

SCHOOL OF
COMMONS

OPEN CALL

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READ

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READ (Research Ecologies & Archival Development) is one of three 'labs' at School of Commons (SoC). READ develops, presents and collects theory within the broader field of knowledge production. READ assembles two kinds of participants; 'editors' and 'mediators'. While editors produce a number of texts, mediators pursue a research project to be published in a series of online mediations. Additionally along with other members of the SoC, participants jointly develop a series of roundtables. The roundtables connect READ-research with that of other SoC labs and host discussions on issues within the field of knowledge production. They will culminate in a public discussion at the end of the year.

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Open Call for READs

This is an open call for six 10-month places at READ, a theory-producing lab at School of Commons (SoC). We'd like to invite individuals with a strong interest into theoretical groundwork on one of the subject areas covered by SoC. We are looking for individuals that are attracted to critical, analytical thinking on complex issues and talented in expressing abstract argumentation in an approachable way. While you don't need a background in any specific discipline or a certain level of education, you should be able to conduct and present your work with rigour, clarity, and expertise. Moreover, you are keen on rethinking your own ideas, putting them to critical debate, and work closely together with your peers at READ. 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 READs for a period of 10 months. We have two positions within READ: mediators and editors (more info on this below). READs are decental, that is, participants can work from wherever they want. Key information:

- o Six 10-month research positions (2 mediators, 4 editors) from 1st April – 31st January 2022. READs can be conducted from anywhere.
- o Compensation: CHF 2500.- for mediators, CHF 1000.- for editors
- o Estimated effort: 2 - 3 days per month (mediators) 1-2 days per month (editors)
- 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

While the intellectual resources of READ are broad, our focus is specific: We aim to understand how ways of organizing (SoCially, materially, and intellectually) the production and distribution of knowledge are related to ways of organizing SoCietly (SoCial relations, institutions, values). Successful applicants demonstrate clearly how they will contribute to this endeavour by presenting interesting theses and promising ways to support them by the examination of tangible, relevant research objects, case studies, and/or research questions. 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 READ programme visit www.schoolofcommons.org.

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Tasks Mediators

In 2021 we will host two mediators for a period of 10 Months. We expect mediators to pursue and mediate a research project and jointly facilitate a discourse about it in relation to the work of other participants of School of Commons. Since time and resources are limited, we don't need you to contribute 'original research' (or live up to other standards required by academic journals) and we suggest that you build your project on work you have already been conducting apart from the SoC. In particular, we would like you to complete the following tasks:

- o **Personal research (1)** Define a basic topic, question, approach, viewpoint etc. within your field of research on which you would like to follow-up on. **(2)** Make sure that it can be examined and mediated to a wide public audience within the time being. **(3)** Your work should be easy to comprehend and passionate in thought. You care about stuff. Tell us what it is.
- o **Mediation** Create a mediation of your topic/work structured in 6 subsequent 'mediation units' published on our website. You guide your audience from an introductory insight into your field to the specific issues of your own work. These units can be commentaries of texts you read or discussions of thoughts underpinning your argumentation. Ideally, they share insight over key readings in your field as well as your own previous work, leading to the specific interest you pursue with your fellowship. They can be on the basis of text, video, illustration, etc. You are invited to experiment with non-classical forms of teaching.
- o **Discussion** We would like you to build a group with the other participants of READ, further SoC participants, and guests of your choosing to facilitate a discourse about your work and field of research. There are minimally 6 sessions and one public discussion in late November 2020.
- o **Peer Review** Provide meaningful, productive and goal-oriented feedback on the drafts of one other editor before they get published and submit your own contributions to the review of one of your co-editors.
- o **Commoning** Lastly, READ members are expected to participate in the communal events organised by the SoC team and/or their peers, 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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Tasks Editors

READ will host 4 editors in 2021 to publish one or a number of theoretical examinations into a topic related to the field of self-organized knowledge. These can be essays, interviews, or manifestos – what matters is that there is a question or thesis which is clearly pursued and reflected on in the material you present. With the editors, we lay a focus on theoretical writing. The editors present a concise thesis developed along an independent idea; argument; question; instruction; declaration etc. It is presented in an accessible manner to a wider audience and provides a meaningful contribution to the theoretical discourse about knowledge production at SoC. The editors are invited to join a collaborative venture side by side with the mediators. We would like you to complete the following tasks

- o **Publication** Produce one or more texts of a total minimum of 4000 words, published on our website.
- o **Discussion** We would like you to build a group with the other participants of READ, further SoC participants, and guests of your choosing to facilitate a discourse about your work and field of research. There are minimally 6 sessions and one public discussion at the end-of the year conference of SoC in late November 2020.
- o **Peer Review** Provide meaningful, productive and goal-oriented feedback on the drafts of one other editor before they get published and submit your own contributions to the review of one of your co-editors.
- o **Commoning** Lastly, READ members are expected to participate in the communal events organised by the SoC team and/or their peers, 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 for READ

- o No CV's, no biography, no formal educational requirements
- o We accept applications from individuals only
- 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/G3JbWbx8WTK4FZqz6>
- o Please submit your application anonymously, thereby omitting as much personal information as possible.

Application Requirements Mediators

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. Explain why you believe this topic is worthwhile to pursue within the context of READ.
- (3) Explain how you would mediate your research throughout 4-6 units from an intro into your subject up to your own personal thesis/ question/ approach.
- (4) Explain shortly how you will make use of previous work conducted and, if available, previous mediation experiences.
- (5) Pitch a topic/question/claim for a roundtable in 1 sentence.

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.**

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Application Requirements Editors

Please submit a proposal of **maximum 400 words**, consisting of:

- (1) Working title of your project.
- (2) Point out a specific issue that you will address with your contributions and state a provisional thesis in response to this issue. Explain why you believe this issue is worthwhile to pursue within the context of READ.
- (3) Highlight how you expect to present your contribution: amount of individual contributions, medium (e.g. text and pictures), and anticipated extent (e.g. 4000 words).
- (4) Pitch a topic/question/claim for a roundtable in 1 sentence.

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
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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. We're looking forward to receiving your applications!