

What will post Covid-Academia look like?

The Garden Department will investigate, perform and publish the possibilities of a student-led, alternative pedagogy outdoor classroom, integrated into the Rietveld/Sandberg campus.

The Department will explore the idea of an *outside* space of learning that holds relationality, ecology, food sovereignty, care, transdisciplinarity, art and the commons at its core. Our intention is to develop the project beyond two-semester producing a garden, class room and a small public park that questions what a post-coronavirus art school and city looks like.

We are a student-initiated platform made up of six students, two teachers and one alumna.

Our platform addresses: Future Commons, Relationality, Embodiment, Ecology and Future Pedagogy.

We will develop four research strands:

1. A year-long Permaculture Design course open to all students and staff. Led by an experienced permaculture teacher.
2. External workshops, seminars and talks: classes led by invited artists, designers, witches, mycologists, ethnobotanists, ecologists, embodiment therapists, foragers, utopists and others -- developed across two semesters focusing on a variety of topics intertwined with the garden. These guest programs will address both practical and theory-based concepts.

Examples: making tinctures; wild-food foraging; medicinal plants; DIY Composting; Electromagnetic Ecosystems; social justice and climate change; Ecosophy; Deep Ecology; food and soil politics.

3. Internal workshops, seminars, reading groups and talks -- offering a regular structure across the year program, led by students and teachers. Developed across two semesters by the core group and via a cross-campus open call inviting the community to propose their own practical and theory-based classes related to the department's core themes.

Examples: relationality, food and conviviality; Eco-art; Textiles and plant dyes; food-art; edible inks; Land Art; decolonialism; geographical history of food

4. The garden. All students and staff are invited to garden on a weekly basis.

These learning and research strands are important to the academy. The program will be developed as a community inclusive initiative, that will raise the standard of the Rietveld/Sandberg's sustainability, biodiversity and ecological profile, and offer an example of an alternative, critical pedagogy of community-driven transdisciplinary learning.

We will elect one person to be our point of contact. This person will be our main administrator with a second person to assist. The administrator, with the coordinator, will develop a realistic financial plan. We would discuss with the editorial board an alternative organisational structure that frees up the larger 7000€ 0, IFTE and redistributes it to pay for our admin work and guest teachers and reflects our flat, non-hierarchical structure.

Our activities will be posted on Instagram, and documented on extraintra.nl. We will hold weekly group and bi-semester public meetings to evaluate our activities and continue to publish our garden zine documenting our activities – plantings, garden tips, gardening techniques, recipes and related student art and poetry.

To round off the year we will organise a discussion forum in the garden and launch a larger zine documenting our activities and asking the question: is this what post Covid-Academia looks like?