This three-day symposium Curriculum Comedy at the Department of Architecture takes the form of a play and sets the stage for conversations about the architecture curriculum. We ask, how do we learn and work together? What are the sources of our Canon, and who does it take into account? What knowledge and experiences are we missing? Three acts with lectures, workshops, and round tables deal with the learning/unlearning of gender norms and unreflected biases in architecture; work cultures and well-being; and equitable pedagogy in humorous and serious ways. The symposium is a collaboration with the Parity Jour Fixe.

Curriculum Comedy is organized by Meike Schalk (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm/Anna Boyksen Fellow at TUM-Institute for Advanced Study) together with SOFT – School of Transformation (TUM). It is financed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Free State of Bavaria under the Excellence Strategy of the Federal Government and the Länder, as well as by the Technical University of Munich – Institute for Advanced Study, and by the Diversity Office of TUM School of Engineering and Design.
Characters

Camilla Andersson is a PhD candidate at Aalto University and a researcher at KTH. Her research focuses on the spectrum of norm-critical design and speculative design with a special interest in questions of power relations in gender and sustainability discourses. Camilla conducts Research through Design and produces physical and digital speculative things. These discursive things have been developed and are used both in organizational settings as well as in exhibitions and workshops. Camilla holds an MA in Architecture (KTH, Stockholm).

Benedict Bouscin holds the professorship for Urban Design at the TUM. He received his doctorate from 2005 to 2008 at the Institute for History and Theory of Architecture of the ETH on the ‘Grey Architecture’ of the post-war period. From 2007 to 2017 he researched and taught at the ETH Zurich. In 2007 he founded BHSF Architects in Zurich with Axel Humpert and Tim Seidel (since 2020 also in Munich). Together with them and Jeanette Beck he edited the magazine Cameraworld from 2005-2018.

Kathrin Dörfler is an architect, researcher, and educator in computational design and robotic fabrication. In 2019, Kathrin joined the School of Engineering and Design at the Technical University of Munich as a Tenure Track Professor. In 2018 she was awarded the Professorship for Digital Fabrication in Architecture. The research interests of her group are focused on collaborative fabrication processes, on-site robotics, and fabrication-aware design.

Matthias Faul studied architecture at the TU Kaiserslautern. His diploma thesis was awarded the Helmut-Herfurth Prize. Since 2015 he works for Goetz Castorph Architekten und Stadtplaner GmbH in Munich. He is a member of the Austrian Chamber of Architects and was previously assistant to Matthias Castorph’s guest professorship. He teaches the bachelor studio at the professorship of Urban Design.

Elif Simge Fettahoğlu Özer is an architect, urban designer and researcher. She took up her assistant curatorship at Istanbul 1910-2010 City, Built Environment and Architectural Culture Exhibition in 2010. At Tabanlıoğlu Architects, she has been involved in international exhibitions, installations and publications including Port City Talks Istanbul-Antwerp (MAS Museum, Antwerp, 2015), Beloved (London Design Biennale 2016, Victoria and Albert Museum, London), Stage 6: Translocal (Architekturgalerie München | Architektur Galerie Berlin, 2018). Since 2018, she is a research assistant at TUM, professorship of Urban Design. She is currently a PhD Candidate at Istanbul TU with her dissertation, ‘Tracing Territories: A Cartographic Timeline of Northern Istanbul’.

Doris Hallamia is an architect, artist, historian, freelance curator, and research associate at the TUM Chair for Theory and History of Architecture, Art and Design. She has taught at the University of Innsbruck, and was a research fellow in the SNI Research Training Group ‘Art & Science’ at the University of Bern. Her research focuses on architectural landscape and building culture in the context of (image) knowledge and technology history. Her doctoral dissertation (2022) addresses the spatial and image production of alpine landscapes in the context of natural hazards and safety discourses.

Anna Keune is Assistant Professor of Learning Sciences and Educational Design Technologies at the TUM School of Social Sciences and Technology, Department of Educational Sciences and Chair for Advanced Education (TUMAIES). Situated at the intersection of learning sciences and design scholarship, Anna’s research focuses on advancing the understanding of how materials can foster STEM domain understanding for all students, transform what counts as STEM participation, and widen who participates. Guided by constructivist and posthumanist theorizations of design, Anna investigates participatory design approaches to design. Anna investigates creative design technologies in school and out-of-school settings to advance understanding in materiality of STEM learning and gender equity in STEM.

Uta Leconte is a cultural theorist, researcher, and editor. Her work focuses on architecture as a cultural practice in processes of globalization, transformation, and instabilities since the 1970s. In 2017 she moved to TU Munich, she is engaged with equity and interdisciplinarity in architectural education and the transformative agency of architectural pedagogies. She was recently awarded a master degree with her work on ‘World Trade Centres’. Repercussions of the Twin Towers at TU Munich and holds a master degree in German literature studies, comparative studies and theater studies.

Torsten Lange is a lecturer in cultural and architectural history at Lucrezia University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU). His research focuses on modern and contemporary architecture with a special interest focuses on the relationships between the built environment and gendered bodies. His publications include, the special edition of the European Architectural Network (EAN) open-access journal Architectural Histories, ‘Architectural Historiography and Fourth Wave Feminism’ (with Lucía C. Pérez-Moreno), and archiblue reader: Critical Positions in Search of Postmodernism 1971–1976, as well as a paper Papers no.7 ‘Care and Architecture’ (both with Gabrielle Schwarz).

Anna-Maria Meister holds the professorship in Architecture Theory and Design at TUM Munich. She is a historian, theorist and architect working at the intersection of architecture’s history with architectural practice and critique on the one hand and with the histories of science and technology on the other. Her writing has been published widely, i.e., in Harvard Design Magazine, Volume, Uncube, Bauwelt, Arch. The international collaborative project ‘Radical Pedagogies’ that Meister co-curated and co-edits was featured at the Lisbon Triennale 2013 and the 14th Venice Architecture Biennale 2014, where it received a Special Mention. Her first monographic book, ‘Radical Pedagogies’, co-edited with Beatriz Colombo, Ignacio G. Gallán, and Evangelos Karalis was published in 2022 with MIT Press.

Mark Michaeli is professor in Sustainable Urbanism, and the Dean of Studies at the Department of Architecture at TUM. His work focuses on transformation processes in settlement structures of urban, rural and peripheral areas, as well as on instruments of sustainable urban and regional planning. He develops digital methods of structural assessment and model projection in spatial observation and builds a bridge between teaching, research and practice with ‘design laboratories’. At TUM, he initiated the interdisciplinary networks mobility@tum and TUMstadt. He has been involved in numerous international projects. He is active internationally as a scientific advisor and reviewer and as scientific secretary of the Academy for Rural Areas (ALR).


Meike Schalk is Associate Professor in Urban Design and Urban Theory at KTH School of Architecture in Stockholm. Currently, she holds an Anna Bovensiek Fellowship from TUM Institute for Advanced Study that addresses issues of gender equality, diversity, and inclusion. In this, she collaborates with the Chair Board at TUM School of Engineering and Design, and the architecture student initiative SOFT School of Transformation. In winter 2021, Meike co-organized the first workshop on Curriculum Change together with Josiane Schmidt, which has inspired this symposium.

Josiane Schmidt is a Master student of Architecture at ETH Zurich. She holds a Bachelor degree of architecture from TU Munich and TU Delft and has collaborated with numerous institutions in Berlin. From 2018 to 2020, she has been closely involved with the Parity Board as well as the International Parity Front, collectively organizing numerous events and initiatives like the Party Talk ‘What’s good? at ETHZ as well as the travelling exhibition Women in Architecture which debuted at the WA in Berlin. One year ago, she organized the workshop ‘Curriculum Change together with Meike Schalk. For the duration of her master’s degree she was awarded the ESOP scholarship from ETH Zurich.

Sandra Schuster is managing director of the TUM wood Group and research coordinator at the chair of Architecture and Timber Construction at TUM. After studying architecture, Sandra worked in Berlin and the Netherlands, then she founded her own office in Munich and worked as a project manager on award-winning timber construction projects. She has taught at the Technical University Nürnberg Academy of Fine Arts Munich, and TU Delft. Since 2016, she has been working on research projects on multi-storey timber construction (BAUwood, circularWOOD etc.) and socio-cultural issues in the architecture sector. She is one of the authors of the influential research book ‘Women in Architecture’, 2020. Sandra completed her doctoral dissertation ‘Opportunities and obstacles for integrating models of flexible work arrangements in architectural offices’ in summer 2022.

Elis Silvants-Barclay is a curator, researcher and artist. She is part of the Chair of Affective Architectures in the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich, where she coordinates the Dept. of the Ongoing, engaging with users, bodies and subjectivities often overlooked by mainstream architectural thinking. She coordinates Permanent, a practice-based research project that draws upon anti-speculative models from the commons- and cooperative economy and proposes spatial typologies of difference to develop an infrastructure for a multitude of uses and users to ‘be in it together without needing to be the same’. Her practice is centered on the politics of spatial production, looking at space as affective, as choreography of bodies, as reflective and reproductive of worklivelihoods, and assembles around the question on how to think and produce space otherwise.

SOFT - School of Transformation is a self-organized initiative of students and people working in the architecture field. SOFT discusses space through discrimination sensitive, intersemiotic feminist, anti-classist, decolonial, and anti-racial lenses. SOFT’s goal is to evoke and foreground power-critical alternatives in teaching, workplaces, and self-organization. SOFT was recently formed by merging the Chair of Une-learning with the Chair of Gossip, both initiatives at the TUM. Chair of Une-learning is a student led Chair at TUM, proposed by Elena Spatz, Marie Gresota and Lisa Andrei in their bachelor thesis. Chair of Gossip is a parallel bom initiative, responsible for the publication of a regular newsletter on intersectional feminism, art and architecture, as well as workshops and other events.

Peta Van Brabant is a feminist philosopher. She is head of the research department at DIH Lucerne School of Arts in Antwerp (Belgium), where she also teaches semiotics and cultural criticism. She supervises PhD and other research projects in the fields of feminism, art, politics and architecture, and has been awarded the Advanced Master of Research in Arts in a social-political context. She works with several women artists and writes about the political dimensions of affirmative action and workshops as a member of Engagement Arts, a movement that fights against sexism, racism and power abuse in the fields of arts and arts education in Belgium. Recently, she published a philosophical essay co-authored with Hans Mauws (University of Kent), ‘Kunst of Pornografie’.