

# Research-creation: critique, care, and collaboration through creative practice



SYLLABUS

VU Amsterdam Summer School

8-19 July 2024



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Any general questions for the Summer School support team? Contact [amsterdamsummerschool@vu.nl](mailto:amsterdamsummerschool@vu.nl).

## Course Details

Title	Research-creation: critique, care, and collaboration through creative practice
Coordinator(s)	Alexandra Greene
Other lecturers	TBA
Study credits	3 ECTS
Form(s) of tuition	On campus
Approximate contact hours	40
Approximate self-study hours	30

## Course description

Research-creation is an approach to research that engages artistic expression, scholarly investigation, curiosity, and experimentation. In practice, this means that research topics are selected and explored through a creation process, such as photography, the production of a film or video, performance or installation, sound-work, zine, recipe, or multimedia arts/texts.

Research-creation is important in a variety of fields, and, in recent years, universities have used it to boost their public profiles and promote community-engaged collaborations. That said, the increasing institutionalization of research-creation must be approached critically, and situated within a broader context of power relations within academia, education, and research. In this course, research-creation will thus be framed as an intervention and invitation for scholars to push disciplinary boundaries, challenge taken-for-granted assumptions about what academic work entails, and consider ways to make their work more sustainable, accessible, and responsive to issues concerning social justice.

This summer, the course will have a special focus on relationships, mental health, conflict in collaborations, and the messiness of co-creative work. We will draw on specific examples from queer, anti-colonial, migrant justice, and Palestinian liberation movements. The course will incorporate reading-based discussions, hands-on creative workshops, and examples of research-creation in practice, in an effort to engage broader discussions concerning methodology, ethics, responsibility, and institutional solidarities/activism within and beyond the university. To this end, this course will include presentations by scholars and practitioners from inside and outside of academia.

## Learning objectives

## Assignments and Assessment

Students will be taught through lectures, seminars, and interactive workshops. Assessment will be based on attendance and active participation, a sensorial walk, and a co-created zine.

## Provisional reading list

Chapman, O. and Sawchuk, K. (2012). Research-creation: intervention, analysis and "family resemblances." *Canadian Journal of Communication*, 37(1), 5-26.

Fraser, M. & Puwar, N. (2008). Introduction: intimacy in research. *History of the Human Sciences*, 21(4), 1-16.

Lewis, D. (2016). Bodies, matter and feminist freedoms: Revisiting the politics of food. *Agenda*, 30(4), 6-16.

Lorde, A (1984). *Sister Outsider*. Kitchen Table Press.

Loveless, N. (2019). *How to Make Art at the End of the World: A Manifesto for Research-Creation*. Duke University Press.

Miller, E., Little, E., & High, S. (2017). *Going Public: The Art of Participatory Practice*. UBC Press.

Moten, F., & Harney, S. (2004). The university and the undercommons: seven theses. *Social Text*, 22(2 (79), 101–115.

Page, T. (2017). vulnerable writing as a feminist methodological practice. *Feminist Review* 115, pp. 13-29.

Sheik, Z.B. (2023). Hand in hand: refusing research during a pandemic. *Globalizations*, 20(2), 225-237.

Springgay, S., & Truman, S. E. (2018). On the need for methods beyond proceduralism: speculative middles, (in)tensions, and response-ability in research. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 24(3), 203–214.

Tuck, E. (2009). Suspending damage: a letter to communities. *Harvard Educational Review*, 79(3), 409–427.

## Course Schedule

### WEEK ONE: REFLECTING

Monday 8: **10:00-15:00**

*Course welcome + collage/journaling*

Tuesday 9: **10:00-15:00**

*Co-creation, collaboration, and ethics*

Wednesday 10: **10:00-12:00**

*Sensorial walk*

Thursday 11: **10:00-20:00\***

*Pedagogies of nourishment*

**\*Please note that on Thursday 11 July, we will be cooking and sharing a meal together!**

Friday 12: **10:00-15:00**

*Week one wrap-up*

### WEEK TWO: (RE)ACTING

Monday 15: **10:00-15:00**

*Sorry is the hardest word: apologies workshop*

Tuesday 16: **10:00-15:00**

*Zine-making workshop*

Wednesday 17: **No class**

*Free time to work on zine contribution*

Thursday 18: **10:00-15:00**

*Putting it all together*

Friday 19: **10:00-15:00**

*Students present zine contributions + roundtable reflections*

