

# HOW TO PHD?

(We don't know, we are asking you)

**Anna Jensen**

**Andrea Coyotzi Borja**



## HOW TO LIFE

When setting our expectations, we might not be willing to accept our limitations. Anyways, who would? Acceptance is only for the settlers, and we are forever moving towards the possibility of failing without a safety net. However, that doesn't mean that every impact is painless and risk-free.

It is so, that when expectations come and install without request, we do not limit them, instead, we are to set a record and construct an average, thus, locating them below that fanciful line.

How to life: setting your expectations below average takes onto every experience who has ended up in disappointment. To every action which has resulted in a conclusive dissatisfaction, to every failure, to every contradiction, to every tumbleweed without an observer (I got tired of hearing and reading the tree in the forest metaphor), to the every, to the none, to whatever comes to mind when expecting nothing, and everything.

15. Caring
  - a) To care
  - b) Curiosity
16. Collectives
  - a) Porin kulttuurisääto
  - b) Space Invaders
  - c) Making-with
17. Community
18. Communication
19. Continuity
  - a) Culture politics and strategy papers
  - b) Taking Over Otaniemi
20. Climate Crisis
21. Curating, Curatorial
22. (De)Center
  - a) Pori
- b) ReposaarIntro / Manual

1. Art
2. Activism
3. Abject
4. Alienation and Anxiety
5. Affect

- a) Distance
6. Anthropocene
7. Anthropology
8. Archive
9. The audience, Public & Spectator
  - a) Participation
  - b) Centennial
10. Becoming
11. Being-with, Co-existing

- a) Living Together
12. Body
  - a) Biopolitics
13. Boundaries
14. Canon
15. Caring
  - a) To care
  - b) Curiosity

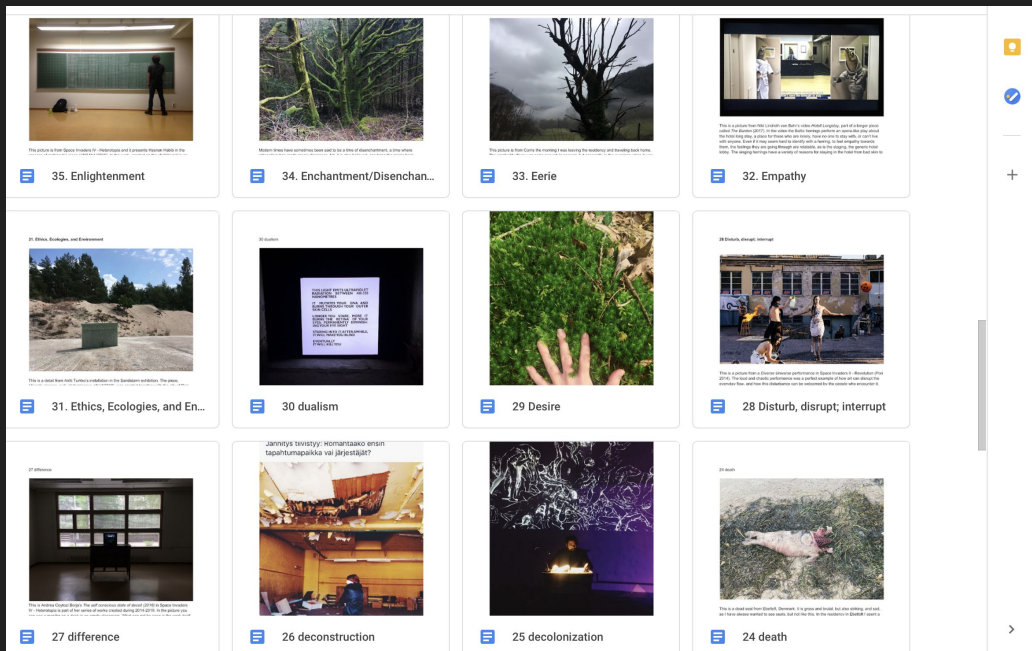
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20. Climate Crisis
21. Curating, Curatorial
22. (De)Center

- b) Reposaar
- c) Global and Local
23. Death
24. Decolonization
25. Deconstruction
  - c) Global and Local
23. Death
24. Decolonization
25. Deconstruction
26. Difference
27. Disturb, Disrupt
28. Desire
29. Dualism
30. Ethics and Ecologies

## Anna Jensen

# *meandering* The Uncanny Soul of A Place and A Being ~~A~~Cartographie Encyclopedia on Curating, Communities and Contemporary Art



“This potential is the core of my proposition: that art has meaning, and it can create sense of meaning and purpose that are sometimes considered to lack in the modern, neo-liberal world. This subversive potential also means that against the traditional understanding of art as autonomous sphere, art has not only autonomy as freedom and possibilities, but it has also responsibilities.”

Andrea Coyotzi Borja

*In the middle of things*  
(Research on the infraordinary)



Here you sit, and you want only to wait,



just to wait until there is  
nothing left to wait for.



Artistic research vs art is research

Process based practice that questions "methods", "objectivity" and idea of knowledge as something based on scientific measurement

thundercrumbs:

obesealpaca:

| do you think he knows

DOCTOR FISHER GET OFF THAT MANS  
FACE YOU'RE A SCIENTIST NOW ACT  
LIKE ONE

WHY AND HOW WE STARTED DOING  
WHAT WE DO?



The situation is confusing: while universities become more interested in performative forms of knowledge transfer (under labels like “science days,” “lecture performances,” or “100 Ways of Thinking”) and keep an eye on the applicability of their research and on new courses of study, art schools continue to dream of their own research becoming scientific or academic—under the assumption that this is the way to political, academic, and theoretical legitimization.

Silvia Henke, Dieter Mersch, Thomas Strässle,  
Jörg Wiesel, Nicolaj van der Meulen

## Manifesto of Artistic Research

### A Defense Against Its Advocates

mixed with  
a Declination of the Collage by Sabine Hertig (2019)

As we see artistic research is as doing things, studying the world, having an interdisciplinary approach, related to anthropology. It is getting lost, but even "Getting lost still takes us somewhere" (Sara Ahmed, "Queer Phenomenology").  
The work is based on experience, as we yet cannot know new things: I wanted experience to lead me where it was leading, not to some end given in advance...



that feeling when you take a 10  
minute writing break and it  
accidentally lasts six months

Improvise. It will take you somewhere.

Be open. Especially to failures: the problematic nature of failure in the experimental and artistic context

## PhD in a nutshell



My Advisor: what are you doing with your life?

me: it's a surprise



Feeling something and trying it out. Reacting to the impulses the world or a place gives you.

HOW THE PROCESS CONTINUED, HOW WE STARTED WORKING TOGETHER?

Interviewer: Do you have any special talents?

Me:



Talent is nothing, stubbornness and persistence are everything.

WHAT IS OUR "WORKING", WHAT DO WE ACTUALLY DO?



WHAT!!!!

No

They can leap 36 feet

As in leap forward 36 feet

They don't jump 36 feet into the fucking sky do you know how terrifying that would be the human race wouldn't have survived because we'd have all had heart attacks while still in Africa



I just spent two minutes laughing harder at this than I probably should have.

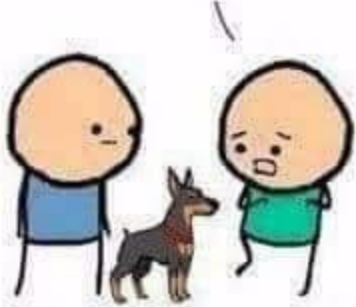
IM WHEEZING SO HARD OMG

IVE SEEN THIS BEFORE AND I STILL CHOKED ON MY CEREAL

question: how to mediate things? how to talk about things that are outside everyday knowledge?

AND THE PROCESS BEING WHAT IT IS, HOW DO WE MEDIATE IT?  
HOW DO WE FORMULATE THIS INTO SOMETHING THAT PASSES  
AS RESEARCH?

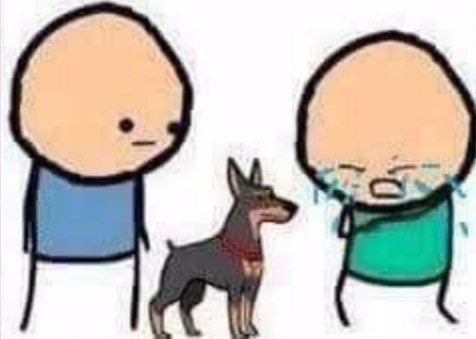
Does your  
dog bite?



No, but it can hurt you  
in other ways.



When do you  
complete your PhD?



Time: how to manage combining your work with your “research” when they are elementary the same thing but also would actually both require full time attention?

How to have the needed amount of alienation to be able to concentrate on the writing process while still maintain contact with your field and the contemporary discourses?

# Rare photos of me jumping to conclusions



Intuition and proving it right.

Questioning the conception of "truth"

Experimental and experiential knowledge

Non-knowledge

WHERE ARE WE NOW?  
WHAT WILL HAPPEN  
NEXT?



If only we dared to disappoint! How amazingly our relationships could grow if we knew how to initiate them by disappointment! Imagine if, in the crucial moment when a role is assigned, a job appointed, and the requisite behavior assumed, we had the guts to say:

Wait! What you expect me to do or be is something I cannot possibly fulfill.

The capacity to disappoint depends upon

there being criteria, on things making a difference. Irony testifies to this insistence as it demonstrates that nothing can ever said to safely be just what it is, but that instead, there always is something different, something more to it... Irony is the art of laughing while crying, and crying while laughing. It partially sus-