remotely? What sources of knowledge become available through online activity that might not otherwise? Participants are invited to approach this topic from an angle of their choice, which may include (but is not limited to) the practical development of digital learning tools, online educational experiments, the role of social media in knowledge production and commoning, surveillance and trust in online learning environments, etc.

Tasks

MAPPs are tasked with the research, development, and implementation of alternative learning practices within the framework of SOC (and in relation to the work of other participants). Since time and resources are limited, we don't need you to produce 'original research' and we suggest that you build your practice on work you have already been conducting apart from SOC. In particular, we would like you to do the following tasks:

o   Personal research. (1) Define a basic prompt, question, approach, viewpoint etc. within the suggested topic that befits your personal interest and practice. (2) Carry out your research in theory but above all in practice; you may work together with other participants at SoC, people from SoC's broader network, or a peer group of your choosing to facilitate your research–in–practice. (3) Your work should be accessible to a wider audience, through public and/or online mediation.

o Practice. The aim of MAPP is to develop practicable methods, tools, and environments for collaborative learning and commoning. Each participant is asked to facilitate 3 work sessions in which they apply their research into practice. These work sessions may be experimental and can form a series if applicable, and should either be conducive to the research at hand and/or be a direct outcome from the research performed. The format of the work sessions is dependent on the needs of your research; you may also decide for yourself the duration of each session (ranging from an hour to multiple days) and the location (ranging from online sessions to IRL on location). As mentioned, there would be a welcome possibility to perform one work session in Zürich in November. We only ask you to find ways to document the sessions in a form of your choosing, this may be in photos, videos, audio, physical outcomes of the sessions, artworks, prints, writing, etc.

o   Mapping. Additionally, each MAPP is expected to contribute to our online living archive with a minimum of 3 practicable methods, tools, prompts, exercises or other practices that are in support of alternative forms of knowledge production. Each contribution functions as an expansion of SoC's educational cartography, which is openly accessible. Lastly, we would like to invite you to mediate your research in a form of your choosing during the SoC end–of–year presentation in November.

TIMETABLE

This is only an anticipated schedule. It is subject to SOC-related planning as well as your personal availability and capabilities.

TIME	TASK
JULY	§ Deadline Open Call 31.07.2020
AUGUST	§ Deadline Selection 14.08.2020 § Getting to know each other plus formalities meeting: first week of September
SEPTEMBER	§ Introduction of MAPPs in SoC Community § Group meeting § First work session
OCTOBER	§ Group meeting § Second work session
NOVEMBER	§ Third work session § Group meeting § Final year presentation § Adding of 3 tools/methods to living archive
DECEMBER	§ Last formalities, feedback, etc.