

In-Betweens and further Implementation

RELAY paid great attention to the in-betweens of the events. At the end of each event a 'time capsule' with artistic material was produced and passed on to the next event to be opened up and continuously transformed. In this sense, each event stayed connected to both past and future and created an over-arching temporality of the entire project. The time capsules travelled with participants from one event to the next.

Furthermore, RELAY principles and methods were implemented beyond the project itself, for example in the curriculum of teaching activities outside the project, such as seminars and lectures.

Overview of In-Betweens and further Implementation

I. Curricula and Teaching Activities outside the project

Seminar "RELAY sound+movement materialities"

The seminar with both students from music and dance (BA and MA from HfMT and UNMB Bucharest) took place from November 14 - 18, 2022.

In this cross-disciplinary seminar participants from the fields of music and dance in Cologne encountered the following topic: (In)Between - Investigations into a trans-digital practice of blurring. They explored sound and movement-material as well as compositional and choreographic structures focusing on transferability, intertwining, reversibility and principles of handing over in creative procedure. Additionally, they not only questioned the relation between human beings and substance but also between machines and the digital enlargement of humanity.

The lab provided time to both - work and reflect - on the process + findings + strategies of sensing, making, performing and archiving material. During the course of the week, the participants had the opportunity to create, work, resonate, transform with(out) their material(s) (or not) which served as a basis for art making as well as further discussion, deepening and expansion of thoughts.

The seminar also used the "RELAY technique" of "feedforwarding" and "feedbacking": it (time-shifted) exchanged artistic material with students and teachers from UNMB Bucharest.

Lecture "(Da)Zwischen - Untersuchungen einer trans-digitalen Praxis der Unschärfe"

The Lecture "(Da)Zwischen - Untersuchungen einer trans-digitalen Praxis der Unschärfe" on November 16, 2022 was part of the lectures series „Metamorphosen des Menschen – Durchdringungen von Mensch, Natur, Kunst und Technik" at HfMT Cologne.

In this lecture Jan Burkhardt (Dance), Sergej Maingardt (Composition), Vera Sander (Choreography) elaborated on cross-disciplinary methods and strategies fostering working in the in-between (music and dance, analogy and technology, human and non-human).

Seminar "Choreography of Care"

From January 30 - February 3, 2023 the seminar "Choreography of Care" with Claire Cunningham and students from the BA dance program at HfMT Cologne took place, exploring methods of RELAY in connection to care.

Seminar "RELAY principles"

The seminar "RELAY principles" (as part of the curriculum BA Dance at HfMT Cologne from June 5-7, 2023) focused on the practical exploration of methods and tools that can serve in finding, developing, sharing and archiving artistic material. Participants were invited to bring examples from their artistic practice as well as concrete questions and needs.

Lecture "Of Potentials, Processes and Visions – Passing on"

The lecture "Of Potentials, Processes and Visions – Passing on" was part of the International Conference "Contemporary Trends in Dance Art", Ulan Bator Mongolei and held on October 3, 2023. This lecture elaborated on the key aspects of the project RELAY and introduced RELAY as a best practice model for how to create spaces that resonate in their complexity and polyphony, ordering divergent and multidirectional approaches, evoking encounters and creating a web of the body and movement stories.

RELAY Presentation at DASPA

At DASPA, the RELAY project and its results were presented during the annual gathering of teaching staff from all 5 campuses on 6-7th of November 2024, including all heads of programs and the school's management. The focus of the days were how to collaborate across geographic distances – as the school's campuses are spread over the entire country – as well as transdisciplinary pedagogics. The Tool Cloud from the Research Catalogue presentation of the project result ARTicle served as an example of best practice.

Seminar "Negotiating Leadership"

The ongoing seminar "Negotiating Leadership" (winter term 2020/21 - winter term 2024/25) at HfMT Cologne facilitated by Prof. Nina Hänel and Jan Burkhardt, where relay principles added perspectives on how in the complex frames of contemporary networks and organisations leadership roles and dynamics can be handed over, transformed, shared or instructed.

Seminar "Modes of Touch(ing)"

The ongoing seminar "modes of touch(ing)" (winter term 2020/21 - winter term 2024/25) at HfMT Cologne facilitated by Prof. Nina Hänel and Jan Burkhardt where relay principles were integrated in exploring how giving and receiving touch functions as a means of passing on, transforming, and processing information.

Artistic Project "(ON)SITE BODIES"

The artistic project (ON)SITE BODIES at HfMT Cologne with performances at Kai 10 Düsseldorf, ZAK Berlin, Expo Floriade Almere/Netherlands (throughout 2022/23) with the visual artist Nicole Wendel and Jan Burkhardt (dance) and BA students of HfMT were material and bodies served as means of handing over information on specific sites, such as museum, gallery, exposition areal, public space.

II. Time Capsules

Time Capsule Cologne - Copenhagen (February & May 2022)

Artistic Material produced by students from music and dance in Cologne traveled as a Time Capsule to Copenhagen. Material from the Time Capsule unfolded and developed into new artistic material shared in a jam.

Time Capsule Copenhagen - Bucharest (May, September & November 15-18, 2022)

Artistic Material produced by students from music and dance in Copenhagen traveled as a Time Capsule to Bucharest. Unfolding the Time Capsule students from the UNMB elaborated the materials and created music composition as an outcome of this relay practice.

Travel Scores and Time Capsule Bucharest - Cologne (September & November 2022, April 2023)

On the way to our 4th encounter in Cologne, all RELAY participants – students, mentors and staff – engaged in a travel score. The score was sent out by Max Wallmeier and Maia Means and encouraged a consideration of the travel as part of the meeting. It asked the participants to notice their surroundings with different senses and write it down. They were then asked to record a message including the written words and send it to another participant, creating a chain of sound recordings that participants can listen to before everyone meets each other (some for the first time) on the first official day of the encounter. The chain of messages was built so that the senders and participants were unlikely to know each other from before, and crossed the different roles of student/mentor/staff.

The Bucharest students brought the Time Capsule of the sculpture that was created during the ARTwork sessions of the 3rd encounter. They received a score for how to engage with the capsule during the travel, and they had time to prepare a “opening” of the capsule on the first day of the Cologne encounter, which served as the initiation of the ARTwork in this 4th iteration.

On the way back from Cologne, all participants again received a similar travel score. This time they were asked to send the recording back to the person they received a message from on the way to Cologne, an encouragement to notice the difference of tone and impact of a personal message when having spent time in the same context for the last seven days.

Travel Scores and Time Capsule Cologne - Heraklion (April & August 2023)

On the way to the 5th encounter in Crete, the Relay participants again received travel scores on the way there and back, asking the recurring participants to pick up where they left off, and give new participants a way into the week and project.

The Cologne students brought the Time Capsule of the sculpture that was created during the ARTwork sessions of the 4th encounter in Cologne. They received a score for how to prepare for the “opening” of the Time Capsule, which served as the initiation of the ARTwork of the Crete encounter.

The travel score was again sent out to all participants on their journey back as a way to round up the meeting and as an encouragement of reflection.