

SCHOOL OF  
COMMONS

OPEN CALL

# MAPP

MAPP (Methods, Affects, & Practical Pedagogies) is one of three 'labs' at School of Commons (SoC). Centred around hands-on practices of learning, MAPP offers space to the research, development, and implementation of alternative education within a small, supportive community. MAPPs are intended for individuals and collectives who have a practicing interest in the field of experimental pedagogy and iterations of commoning. MAPP proposes a (re-)mapping of the broad scope and complex layers of entangled knowledge, leading to new cartographies of education. Through self-conducted research, the creation of practical exercises and work sessions, and collaboration with other SoC labs, MAPP aims to produce practicable tools, methods, and prompts in support of different forms of living, learning, and working together.

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## Open Call for MAPPs

This is an open call for four 10-month pedagogical research projects at MAPP, a practice-producing lab at School of Commons (SoC). MAPP is directed at practice-based research into different forms of knowledge production and its translation into workable structures, exercises, and methods for learning. MAPP aims to experiment with and develop practical tools for collaborative & peer learning, educational environments & encounters, and different forms of knowledge production, educational models, and commoning. We'd like to invite individuals and collectives with a practicing interest in alternative education to dive deeper into their research and develop experimental pedagogies within the framework of SoC. MAPP is less about theoretical research, and more about 'learning by doing.' The emphasis lies on practical experiment and collective engagement. As such, we are looking for doers and makers, persons with a pro-active attitude that are able to lead a group of learners and devise creative pedagogical experiments. 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 four MAPPs for a period of 10 months. MAPPs are decentral, that is, participants can work from wherever they want. However, we would welcome participants to come for an optional short-term residency in Zürich at any given point during the programme (this must be covered from the project budget). Key information:

- o Four 10-month research positions (1st April 2021 – 31st January 2022)
- o Compensation: CHF 2500 (including salary, material costs, all expenses)
- o Estimated effort: 2-3 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 MAPP, we hope to uncover and develop different forms of learning and working together through practical and experimental research. We aim to establish an ever-expanding open-source archive of tools, methods, models and prompts that relate to knowledge production, collaborative learning, and the SoCial commons, that could be implemented in a variety of learning environments. Successful applicants must demonstrate how they will contribute to this endeavour by giving clear examples of the methods and practices they aim to develop at MAPP. 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.

For more information on School of Commons, our previous projects, and our MAPP programme visit [www.schoolofcommons.org](http://www.schoolofcommons.org).

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## Tasks

MAPPs are tasked with the research, development, and implementation of alternative learning practices within the framework of SoC (and in relation to the work of other participants). Since time and resources are limited, we don't need you to produce 'original research' and we suggest that you build your practice on work you have already been conducting apart from SoC. In particular, we would like you to do the following tasks:

- o **Personal research** **(1)** Define a basic prompt, question, approach, viewpoint etc. within the suggested topic that befits your personal interest and practice. **(2)** Carry out your research in practice; you may work together with other participants at SoC, people from SoC's broader network, or a peer group of your choosing to facilitate your research. **(3)** Your work should be accessible to a wider audience, through public and/or online mediation.
- o **Practice** The aim of MAPP is to develop practicable methods, tools, and environments for collaborative learning and commoning. Each MAPP is asked to facilitate **4 work sessions in which they apply their research into practice with a group of participants**. These work sessions may be experimental and can form a series if applicable. The format, duration, and location of the work sessions may be decided by you, however at least one work session must be accessible to other members of the SoC community. We also ask you to find ways to thoroughly document the sessions in a form of your choosing.
- o **Mapping** Additionally, each MAPP is expected to contribute to our online living archive with a minimum of 3 practicable methods, tools, prompts, exercises or other practices that are in support of alternative forms of knowledge production. Each contribution functions as an expansion of SoC's educational cartography, which is openly accessible. We would also like to invite you to mediate your research in a form of your choosing during the SoC end-of-year presentation.
- 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 MAPPs 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.

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## Formal Requirements

- o No CV's, no biography, no formal educational requirements
- o We accept applications of individuals as well as duos/collectives
- 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 Please read our MAPP online info sheet carefully before applying
- o Fill in the application form via: <https://forms.gle/LtTqy2rkkYYAmjgi6>
- 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 translate your research into practice, and in what ways you would share these practices in 4 work sessions. Tell us more about how you imagine the work sessions in a practical sense (i.e. form, duration, location, accessibility, etc.).
- (4) Explain shortly how you will make use of previous work conducted and, if available, previous teaching/commoning experiences.

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) In what ways you hope to be able to contribute to SoC's programme

Please submit a **brief budget overview**, in which you outline how you expect to spend the budget for your project. **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](mailto:apply@schoolofcommons.org). We're looking forward to receiving your applications!