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Out of the Box: Creativity in Research

An event of the VISESS “Big Picture” series

Tuesday, 28 May 2024, 16:45 (CEST)

Lecture Hall 2, UZA II, Floor 1, 2A122 & Online

VISESS

out of the box

creativity in research





Abstract & Programme



Big Picture Event "Out of the Box: Creativity in Research"

In cooperation with the Meteorological–Geophysical Colloquium at the University of Vienna



Tuesday, 28 May 2024, 16:45 (CEST)

Lecture Hall 2, UZA II, Floor 1, 2A122 & Online

When conducting scientific research, there are many ways to go about it – but are there ways that can combine our **academic interests** with **other passions or hobbies**? What benefits can we gain from this as researchers? Can this also influence us on a more personal level? These are the questions that we look to answer in this event, as well as to encourage students (and even senior researchers) to **think outside of the box**, to explore more **unconventional tools or methods** to look at (and share) their work, and to bring even more joy into their research.

We will start with a video montage showing examples of how people from different fields and different places in the world achieve this. Then, our invited speakers, **Matthew Pelowski** and **Ulrike Kuchner**, will explore different aspects of creativity in research and its advantages, followed by a panel discussion. Finally, participants are welcome to join a workshop conducted by **Daniela Brill Estrada**, where they will be able to do a hands-on activity to think about and showcase their own research using mixed media (painting, poetry, clay sculpting). The works will be displayed at the FGGA Talks & Barbecue 2024.

16:45–18:15



Talks and discussion

16:45–16:55

General introduction

16:55–17:05

Cases of creativity (video montage)

17:05–17:20

Extraordinary tools: a (brief) discussion of the multifaceted impact and importance of arts
(*Matthew Pelowski, University of Vienna*)

17:20–17:40

ArtScience: Creativity in research through art-science integration (*Ulrike Kuchner, University of Nottingham*)

17:40–18:00

Q&A and discussion

18:00–18:15

Get-together with snacks and drinks

18:15–20:00



Workshop (*Daniela Brill Estrada, Johannes Kepler University Linz*) (in person only)

Speakers

Matthew Pelowski, PhD



- ★ Assistant Professor of Cognitive and Neuroaesthetics (Faculty of Psychology, University of Vienna, with a dual affiliation in the Vienna Cognitive Science Hub)
- ★ Head of the ARTIS Lab (Art Research on Transformation of Individuals and Society)
- ★ Coordinator for an EU-Horizon 2020 Consortium project TRANSFORMATIONS: [Societal challenges and the arts](#), with a specific focus on the efficacy of arts-based initiatives for changing attitudes, behaviours, and health
- ★ Started an initiative “Unlocking the Muse: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Understanding and Applying the Intersection of Artistic Creativity and Parkinson’s disease”

Ulrike Kuchner, PhD, MFA



- ★ UK-based artist, astrophysicist, curator, and interdisciplinary researcher
- ★ Investigates how galaxies form and evolve as part of larger structures in the Universe
- ★ Facilitates and researches ArtScience collaborations
- ★ Co-founded the ARTlab Nottingham for artists-in-residence integrated in scientific research
- ★ Co-coordinates the international transdisciplinary SEADS (Space Ecologies Art and Design) collective that is known for its community-based and boundary-pushing artworks

Facilitator

Daniela Brill Estrada







- ★ Artist and researcher from Bogotá, living and working in Vienna
- ★ Daniela's creative process is nourished by her interest in complexity sciences, aesthetics, and non-hierarchical structures of knowledge
- ★ Currently focused on the origin of life research, astrobiology, and the physics of life
- ★ Uses matter that mutates, changes, and interacts, to question Western taxonomies and categories, particularly that of life-non-life

Organizational team of PhD students of the VISESS







Kamila Faizieva

-  Second-year PhD student
-  Earth Branch
-  Ecology of recent benthic foraminifera from the Arctic
-  Applies digital illustrations for the research







Stefanie Reiter

-  Second-year PhD student
-  Cosmos Branch
-  Stellar orbit dynamics for extragalactic archaeology
-  Draws space objects as a hobby







Paulina Mejías Osorio

-  Second-year PhD student
-  Earth Branch
-  Geomorphology and sedimentology of modern glacial forefields
-  Uses mapping tools in the work







Paula Granero Ordóñez

-  Third-year PhD student
-  Earth Branch
-  Upper Cretaceous calcareous nannofossil
-  Integrates digital art in the research



Qilei Huang

-  Second-year PhD student
-  Anthroposphere Branch
-  Crime perception gap in urban environment
-  Enjoys urban sketching as a hobby



Sarah Haghjoo





-  Fourth-year PhD student
-  Earth Branch
-  Zeolitized modified coal fly ash for water treatment
-  Utilises modelling and graphical tools for the thesis



Photo: Sebastian Voltmer (www.weltraum.com | Insta: @sebastianvoltmer)

THE BIG PICTURE @VISESS

The Big Picture talk series is organized by VISESS, the “Vienna International School of Earth and Space Sciences”, which is offering an internationally oriented training to current and future doctoral students at the Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy of the University of Vienna. As humanity is facing grand challenges such as climate change or resource depletion, this doctoral school is addressing these challenges through inter- and transdisciplinary academic research connecting the cosmos with planet Earth, its environment and the anthroposphere. With the Big Picture Talks organized by VISESS-students, the doctoral school aims to present current topics of scientific and societal interest to the public.