OPEN CALL
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LEARN

LEARNs (Learning Environment and Research Nucleus) are collaborative, self-organised research projects supported by SoC for the initial duration of ten months. They are collaborative units consisting of at least three members, and have the agency to decide what topics, methods, styles, content, and outcomes they want to put their energy towards. LEARNs are process-oriented and do not necessarily work towards a predetermined outcome. LEARN group members determine together how they mediate their work publicly.

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Open Call for LEARNs

This is an open call for six 10-month long research projects within LEARN, one of three labs at School of Commons (SoC). Our LEARN programme revolves around collaborative and self-directed research projects which are supported by SoC for the initial duration of 10 months. LEARNs form an essential part of SoC, as the lab in which peer learning, collaboration, and a non-hierarchical structure of knowledge production is practiced in a very pragmatic manner. Each LEARN consists of a minimum of 3 persons. One member of each LEARN has to be enrolled at ZHdK (it is possible to pair up with a person enrolled at ZHdK at a later stage, SoC can help find someone suitable. It is however imperative that this happens within the first 2 months of the project). Together, they work on a topic of their choice, in a manner of their choice.

Because LEARNs are self-organised, they also come with responsibility; each participant is responsible for their own learning process, as well as that of one another. LEARNs must take care of their own needs, thereby seeking out the sources, guest tutors, methods, and collaborators they need (with the support of SoC). We consider the participants of each LEARN to be experts within their own research. We invite LEARN participants to try out experimental ways of working, and to not necessarily work towards a predetermined outcome. We encourage applications from people with underrepresented backgrounds, including (but not limited to) BAME, female, first-gen, and LGBTQIA+ persons as well as persons with disabilities.

What We Offer

For 2021, we would like to host six LEARNs for a period of 10 months. Below is the listed the key information:

o   Six 10-month places (1st April 2021 – 31st January 2022)
o   Compensation: CHF 4000.- (50% of which may to go salaries, the other 50% are meant for material costs, fees for invited guests, travel, and other expenses)
o   Estimated effort: 3-5 days per month
o   A supportive environment, frequent exchange with peers, openness to experiment, and the opportunity to share your work with a wider audience
o   Self-determination of working hours/effort and content

Aims

With our LEARN programme, we hope to develop an environment in which experimental and interdisciplinary forms of knowledge production are fostered and developed. We intend to create a space in which practices of collaborative learning and commoning are central. Successful applicants demonstrate clearly how they will contribute to this endeavour by expressing the ways in which they plan to engage with the wider SoC community, as well as the ways in which they plan to work collaboratively. Successful proposals (i) present well-articulated, specific information about aims, methods, and expectations of the project, and (ii) they are sufficiently narrow in scope in order to be successfully completed with the resources available.

Tasks

The main task of our LEARNs is to carry out self-directed, collaborative research, and to contribute to the SoC programme by regularly mediating your research process in (online) public events, either within SoC or to a wider audience. Additionally, all LEARNs are expected to form an active part within the SoC community. In particular, we would like you to do the following tasks:

o **Research** **(1)** Define a basic prompt, question, approach, viewpoint etc. within a research topic of your choice that befits your personal interest and practice. **(2)** Carry out your research collaboratively and according to your own methods; beyond your LEARN-group, you may work together with other participants at SoC, people from SoC's broader network, or collaborators of your choosing. **(3)** Your work should be accessible to a wider audience, through public and/or online mediation.

o **Mediation** LEARNs are expected to regularly share their process within the SoC community as well as with a wider audience. LEARNs are free to define the frequency and format of this mediation, however the minimum requirements are the following: **(1)** One work-in-progress session. **(2)** One self-organised public mediation of your LEARN, which can take any form you wish (i.e. presentation, exhibition, publication, webinar, dance party, movement class, game, etc.). **(3)** Three contributions to our online archive of Ways and Workings. **(4)** Participate in the SoC end-of-year event.

o **Commoning** In order to foster a regular dialogue between the different participants, and to create a commons in which knowledge and experiences are shared, we expect our LEARNs to actively engage in SoC-related activities, and to be pro-active about contributing to the programme through their own work and research. Specifically, this involves the following: **(1)** Full participation during the 3 key gatherings, scheduled for: April 3 - 5 2021; September 16 - 19 2021; and attending the end of year event, exact dates TBD (between Dec 2021 - Jan 2022). **(2)** One introductory project presentation during the first 3 months. **(3)** Participation in organizational group meetings. **(4)** Active support and presence during events and gatherings organized within SoC.

For more information on School of Commons, our previous projects, and our LEARN programme visit www.schoolofcommons.org.

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Formal Requirements
o   No CV's, no biography, no formal educational requirements
o   A LEARN has to consist of three or more members
o   At least one of the LEARN members has to be currently enrolled at ZHdK
o   Applicants may only apply to one of our labs at a time
o   Applications must be submitted either in English or German

How to Apply
o   Deadline: January 15th, 2021, 11.59 p.m. CET
o   Fill in the application form via: https://forms.gle/X7cuK21HVXA5PF2R7
o   Please submit your application anonymously, thereby omitting as much personal information as possible.

Application Requirements
Please submit a proposal of **maximum 600 words**, consisting of:
(1) Working title of your project.
(2) Present and explain your topic and research interest and point out one or two tentative questions or theses.
(3) Explain how you imagine to go about your research practically and collaboratively, and in what ways you would share the process and outcome of your work with the members of SoC and the public.

You will not need to do exactly what you described in your proposal. However, it is key that we get an understanding of what your participation would entail.

Please submit a short motivation of **maximum 300 words**, consisting of:
(1) A brief description of why you want to do this project within the framework of SoC
(2) How you think/hope that SoC can benefit your practice and/or project
(3) What does the collaboration with other participants mean to you?

Please submit a **brief budget overview**, in which you outline how you expect to spend the budget for your project. (Compensation: CHF 4000 (50% of which may go to salaries, the other 50% are meant for material costs, fees for invited guests, travel, publications, and other expenses). **Applications exceeding the maximum word count will not be taken into consideration.**

Selection
Selection is made by the SoC team and a group of peer reviewers who are currently participants at SoC. Selection is based upon completeness of submitted materials, feasibility of the project, and how well the project connects to the aims and research areas of SoC. You will be notified with the results of the selection within six weeks after the application deadline.

Please keep an eye on your spam folder, as our emails tend to end up there. For any questions, please get in touch via: apply@schoolofcommons.org. We're looking forward to receiving your applications!