Interdisciplinary program

Creative Living Lab (IS CreaLab) Annual report 2013

New research projects 2013

PEAX - Electronic mailbox

(Project manager: C. Larbig; Departments: W, D&K as well as Base-Net Informatik AG)
The project PEAX is testing an internet platform for organising letter post. By handling the letter post digitally, the user can organize and structure letter mail better for its further use and use the data more efficiently. The project is testing and exploring the benefits users can gain from an electronic mailbox. One example is when an address changes: Instead of having to inform different organizations like banks, insurances or public administration individually, the electronic mailbox supports the dissemination of information to the concerned institutions in one step.

The future of work in the past of Science-Fiction

(Project manager: F. Dievernich, Departments: W, T&A, D&K)
The project takes a closer look at the potential conditions of working in the future. With a view to the future, what are the next utopia and pictures which might emerge in relation to work and its context? Which pictures of the future, of economy, organization and even of work/human coordination in relation to work are already inducted into society by means of Science-Fiction? The objective of the project launched in 2013 is on the one hand to investigate to how far descriptions about work, organization and economy that can be found selected Science-Fiction literature from the second half of the last century have become reality today. On the other hand the project takes a future perspective by reviewing the present Science-Fiction literature

for pictures and utopia in relation to work, future organizational forms and economy. The knowledge gained in this way can give some indications for an appropriate activity-oriented future alignment and will broaden the scope of trend researchers and futurologists.

Comeback of the Utopia

(Project manager: L. Schuchert, Departments: T&A, D&K, W)
This project is about the power of utopic visions, how they're able to develop their strengths and where in societies, cities, and spaces they appear. Is it possible to develop something at the first glance impossible and utopian to something innovative? What happens if pragmatism and utopia meet each other and who's working in an utopian way today? And what about the return of utopian visions? The project aims at approaching these issues. It therefore studies, compares and combines selected utopian concepts which

will later serve as a resource, as starting point and guidebook into surprising spaces and parallel worlds.

World Ornamental Forum

(Project manager: R. Hardlitz, Departments: D&K, T&A, W)
The project focuses on gesture as a third, from the research yet ignored mode of work. For the realisation of the World Ornamental Forum (WOF), which provides the context for the examination of gesture, international scientific and artistic researchers are invited. They will not only bring in their knowledge based on theoretic experience, but they are moreover going to contribute their practical experiences in different forms of gesture and at the same time test them. Gesture at WOF's happens as an experimental form of conversation, as a simultaneous action that will be documented by video or as an ad hoc construction of ephemeral research settings.

CreaLab ist…
…beim Musik machen. Am Handgelenk.
Roman Jurt

CreaLab ist…
…wo die vorhandenen Ressourcen
kreativ genutzt werden.
Madeleine Renner

The interpretative video and audio recordings, the improvised short reports and artefacts that emerge during the WOF serve as research results, from which a conclusion will be drawn.

RÄMSKI- Spatial-medial settings for collaboration in innovation processes

(Project manager: J. Eckert; Departments: T&A, D&K, W)

The project RÄMSKI analyses the interrelations between spatial requirements, the quality of spatially separated, interdisciplinary cooperation in innovation processes and new technologies. Based on an inquiry of potential users, the basics, i.e. the most important requirements for medially additional spaces in innovation processes, will be established and convert to a Mock-up. The project started in july 2013 and aims at creating a matrix of criteria with the most important factors influencing space and media that would allow to create additional virtually mediated spaces for the collaboration in innovation processes in the future.

Emotional Experience

(Project manager: M. Doerk & S. Ossevoort; Departments: SA, D&K)

With the project Emotional Experience, the individual experiences of human beings, which were made in very personal, aesthetic moments, shall be recorded and tried to be understood. What are the main aspects which cause a personal aesthetic experience in human life? How does an emotional aesthetic impression grow up and under which preconditions is it able to emerge? Is intimacy the keyword and do people wish to be seduced and/or even to be provoked to make an aesthetic experience? The objective of the project started in august 2013 is to develop new methods which enable us to identify new experiences and use these insights for the sustainable development of products and services.

Sound & spatial Improvisation

(Project manager: U. Gaudenz; Departments: T&A, W, Labor Luzern)

The project deals with the creation of space through musical improvisation. Once a month spaces for auditory perception are examined in different tonal situations during artistic research experiments. Any change of the auditory perception effected by improvisation is documented by the participants. The aim of this artistic-scientific investigation is to experience and describe auditory perception spaces which were produced by spatial improvisation, and to develop a tool for documenting them.

Crafting & Making: Scenarios for a future-compliant work and lifestyle

(Project manager: S. Dagmar; Departments: SA, D&K)

The digital technology of information, communication and production has changed to a paradigm which is currently turning to an industrial style of production and also to new values, work and lifestyles. In Western countries a networked Crafter & Maker Community is developing which defines itself based on innovative forms of self-determined, individualistic (neo-) craftsmanship. It is also defined by values like sharing and sustainability and ultimately by new business models. The aim of the project launched in September 2013 is to become better acquainted with the motives and targets of the Crafters & Makers in Switzerland and to collaborate on some experimental future scenarios for the various fields of a plural economy in a participative research process.

Students of all departments from Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (LUASA) as well as interested external practitioners and partners participate in the CreaLab events.

Social Lab: Design Thinking for Social Innovation

(Project manager: M. Christen Jakob, B. Minder, C. Larbig)

The process of Design Thinking is orientated to development of innovation at the early stage. It pays particular attention to the needs of the users. In the Social Lab, participants create innovative ideas and prototypes and check them further with the target audience. In this session, they learn to find a solution for a social challenge while applying the methods of Design Thinking. As a practice partner, start-ups are cooperating with students from different disciplines. These start-ups focus on creating a social and environmental value by developing innovative solutions for specific social problems.

2nd CreaLab SummerSchool: Live to work, work to live

(Project manager: U. Gaudenz, R. Schneider; Departments: T&A, SA, W, D&K, M)

Today's globalised world and the society we live in are changing more quickly than ever before. The world population is constantly growing, the individual mobility is increasing, the amount of natural resources is declining and knowledge has never been so accessible as it is today. What effects will these and similar factors have with regard to the working in the world of tomorrow?

CreaLab ist…
…wo zündende Ideen in heiterer Gesellschaft entwickelt werden
Patrik Senn und Marcel Bieri

CreaLab ist…
…wo Ideen sichtbar werden.
Simone Weingart

In a first part of the Crea Lab SummerSchool the students acquired individual thematic principles through self-study and group discussions. In the second part, a public unconferencing event, these principles were extended and discussed in collaboration with representatives of business and science. Recent forms of work were examined in the light of traditional professions and future social models.

CreaLab Winter School: Innovation Methods

(Project manager: U. Gaudenz, M. Doerk; Departments: T&A, S)

In the CreaLab Winter School, the students deal with the question of how to find out which methods from which disciplines are particularly suitable for developing something new, i.e. to encourage and promote creativity and innovation. Innovation methods from different disciplines are applied in workshops, discussed and improved in the face of real innovation challenges contributed by practice partners or by students.

Coachings & Workshops

CreaLab strives for supporting companies or organisations by critically scrutinizing their work cultures and to allow more creativity in their daily routine. The focus of the workshops and coachings offered to the broader public is on leveraging personal experiences in dealing with methods for creativeness.

Vision quest

(P. Wolf, in cooperation with R. Förster)
Holistic, sustainable changes do arise from inside out. The personal vision is the inner base and the compass. It releases energy. The objective of the vision quest is to explore and formulate the own personal vision. The participants deal therefore with central issues such as: Where am I today, where do I stand? What are my passions? What do I want to let go? What helps me and what hinders me? The participants are guided and supported in this process by Ruth Förster. On the basis of scientific knowledge on nature experiences and body performativity she helps people to find the ability to perceive themselves as a part of a whole. For finding the own vision, it is necessary to take a time out in the nature with only the bare necessities.

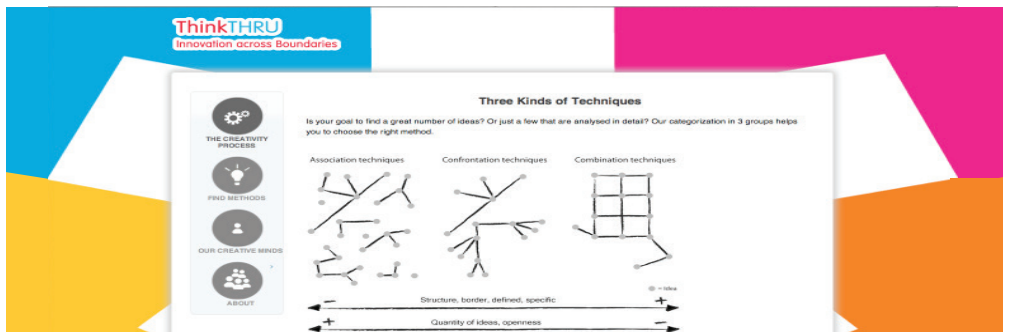### Coaching: Creative working in teams

(P. Wolf, J. Harboe)
This coaching is adequate for teams who want to gain some new and creative impetus in their everyday working routines. In the first step, the participants will define specific issues based on their everyday working routine which would prioritize in looking at and where they see a development potential. In a second step, they learn in a creative way to identify and to implement ideas for improvement in their working processes. A step further enables a sustainable analysis of the collaboration and communication as a team. Finally, goals are jointly defined by the team members. The coaching can be assembled individually and can be tailored to your own needs.

Innovation methods

(M. Doerk, U. Gaudenz, P. Wolf)
For organisations, it is becoming more and more important to develop and realize ideas in an interdisciplinary and inter-departemental manner. This creates challenges of choosing and combining adequate methods for team creativity. The workshop starts with an introduction

to idea discovery and development processes in interdisciplinary teams. Later, the participants become familiar with the methods platform and learn to value the differences between methods of association, confrontation and combination. At the end they will be able to judge in what situations (needed time, size of the group, needed material) which method would fit best. Moreover, these methods will be combined and tested in current cases which the participants can contribute.

Public presentations

In 2013, the CreaLab core team members held public presentations at different national and international events. For example, Julie Harboe talked at the third annual convention „Future Workplace & Office" at the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute (GDI) in Rüschlikon/Zürich about „Out of the Cube: Where does the innovation takes place? And why does it happen so rarely in the office?" In September, Jens Meissner presented CreaLab insigths into „The future of work - concepts and current megatrend" at the event „Home Office and part-time job: family-friendly or not?" at the Seminarhotel Sempachersee, Nottwil. Besides these and other inputs at practitioner events, the latest research results were presented at several scientific conferences.

Methods platform

The platform ThinkTHRU was developed within the scope of the CreaLab project „Methods platform" which collects innovation methods from various disciplines. These were made available at the platform in a user-friendly manner. The platform is accessible for free to the public at http://www.thinkthru.info/.

Working methods

CreaLab sees itself as a catalyst for ideas, as solution developer for complex questions, as an enabler of their discussion, and as their translator to the innovative actors in Central Switzerland

and at LUASA. CreaLab has a core team consisting of people from all departments of the LUASA (Management, Technology & Architecture, Design & Arts, Social Work and Music). The core team is committed to the program development: they are discussing about recent developments, about project proposals, plans and initiatives of CreaLab. Projects of CreaLab are directed or arranged by lecturers or researchers from at least two departments of LUASA. Among other things, CreaLab cooperates openly with students from all faculties to give them a chance to develop their skills by tackling challenging and modern tasks. This caused positive reactions - Christian Röllin, a management student at LUASA, said in an interview with the radio 3fach from 18.09.2013 about the work and the Project Peax at Crea Lab: „For me personally it is such a huge privilege, because we don't always have the possibility to act future-oriented. For me it is a sensational change, this is the reason why I'm at the university - I'm not here just for listening and working on university assignments.

Networking and cooperation

Across all CreaLab projects and activities in 2013, about 90 lecturers and researchers from all departments and approximately 250 students of LUASA were involved in activities of the CreaLab. Moreover, about 150 external people participated in various events and activities.

Up-to-date information is available in the blog of CreaLab: blog.hslu.ch/crealab