Art and Digital Capital

Veranstalter Hochschule der Künste Bern

Veranstaltungsort Hochschule der Künste Bern

Termin 07.05.2020 - 08.05.2020 ganztags

Interdisciplinary Conference on 7-8 May 2020 at Bern University of the Arts HKB

There is more and more debate at art universities about the relationship between digital and analogue working methods, how to deal with net-based systems, and about the increasing pressure either to use programs that are in a state of constant change or to be able to program yourself. These tendencies are linked to socio-technological developments that are often described as "digital transformation", and which affect the whole education system. It thus seems astonishing that there is little knowledge about the digital skills of students and about the requirements on the part of the art universities. Just how are "digital practices" employed at art universities? How are they actually required, supported and promoted? What is regarded as good, what is criticised, and what criteria are employed to make these decisions? What does this mean for the career paths of each individual? And lastly: what artistic works are made possible in the context of these developments?

The conference is based on the results of the research project "Digital capital in action: on the transformation of digital practices at universities of the arts". Starting from a very open concept of the "digital", the project entailed making ethnographic observations and carrying out qualitative interviews and focus group conversations. We investigated the experiences of students with the digital, asking them how the utilisation of digital practices was monitored and evaluated by their university. In this manner we were able to gain knowledge about the modes of action and the circulation of "digital capital" – a concept that implies an extension of Bourdieu's social theory (1982, 1985).

The following focus topics will be at the core of the planned conference:

- Digital habitus: How do digital activities and possibilities change working methods and ways of thinking in the arts? What abilities and what "capital" do students possess? What (digital) topics interest them, and how is approval or criticism of digitalisation expressed in artistic and design work?
- The digital university landscape: How are digitalisation or discourses about it changing working processes at art universities? What is the significance in this of time and spatial factors? What offerings (devices, programmes, courses) do or don't, should or shouldn't help to make the life of students easier? How are curricula structured, and how are they being reformed? What do new forms of collaboration or new task distributions look like?
- Shifting (digital) job profiles in the arts: If everyone today has to have a web presence, an Instagram account or at least be active on Facebook, what are the consequences for the self-depiction and time management of art students/future artists? When and how should they engage in all this, and does the digital transformation alter the artistic profiles in their field? What career paths are made possible as a result?

Concept and organisation: Priska Gisler, Anna Hipp, Laura Hadorn, Priska Ryffel, HKB – Institute for the practices and theories of art, in collaboration with the Design and Art Division.

More on:
https://www.hkb.bfh.ch/de/forschung/referenzprojekte/digitales-kapital-im-einsatz/

Further Information (LINK)