

**Call for papers – Special issue**  
***Arts-based/artistic research at higher education institutions –  
between idea, draft and realization***

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**On the key topic**

The focus for this special issue is on arts-based research as a designed knowledge practice and the necessary institutional changes at universities and institutions of higher education that deal with this topic.

This issue analyzes the development of institutional conditions and the resulting new requirements, particularly with regard to the role of higher education institutions as research institutions. To this end, special emphasis will be placed on arts-based research during the studies and in the development of the next generation of artistic-academic researchers.

The guest editors do not wish to prescribe a general definition of what arts-based/artistic research can or cannot be. The theory and practice of arts-based research are extremely diverse and differentiated according to artistic competences and methods. How its components are arranged in detail always depends on the nature of the project and the artistic approach of the researchers themselves.

Although the concept of artistic research is not new, in the last few years it has gained noticeable momentum in terms of its extent and influence at German-speaking universities and institutions of higher education (especially those dedicated to the arts). Similarly, the discourse surrounding arts-based research has progressed rapidly. This special issue of the ZFHE seeks to explore the current artistic research landscape and the changes at universities and institutions of higher education.

An examination of the accomplishments resulting from recent developments and the status of methods should help reveal what has been investigated, how it has been investigated, and what will be investigated in the future. The ways in which research centers disseminate arts-based research results to the surrounding cultural environment are also of interest.

Numerous projects have been institutionally supported in the last few years, such as the “Programm zur Entwicklung und Erschließung der Künste (PEEK)” (Programme for Arts-based Research) in Austria. Initial efforts have been made and results have been achieved which seem to be worth reporting. On a European scale, one should mention the Association Européenne des Conservatoires, Académies de Musique et Musikhochschulen (AEC), the European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA) and SAR (Society for Artistic Research), as well as their editorship of the Journal for Artistic Research (JAR), all of which deal with adequate forms of institutionalization and documentation, among other things. This ZFHE special issue will once again address the effects of such initiatives and activities, as well as the artistic works.

In short: more and more institutions and universities of arts and music are incorporating artistic research, and this issue of the ZFHE will focus on how this is occurring.

To sum up, the issue on artistic research at universities and institutions of higher education will address the following questions:

- Which roles do higher education institutions as research centers for artistic/arts-based research have with regard to their own organization (research institution and/or educational institution) and the immediate environment of the artistic practice and performance?
- With which expertise does arts-based research at higher education institutions take place, and is it systematically supported and further developed?
- In what form, with which contents and with which methods does artistic research affect the education of students? How is artistic research communicated and presented?
- How are higher education institutions changing their infrastructure in order to facilitate artistic research?
- Which new roles and tasks do university staff take on, and what is expected of them in the context of arts-based research?
- Can changes in self-perception and the understanding of the work of “artistic researchers” be observed, and what does this mean for career paths at universities?
- How important is arts-based research from the point of view of the artistic practice outside of higher education? Where and how are “encounters” created?
- Where do (fruitful) discussions on the practice of arts-based research take place?
- What effect do the various forms of institutionalization of artistic research (e.g. peer communities, support programs, seminars, communication platforms, documentaries, publications) have?
- How can quality be assured and developed in arts-based research? How can research performance be compared and judged? Are there special instruments? If so, which tendencies are there to set standards, particularly on a European level?
- How can the freedom of research and the free development of topics and artistic methods of research be assured?

## Guidelines regarding the journal

The ZFHE is a peer-reviewed online journal that publishes scientific contributions of practical relevance concerning current higher education development issues. The focus is on didactical, structural, and cultural developments in teaching and learning. Topics that are innovative and still regarded as open in respect of their design options are preferred.

The ZFHE is published by a consortium of European scientists and funded by the Austrian Ministry for Science, Research and Economics.

More information: <http://www.zfhe.at>.

## Information for submission

English contributions may be submitted in two possible forms. The contributions should integrate their own forms of presentation.

**Arts-based/-scientific contributions:** Artistic-scientific contributions should comply with the following criteria. The contribution:

- presents innovative perspectives, arguments, problem analysis, reflections on the research contexts, arts-based/scientific approaches to the main area of research (if the contribution does not pertain to the particular key issue, it should cover a central issue of higher education development);
- focuses on essential aspects;
- is theoretically underpinned (i.e. it offers a clear connection to the artistic-academic discourse of the topic under discussion);
- provides scientific insights with added value;
- clarifies the methodology of the acquisition of knowledge;
- follows the relevant citation rules consistently (e.g. APA);
- comprises  $12 \pm 2$  pages (of 2,400 characters with spaces each, incl. links to examples or incorporated example files). As a supplement, genuine expositions in the SHAPE portal of the “Research Catalogue” (including text passages) can be uploaded (see below). They have to be adequately anonymized in order to be included in the review.

**Workshop reports** refer to the instructional presentation of practical experience, good practices and good processes, design concepts, pilot projects, etc. Workshop reports should:

- describe illustrative aspects and factors in accordance with the intersubjective exchange and the theory formation;
- be systematic and transparent presentation;
- follow the relevant citation rules consistently (e.g. APA);
- comprise  $7 \pm 2$  pages (of 2400 characters each, incl. links to examples or incorporated example files). As a supplement, genuine expositions in the SHAPE portal of the “Research Catalogue” (including text passages) can be uploaded (see below). They have to be adequately anonymized in order to be included in the review.

### Review Process

Each contribution to be published in ZFHE (solicited or submitted) will be subjected to a double-blind review by two competent reviewers. If the two reviewers are in agreement, the result is immediately implemented (i.e. the contribution is either accepted or rejected).

If the two reviews result in different recommendations, the publishers of the current edition (if need be with the help of the editorial team and the editorial board) will decide on further procedures – with the following options:

- publication
- revision
- obtaining a third opinion
- delegating the decision to the editorial board
- definitive rejection

### Formatting and Submission

In order to save valuable time with the formatting of the contributions, we kindly ask all authors to work from the outset with the template **for texts** that can be downloaded on the ZFHE homepage:

[http://www.zfhe.at/userupload/ZFHE\\_10-1\\_TEMPLATE.docx](http://www.zfhe.at/userupload/ZFHE_10-1_TEMPLATE.docx)

We must be able to edit the texts (i.e. Word or Open Office files). Please do not upload any PDF files!

Finished contributions of the “arts-based/-scientific contribution” and “workshop report” categories are first required in anonymized form, in order to guarantee the double blind review process. Please remove all references and clues that may reveal the author of the document (also in the document properties). This information can be added if the submission is accepted.

If audio-visual material is required for submission, please make it available via anonymous links to external storage sites (see table for formats).

The expositions in the SHAPE RC portal can only be incorporated in connection with text contributions. This portal accepts the following formats (see also <http://www.researchcatalogue.net/portal/faq>):

general:	html text; pdf document
image:	jpeg, png, psd, tga, tiff, gif, bmp image file type
audio:	ogg, wav, mov, au, mp4 audio container formats; mp2, mp3, aac, pcm a-law, flac audio codec formats
video:	avi, mov, mp4, mpg video container formats; dv1394, h.264, mpeg2, mpeg1, mjpeg video codec formats

## Schedule

### **22 October 2014 – Submission deadline for complete contributions:**

Please upload your contribution in the ZFHE journal system (<http://www.zfhe.at>) in the respective category (i.e. artistic-scientific contribution or workshop report) of the 10/1 issue in anonymized format, as well as the expositions in the SHAPE portal of the research catalogue as supplements. To do so, you must register as an “author” in the ZFHE system and create a profile in the research catalogue (<http://www.researchcatalogue.net>).

**19 December 2014 – Feedback/Reviews:** Artistic-scientific contributions and workshop reports are evaluated in accordance with the double blind process (see above).

**6 February 2015 – Revision deadline:** Where necessary, contributions can be altered in accordance with recommendations from the feedback.

**20 March 2015 – Online publication** of the research area “artistic research at universities and institutions of higher education – between idea, draft and realization” at <http://www.zfhe.at> and on the SHAPE RC Portal.

## Questions?

For questions regarding content, please contact Doris Carstensen ([carstensen@hochschulberatung.at](mailto:carstensen@hochschulberatung.at)) and Alexander Damianisch ([alexander.damianisch@uni-ak.ac.at](mailto:alexander.damianisch@uni-ak.ac.at)). For technical and organizational questions please contact Michael Raunig ([office@zfhe.at](mailto:office@zfhe.at)).

## We look forward to your submissions!

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