CREATING A NEW KIND OF VALUE THROUGH OUR PROFESSION:
Towards better leadership, more inspiration and increased impact

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Towards a transformative approach in research and practice

Transition Cycle Approach in Transformative Research

Source: Schneidewind/Singer-Brodowski 2013, p. 72
Towards a transformative approach in research and practice

Transition Cycle Approach in Transformative Practice

Source: http://www.catalyticaction.org
Real-world laboratories as a framework for real-life experiments

„Real-world laboratories are defined by specific contexts of societal reality where scientists and actors from practice are actively shaping transformation processes and at the same time evaluate them. The aim is to generate transferable transformation knowledge. Therefore real-world laboratories are offering an institutionalized setting to shift from knowing to acting.“

(Felix Wagner, Armin Grunwald 2015)
Real life experiments based on networked multi-actor constellations

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH TEAM

- Institut für Verkehrsplanung
- Lehrstuhl für Sport- und Gesundheitswissenschaften
- Internationales Zentrum für Kultur- und Technikforschung
- Institut für Landschaftsplanung und Ökologie
- Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Risiko- und Innovationsforschung
- Städtebauminstitut
- Institut für Arbeitswissenschaft und Technologiemanagement
- Studentische Initiativen

SOCIAL INNOVATORS & CHANGE AGENTS

KEY STAKEHOLDERS OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM

- Verband Region Stuttgart
- Stadt Stuttgart
- Stadtmuseum/Stadtlabor
- Akademie der bildenden Künste
- Hochschul- und Wissenschaftsregion

Illustration: Real Life Laboratory for sustainable Mobility Culture, University of Stuttgart
Case Study: Real-world laboratory for sustainable mobility culture, Stuttgart

Current state of public plazas in Stuttgart
Problem Analysis/Systems Knowledge

Fig. 016: Photo of Kernerstrasse.

Fig. 017: Photo of Schützenplatz.

Total area in Kernerviertel
- Private Space 68.30%
- Public Space 31.70%

Public space in Kernerviertel
- Road Surface 61%
- Pedestrian Space 39%

Total area = 285,820 m² // Private S. = 190,250 m² // PS = 90,590 m² // RS = 55,190 m² // Pedestrian S. = 35,400 m²

Mapping Public Spaces (Jesús Zárate, 2016)
Visions/ Target Knowledge

01 Turn back the private into public

Create a forum that helps define the future of Schützenplatz
Create an real public space in Schützenplatz

02 Present a vision for a real platz

Current Situation
26% Public space
68% Car space

Final phase
62% Public space
32% Car space

Vision for Schützenplatz (Jesús Zárate, 2016)
Transformation Knowledge

1. SECURE
   Perspective + protection + privacy

2. FLEXIBLE
   Movable furniture allow different uses

3. INTERACTIVE
   Walls as communication channel

Design and Construction of Parklet (Zárate, 2016)
Gathering, evaluation, presentation and discussion of data on public space + activities (Zárate, 2016)
Re-defining and substantializing the vision in collaboration with neighbours and official (Zárate, 2017)
Transformation Knowledge

Re-design and extended construction of Parklet plus urban gardening (Zárate, 2016)
Let’s mesh up and stir up!

We need to become more confident about our role as a profession in the age of the anthropocene:

Moving away from the societal perception of us being „GARDENERS“ to beautify landscapes towards being „CONDUCTORS“ of transformative design projects connecting people, places and nature in collaboration with other disciplines.
Shifting from think-tanks to do-tanks!

We cannot wait to be commissioned for projects, we need to become agitators!

Let’s invent, initiate and test new approaches and frameworks to understand, design and create transitions with an actual effect on the world.
Creating initiatives and programmes for joint experimentation:

- Connecting small-scale interventions and large-scale changes
  - More acknowledgement of design-based research and research-based practice
  - More courage to initiate and lead real-life-laboratories and real-life experiments
THANK YOU!

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