

ACTIVIST RESEARCH METHODS



EXTRACURRICULAR KNOWLEDGES
FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

WITH ISABEL GUTIERREZ SANCHEZ

Open Call for Participants

Extitutional Knowledges for Ecosocial Transformation

A series of research co-creation workshops with Isabel Gutierrez Sanchez

Workshop 2: Activist Research Methods

How can we produce knowledge(s) out of lived experiences of exploitation and oppression but also of collective resistance and struggle?

How can we make these knowledge(s) work towards social and ecological transformation?

How can we overcome the extractivist, productivist and individualist logics that pervade the structures and modes of knowledge production in the West?

How can we expand these "other-knowledges" and merge them with practice?

These are vital questions concerning many contemporary movements, which we will explore in this workshop series.

Paul B. Preciado claims that we are going through an epistemological, political and technological transition, which for the first time in history is taking place on a planetary scale. He signals the Covid-19 pandemic as the beginning of the end of what Mark Fisher called "capitalist realism" (Fisher 2009), namely a time when it was impossible to imagine anything else beyond the semiotic frameworks of capitalism. *Dysphoria Mundi* (Preciado 2022) designates this current state of the contemporary world, that is, a world at war between the capitalist-patriarchal-colonial regime – in decay yet still fighting to reinstate renewed systems of extraction, dispossession and control – and a new one stemming from myriad practices of disidentification, disobedience, de-construction of binaries and re-imagination – seeking to put in practice alternatives at the service of life.

The project *Extitutional Knowledges for Eco-Social Transformation* seeks to investigate how grassroots and other extitutional instances that operate within and across the intersecting worlds of activism, culture, and academia address and grapple with these questions. It intends to understand and reflect jointly with partakers on how we experiment simultaneously with modes of knowledge production, theory and collective action, the type of knowledges that we generate and share (critical, organisational, strategic, technical, practical, reproductive, creative, etc.), the methods and technologies we use and create, the narratives and imaginaries we draw upon and feed in.

Comprising this project there will be a series of workshops on the topics of: a) collective care in movements and organisations; b) activist research methods;

and c) living archives of movements and struggles. This Open Call for participants is addressed to collectives and individuals who feel interpellated by the questions above, and who would like to explore them collectively in a space committed to creating non-extractive, horizontal relationships.

This Open Call is for the second workshop: Activist Research Methods, which is a 4-session workshop that will engage with research methods linked to collective action used by movements and militant organisations, and explore how those could be used in or reworked for our situated contexts. We will engage with the workers inquiry, (feminist) cartographies and drifts, and tool-kits. Each session will combine collective readings, discussion of historical and contemporary examples, and practical exercises.

This workshop is addressed to 12 individuals interested in these questions. Experience in collective contexts (whether activist groups, independent collectives or organisations), as well as in social movements research is welcome but not required. The workshop will include a series of one-to-one interviews, which will intend to better understand and document the learnings generated.

Commitment to the creation of horizontal relationships is central to this project and aligns with [FAC's code of contact](#), which you are asked to read prior to expressing interest in the workshop.

Workshop objectives:

- Create a space of alliance and collaboration through a semi-structured research-learning process
- Share and learn about grassroots and activist initiatives in Athens
- Co-produce meaningful knowledge based on the articulation of personal experiences and embodied knowledge(s) with collectively worked-through readings
- Try out different research methods relevant to existing initiatives/groups in the city
- Share the learnings

Language: The language of the workshop will be in English. Peer to peer support in translation will allow for alternating two or more languages.

Dates and hours: Mondays 6–8.30pm; 4 March, 11 March, 18 March and 27 March (a Wednesday) 2024.

Location: FAC Research, Ag. Panteleimonos 7b, 10446 Athens

Cost: There are no tuition fees. Participants are encouraged to [support FAC by becoming a member](#).

To submit an expression of interest, please email the following to isa_gs86@hotmail.com

- Your full name
- A short description of yourself (200-250 words) in relation to the theme of the workshop
- A 250-300 words paragraph or short audio (2 mins) with a personal reflection, question or concern about research within movements and grassroots initiatives

Call for expressions of interest closes on 29 February 2024.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email the workshop facilitator [Isabel Gutierrez Sanchez](#).

About Isabel Gutierrez Sanchez (she/her). Isabel is a researcher and educator with a background in architecture, anthropology and urban sociology. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Spanish National Research Council and a visiting researcher at FAC. Her research work situates mainly across the fields of urban anthropology, critical geography and feminist political theory. Overall in her work, she is interested in practices, imaginaries and spaces of life in common and collective care within contemporary urban contexts marked by widespread processes of neoliberalisation and crisis. She is part of the Athens-based ecofeminist collective [Mouries](#).

References

Preciado B.P (2022) *Dysphoria Mundi*. Barcelona: Anagrama

Fisher M (2009) *Capitalist Realism: Is There No Alternative?* London: Zero Books