



Vibrant Ecologies of Research

Reading Club Meeting 1

A meeting to discuss insights from and experiences with reading Vibrant Ecologies of Research.

Vibrant Ecologies of Research is the first special collection on Ground Works, a2ru's online platform for arts-integrated research. Through peer-reviewed projects and invited commentaries, it explores the ecologies where arts-based inquiry thrives in conversation with social and scientific research.

TIME:

60-75 minutes

PLACE:

Remotely via videoconference, or in person.

If in person, agree on COVID protocols ahead of time (indoors or outdoors? masks required?).

Either way, we recommend including snacks and drinks, as appropriate!

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL MEETING:

- Start and end on time.
- Whether your club members have never met or are long-time colleagues, start with some getting-to-know-you time. What are your current passions? What are you busy with these days?
- Be an active listener and engage in dialogue, rather than a monologue. Agree to self-monitor your speaking time.
- Practice respect.
- Use the prompts below as a starting point, but let the interests and insights of your club determine the direction of your conversation.

SUGGESTED READING FOR THIS MEETING:

Projects:

- ASKXXI: Ecologies of Interdisciplinary Research and Practice in Art & Science and Technology
- Fresh Press Agri-Fiber Paper Lab
- In a Time of Change: A Nested Ecosystem of Environmental Arts, Humanities, and Science Collaboration

Commentary:

- Ecologies of Transdisciplinary Research

DISCUSSION PROMPTS:

- What stands out to you about these projects and commentaries? What captured your attention immediately, or stuck with you later?
- The authors of the commentary “Ecologies of Transdisciplinary Research” identify transdisciplinary research as the best hope for addressing urgent global crises, and discuss challenges to such research.
 - How are today’s three projects in conversation with pressing global issues? Alternatively, how do they defy problem/solution frameworks?
 - How do the challenges each project faces align (or not) with the challenges identified in the commentary? How are these projects’ challenges a function of the respective systems in which they operate (their research ecologies)?
- Collaboration across disciplines shows up differently in each of today’s readings—different goals, different timescales, different logistics, and more. How are these collaboration differences related to their respective research ecologies? Pick one of these models of collaborations to defend as “best” for a research ecology.
- Consider the prevalence of “ecology” in these entries. How is ecology conceptualized differently across the entries? How do these conceptualizations of ecology have differing implications for thought and for action?