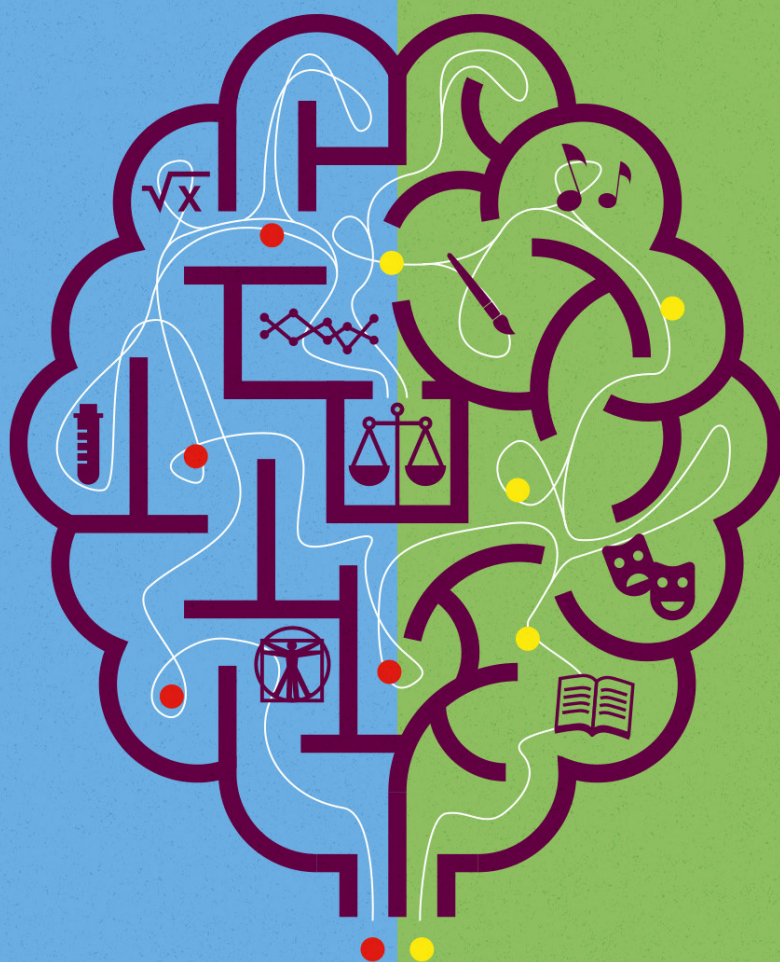


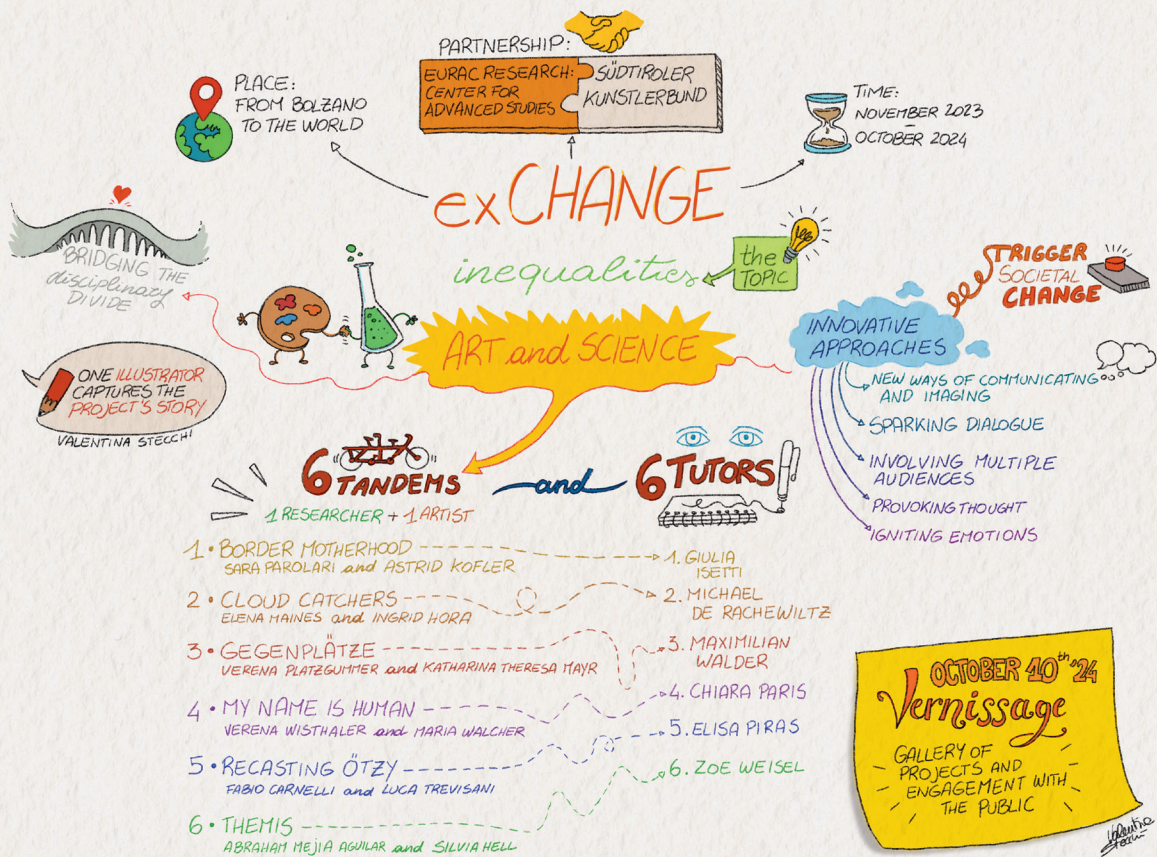
exCHANGE

Exploring Pathways of Art-Science Collaboration

11.-26.10.2024

SKB ARTES – Via Wegggenstein 12A, Bolzano (BZ)





The exCHANGE **project**

The complexity and interconnectedness of the inequalities characterising our contemporary society require innovative and creative solutions. While traditionally considered separate disciplines, art and science share a common goal: to understand and describe the world around us. Both have the ability to engage the public, stimulate reflection, evoke emotions, and, above all, inspire change. The exCHANGE project was born precisely out of a desire to explore this potential, seeking to combine different perspectives to address complex social issues such as inequalities.

exCHANGE, a project of the Center for Advanced Studies of Eurac Research in collaboration with the Südtiroler Künstlerbund, brings together individuals from the worlds of research and art in six transdisciplinary pairs, or tandems, each dedicated to the exploration of a topic related to inequalities. These creative collaborations not only reveal new ways to understand complex problems but also foster innovative solutions that neither art nor science could achieve alone. Each tandem was tasked with combining the imaginative power of art with the analytical capacity of science to make the results of their collaboration more accessible and comprehensible to the public.

The six tandems of exCHANGE address a variety of different topics, all closely related to inequalities. Some tandems chose to interview bus drivers to understand their daily challenges, while others explored inequalities related to motherhood, analysed climate change, or examined access to water resources. Still, others reinterpreted ancient archaeological finds or studied playgrounds as liminal spaces, observing how different groups of people use them when children are not present. In each of these cases, art and science intertwine to provide a broader and deeper perspective on social dynamics.

While the tandems focussed on their respective projects, another group, comprised of researchers from the Center for Advanced Studies, took a closer look at the collaborative process within the tandems. Their aim was to understand the dynamics of these tandems: how decisions are made, how different skills are integrated, and how collaboration influences thinking and working. In particular, the Center is interested in understanding whether and how these interactions change participants' understanding of inequalities and how they can contribute to bridging the gap between the different disciplines.

The exCHANGE project therefore operates on two levels. On the one hand, the meta-research level aims to identify possible pitfalls and challenges that may arise during the collaboration between art and science. This part of the project is crucial because it enhances the effectiveness of future interdisciplinary collaborations by providing valuable insights into how best to manage integration processes across different competences. On the other hand, there are the tangible results of the tandems' work: the artworks and prototypes created, which are showcased in the exhibition. These pieces offer a unique opportunity to envision new approaches to research and art, contributing to a broader social debate and a concrete commitment to the creation of a more equitable society.

The final exhibition offers the public a chance to see these works up close and reflect on the potential of collaborations between art and science. It aims to be an opportunity to better understand how our society continues to reproduce and perpetuate inequalities, while also encouraging the imagination of new pathways toward a more just and inclusive society.

We wish you a good visit!



**Roland Psenner,
President of Eurac Research**

Some companies treat climate change and species extinction as a problem that can be addressed through technical means, yet in doing so, they overlook the underlying cause: inequality, which not only drives the crisis but also exacerbates its consequences. We must embark on the path to a just solution, guided by both art and science.



**Lisa Trockner and Alexander Zoeggeler,
Director and President of the Südtiroler Künstlerbund**

Interdisciplinary collaboration in the arts is crucial, as it demonstrates art's ability to permeate all areas of life and create meaningful contributions. Art reflects social, cultural, and scientific issues, fostering new perspectives. Collaboration between art and science holds great potential: art conveys complex ideas emotionally, while science provides deeper insights. We would like to thank the Eurac Research team, and all the scientists and artists involved for their openness and commitment.



Border Motherhood. **Being mothers in a world** **of inequalities**

Astrid Kofler and Sara Parolari

Border Motherhood investigates the inequalities associated with motherhood. Sara Parolari and Astrid Kofler explore this topic in varying contexts through interviews with women from around the world, aiming to highlight the inequalities that women, particularly mothers, encounter in their everyday lives. How do factors such as geographical origin, social background, and state-provided benefits impact access to opportunities? What insights do the experiences of mothers provide? The exhibition features selected excerpts from interviews and photographs chosen by the participants themselves, illustrating their journeys as women and mothers.

Year: 2023/2024

Technique/Material: mixed materials (wire and clothes pegs, fabric, wooden boxes, photographs)

Dimensions: 11 m (laundry thread), 42x46 cm (wooden boxes)

Edition: unique piece



Astrid Kofler

Astrid Kofler, born in 1965 in Bolzano (Italy), is a journalist, filmmaker, and author. She studied theater studies and German philology in Vienna (Austria) and completed her journalism training in Munich, Berlin (both in Germany), and London (UK). Since 1998, she has worked as a freelancer, primarily contributing to books, magazine programs, portraits, and documentary films for Rai Südtirol. Additionally, she has training in forum theater and clowning. Astrid is a volunteer member of the Caritas hospice movement. She is the mother of three adult children and resides in Bolzano. Furthermore, she is a member of the South Tyrolean Artists' Association and serves on the board of the South Tyrolean Authors' Association (SAAV).



Sara Parolari

Sara Parolari is a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Comparative Federalism at Eurac Research. She holds a degree in law and completed her PhD in Comparative and European Law at the University of Trento (Italy). Her research focusses on Italian regional law, devolution in the United Kingdom, fiscal federalism, regional law in Trentino-South Tyrol, and cross-border cooperation.

Cloud Catchers

Ingrid Hora and Elena Maines

Through interviews with experts in hydrology, climate physics, and environmental psychology, Elena Maines and Ingrid Hora explore the right to access the scarce and unevenly distributed water resources around the world. Their research focusses on the Mediterranean region, specifically Italy, Spain, and Morocco — areas particularly affected by climate change. It examines innovative and sustainable technologies such as CloudFisher, which extracts drinking and utility water from the moisture in fog in North Africa. The photo installation creates a space to question ecological and social issues: the photographs portray three active experts on the front lines, capturing their emotions, hopes, and technologies, while also serving as a call to action.

Year: 2023/2024 ongoing
Technique/Material:
100% rPET, produced without water
Dimensions: 119x199 cm
(photographs)
Edition: nr. 6
Credits: climatologist photographed by Daniela Brugger



Ingrid Hora

Ingrid Hora, born in 1976 in Bolzano (Italy), is a visual artist based in Berlin (Germany). Through her multidisciplinary works — ranging from performative actions to installations, drawings, videography, and photography — she conducts experiments that question contemporary social and political norms, challenging the community and exploring the emergence of democratic processes.



Elena Maines

Elena Maines graduated in January 2023 with a degree in Environmental Meteorology from the University of Trento (Italy). With a background in physics, her work centers on climate variability, extreme weather events, and the development of tools for climate services. She researches mitigation and adaptation strategies for human-induced climate change at the Center for Climate Change and Transformation at Eurac Research.

»Gegenplätze« Playground at 9.11 pm? BZ – An artistic-scientific inquiry into the hidden life of playgrounds

Katharina Theresa Mayr and Verena Platzgummer

What happens to playgrounds when those for whom they are intended are not there? Who is drawn to these in-between places that anyone can visit but often does not; semi-public areas that are free of charge and oscillate between the hidden and the visible? Playgrounds in the evening hours: for process artist Katharina Theresa Mayr and sociolinguist Verena Platzgummer, these serve as ideal microcosms to observe social dynamics and inequalities, exploring the societal disparities — across socioeconomic positions, genders, and cultures — they reflect. Their observations and audio recordings have been transformed into an installation that does not impose conclusions but aims to foster discourse and discussion, evoking feelings and reflection.

Year: 2023/2024 ongoing
Technique/Material: mixed materials (installation: swings and audio elements)
Dimensions: site specific (audio: 7:33 minute loop)
Edition: unique piece

Further supporting institutions: With the kind support of the Free University of Bolzano - Faculty of Design and Arts, the Municipality of Bolzano / Bolzano City Gardens, and music producer George Munro.



Katharina Theresa Mayr

Katharina Theresa Mayr studied art at the Free University of Bolzano (Italy) and the University of Innsbruck (Austria). She is an interdisciplinary process artist focussing on socio-cultural themes, explored through observational practices. She combines performances, drawings, installations, and language. Her work often engages with written expression, utilising abstract drawings as a method of translation, and she explores and creates spaces on both abstract and concrete levels. Katharina Theresa Mayr experiments with analog techniques as well as modern technologies.



Verena Platzgummer

Verena Platzgummer was recently employed at the Institute for Applied Linguistics at Eurac Research and is now a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Galway (Ireland). In her research, she examines from a critical, sociolinguistic perspective how historical minority regions are changing in the context of globalisation and migration.

MY NAME IS HUMAN/ thank you, dear bus driver

Maria Walcher and Verena Wisthaler

This project is a performative research initiative in public space. This transdisciplinary collaboration between the artist and the researcher explores inequalities from the perspective of bus drivers at the intersection of mobility and work. Bus drivers serve as a compelling example to highlight inequalities in our mobile society: the increasing demand for labour, the recruitment of foreign workers, and the discrimination they often encounter, all compounded by the widening gap between high- and low-skilled workers and the shift from fulfilling professions to impersonal services. The final installation and sound work draw on the experiences and opinions gathered by Maria Walcher and Verena Wisthaler during interviews with representatives from SASA, bus drivers, and passengers.

Year: 2024

Technique/Material:

performative research, sound-installation, bus tickets, photo series insights into the process

Dimensions: approx. 200x300x200 cm

Edition: unique piece

Additional material:



Further supporting

institutions: SASA, Südtiroler Transportstrukturen AG



Maria Walcher

Maria Walcher, born in 1984 in Brixen (Italy), studied Public Art and New Artistic Strategies at the Bauhaus University Weimar (Germany) and the University of Applied Arts Vienna (Austria). She lives and works as a freelance artist in Innsbruck and teaches as a senior artist at the Mozarteum University Salzburg (both in Austria).



Verena Wisthaler

Verena Wisthaler is the head of the Center for Migration and Diversity at Eurac Research and an external lecturer at the University of Innsbruck (Austria). Her research focusses on migration and integration politics.

Recasting Ötzy. Playing eco-foundational myths

Luca Trevisani and Fabio Carnelli

Reinterpreting the artifacts of our ancestors to shed light on the theme of inequality. With this concept in mind, Luca Trevisani and Fabio Carnelli involved various individuals — considering their professions, backgrounds, ethnicities, and social contexts — in the examination of the objects belonging to the man from the ice, the thousand-year-old mummy preserved at the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology. Researchers and artists facilitated the discussion, listening to the intertwined reflections and dialogues. The installation offers insight into the journey undertaken and combines fragments of voices in different languages, subtitled through additional interpretation by artificial intelligence. Inequalities are explored from two perspectives: the relationship between humans, the environment, and technology in both the past and present, and the comparison between the visions of those already integrated into the social fabric and those who come from different realities and encounter it for the first time.

Year: 2024

Technique/Material: audio-visual environment, tent

Dimensions: 200x200 cm

Edition: unique piece

Acknowledgements: Essential to this piece — without which it could not have been realised — were the contributions of Persian artist Leila Tahammoli, who provided the voice and colour of the work; Andreas Putzer, a researcher and curator at the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology; Azadeh Yousefi, a researcher involved in the translation; and Anastasia Routou, the contact person at Casa Conti Forni in Bolzano, managed by the Volontarius Group.



Luca Trevisani

Luca Trevisani is a visual artist whose multidisciplinary works have been showcased in international museums and institutions. Trevisani's research spans sculpture and videography, crossing disciplinary boundaries of fields such as performing arts, graphic design, experimental cinema, and architecture, all within a constantly magnetic and mutating state. His works challenge or even subvert traditional notions of sculpture, engaging in a continuous exploration of materials and their narratives.



Fabio Carnelli

Fabio Carnelli is a cultural anthropologist and environmental sociologist. He is currently a senior researcher in the fields of risk management and climate change adaptation at the Center for Climate Change and Transformation at Eurac Research.

THEMIS: an arTistic and research approach to raise awarEness about cliMate change that produces Inequalities

Silvia Hell and Abraham Mejia Aguilar

The installation aims to give a voice to the “voiceless” elements of nature — water, air, earth, and fire — whose complex and delicate systems sustain life but can also lead to destruction when out of balance. For millennia, living beings have evolved by adapting to these elements; however, the rapid pace of climate change leaves little time to do so. The concept plays with notions of time and space, highlighting the interconnectedness of all elements, which convey an urgent message to us. Without knowing their language and sense of time, we seek to understand the significance of climate change through immersive experiences.

Year: 2024

Technique/Material: visual expressions, music, graphs, photos, videos, multimedia, environmental audio-video installation

Dimensions: variable

Edition: unique piece

Further supporting institutions: GEOPARC Bletterbach



Silvia Hell

Silvia Hell's work encompasses sculptures, photographs, site-specific installations, time-based media, and interdisciplinary projects. Her research unfolds through actions and ways of thinking that create forms of tension using methods ranging from conventional objectivity to original models for representing and formalising reality. She is particularly interested in analysing and processing various languages, information, and public data. Hell completed her studies in painting at the Brera Academy in Milan (Italy).



Abraham Mejia Aguilar

An eccentric Mexican with a background in electronics, data analysis, and modelling, but he is also a person who loves nature and the mountains. Driven by his passion for life and experimentation, he works at the Center for Sensing Solutions at Eurac Research.



**Share your opinion!**

Scan the QR code and take part in our short exhibition survey. Your feedback will help us better understand the project's impact and continue exploring new synergies between art and science.

Thank you for your contribution!

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