



Activity Report 2020

24 January 2021

iuwz SQRIDGE
Oedenkovenstraat 57
2140 Borgerhout
Belgium

info@sqrige.org
<http://www.sqrige.com>



The statutes of SQRIDGE were deposited at the Belgian registry on 26 August 2019, and published on 28 August 2019 in the Belgian legal journal, thus legally establishing the NGO as an “internationale vereniging zonder winstoogmerk” (i.v.z.w., or an international non-profit organization), regulated by the Belgian law of 23 March 2019 establishing a code of companies and associations.

SQRIDGE has the following aims:

- a) promoting, enabling and performing artistic research and scientific research, and research that is located at its intersections;**
- b) actively engaging in international scientific research, in the broadest possible range of academic fields and disciplines;**
- c) actively engaging in and supporting the production, the display and the distribution of creative practices, at the international level, in the different artistic domains;**
- d) stimulating international collaborations, dialogues, debates and reflections in relation to arts, science and their intersecting domains.**

SQRIDGE currently has two directors, Nico Carpentier and Vaia Doudaki.

This document reports on the activities of SQRIDGE, for the first full year of its existence, from 1 January until 31 December 2020.



Sqridgings

Five activities were developed in this period, which are: (1) the organisation of a workshop in February, (2) the production of a special journal issue on arts-based research, (3) the expansion of the Prague Zoo Wolf Assemblage Project, (4) the Prague passages project, and (5) the Iconoclastic Controversies book.

Sqridging 1: Respublika! Finland: Arts-based Research or Communication Studies? Yes, please!

This workshop took place on 6 February 2020, at the Kone Foundation in Helsinki (Finland), and was organised by Nico Carpentier and Johanna Sumiala (Helsinki University). It established a dialogue between different stakeholders about arts-based research projects in Finland, focusing on 1/the perceived relevance of, and opportunities generated by this type of research, 2/the experiences with organizing these kinds of research, 3/the requirements for strengthening this field of inquiry, and 4/the role that (Communication and Media Studies) scholars can play in (initiating) these projects.



The workshop programme can be found on the next page.



RESPUBLIKA! FINLAND

*Arts-based Research or
Communication Studies?*

Yes, please!

Program

10:00 Welcoming coffee

10:15 Opening by Johanna Sumiala & Nico Carpentier

Red Villa's
Community Space
(Lauttasaari Manor,
Kone Foundation,
Kauppaneuvoksetie 18)

A first panel of cases and reflections

- 10:30 Nico Carpentier, Charles University, Prague
11:00 Panos Kompatsiaris, National Research University of Higher School of Economics, Moscow
11:30 Chris Bratton, Aalto University/The Center for Arts, Design, and Social Research (CAD+SR), Boston

12:00-13:00 Lunch break

A second panel of cases and reflections

- 13:00 Saara Särmä, University of Tampere
13:30 Razan Alsalaf, Concordia University, Montreal
14:00 Ou Ning, Columbia University, US

6th Feb
10-16.30h

14:30 Coffee break

15:00 Roundtable on arts-based research collaboration, chaired by Johanna Sumiala
Speakers: Anna Talasniemi/Kone Foundation; Erich Berger/Bios; Paula Toppila/IHME Contemporary Art Festival; Nico Carpentier, Charles University.

16:00 Collective wrap-up



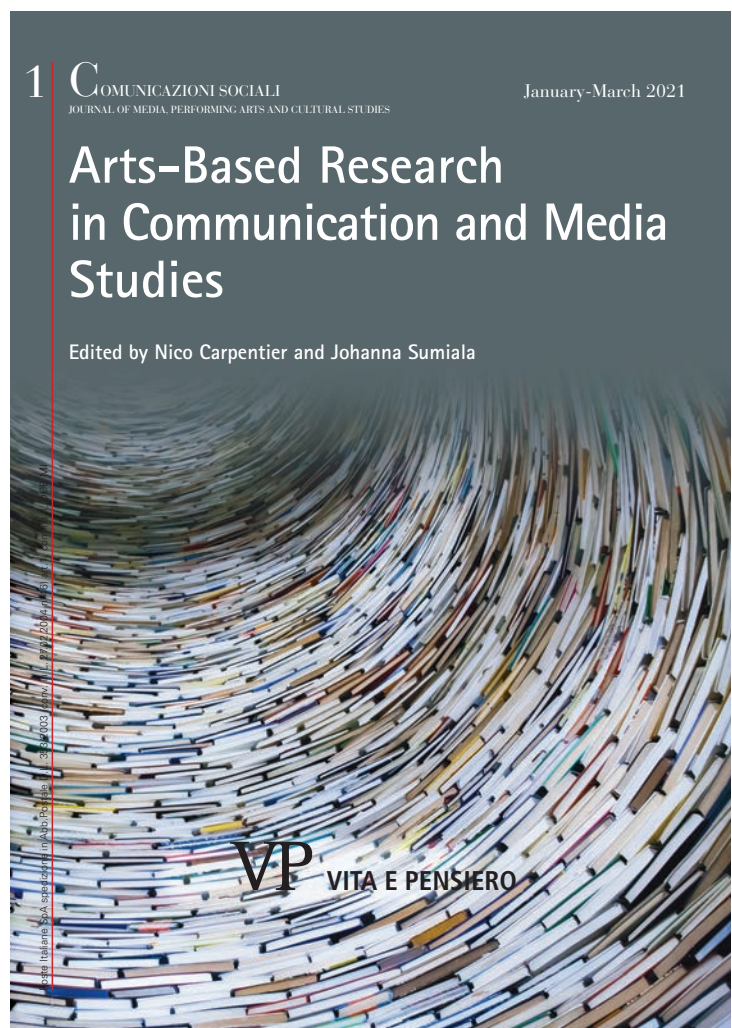
INSTITUTE OF COMMUNICATION
STUDIES AND JOURNALISM
Faculty of Social Sciences
Charles University



Sqridging 2: The Special Issue on Arts-Based Research in Communication and Media Studies

The Respublika! Finland: Arts-Based Research or Communication and Media Studies? Yes, please workshop was transformed into a call for contributions for a special issue of the Italian journal *Comunicazioni Sociali: Journal of Media, Performing Arts and Cultural Studies*, with Nico Carpentier and Johanna Sumiala (Helsinki University) as editors.

Nineteen proposals were received, seven of which were accepted. In addition, nine authors from the Respublika! Finland workshop accepted the invitation to join the special issue. All submissions were submitted to a double-blind peer review. In total 18 reviewers assisted us with the review. The finalized manuscript has been submitted to the journal at the end of December 2020, and is currently being copy-edited and lay-outed. This special issue featured two visual essays, by SQRIDGE members (on Silencing / unsilencing nature, by Nico Carpentier, and on Passages (pasáže) in Prague, by Uaia Doudaki).



The Table of Contents is on the next page.



Table of Contents – Special Issue CS
Arts-Based Research in Communication and Media Studies

1

Introduction: Arts-Based Research in Communication and Media Studies

Nico Carpentier and Johanna Sumiala

2

Academia Goes to the Arts: Entanglements of Research, Knowledge, and Information in Contemporary Visual Art

Panos Kompatsiaris

3

Towards academic publishing in medias res

Mika Elo

4

Short-circuiting Media History Research: Convergences between Media Archaeology and Media Art

Sergio Minniti

5

Arts-based research and artistic research promoting new kinds of co-operation: A funder's perspective

Kalle Korhonen

6

Hybrid spectators: Meta study of transmedia art-based research experience

Hernando Blandón Gómez and Polina Golovátina-Mora

7

Il Posticipo (The Late kick-off): Art, research and urban regeneration

Emanuele Rinaldo Meschini

8

Silencing / unsilencing nature – A participatory visual essay on the right to flourish

Nico Carpentier

9

Fragmented Interpretations of the Feminine Text

Chelsea Bihlmeyer



10

**Interactive Tools Performance: Blast Theory Between Media Theory,
Performance Studies and Social Research**

Vincenzo Del Gaudio

11

**Bella Ciao Clangs on the Balconies: The Art of Ritual Practice during
Lockdown 2020 - Some Digital Media Ethnographic Notes**

Johanna Sumiala

12

**Making of Livestream (and few other pieces): Research from the
point of view of a visual artist**

Pekko Uasantola

13

Transilluminating climate change

Niina Uusitalo

14

**Passages (pasáže) in Prague as heterotopias of inclusion and
exclusion**

Daia Doudaki

15

Following Flags: Experimental Mass Production in the Borderlands

Grant Leuning and Pepe Rojo

16

**Producing media-rich permanent exhibition of the Estonian National
Museum as arts-based research**

Pille Runnel and Pille Pruulmann-Vengerfeldt

17

Reasons to Kill a Poet

Dalida Maria Benfield and Christopher Alan Bratton



Sqridging 3: The Prague Zoo Wolf Assemblage Project

This project—that started in 2019—continued, and resulted in 2020 three (related) outputs. First, the Silencing / Unsilencing Nature educational package was developed, in collaboration with the MISTRA environmental communication research programme and Färgfabriken. The package unpacks the discursive-material relationship between humans and nature, and reflects on how nature often has been silenced. It consists of an introductory video, four mini-lectures on video (each with one or two exercises), two assignment videos, an epilogue video, and a workshop script. More information about this package can be found at <https://mistra.fsv.cuni.cz/output>

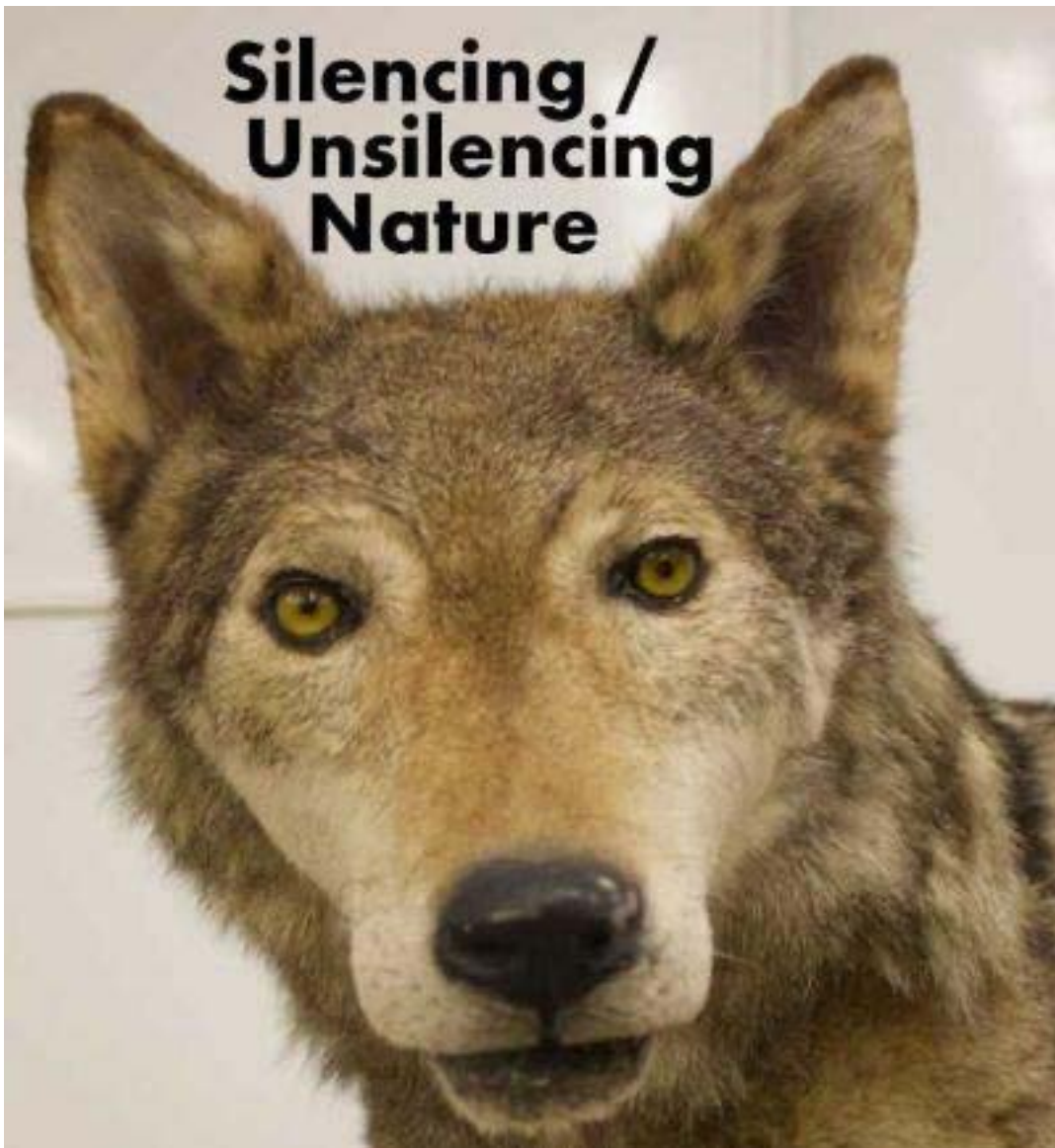


Photo by Nico Carpentier



Secondly, three of the video essays (“Part 1–Discourse”, “Part 2–The Material and Entanglement” and “Part 3–The Wolf Assemblage”) of the Silencing/Unsilencing Nature video series were exhibited at the Lyssna! exhibition, organised by the Färgfabriken arts centre in Stockholm, Sweden (12 September – 29 November 2020).



Photo by Nico Carpentier

Third, within the framework of the Färgfabriken collaboration and their Lyssna! project, three workshops were organised in Sweden, using the educational package to assist groups of youngsters to develop a photography exhibition that unsilenced nature. The Stockholm workshop was centred around the contradictions between weed and plants, and formed the basis of a visual essay, published in the Special Issue mentioned above.

Sqridging 4: The Prague Passages Project

The Prague Passages Project builds on cultural geography and Foucault’s concept of heterotopias, and combines visual ethnography with photocollage. The aim is to explore how the passages (“pasáže”) of central Prague function as heterotopias of inclusion and exclusion. These ambiguous and hybrid spaces are simultaneously open and closed, both disciplining mobility and fostering plurality and heterogeneity. The analysis points to the multiplicity and contingency of space in the urban environment, which does not fully integrate its subjects, but leaves room for them to create their own meanings and pleasures of the spaces they inhabit. The outcome, a visual essay, was published in the Special Issue, mentioned above.



Photocollage by Jaia Doudaki



Sqridging 5: The Iconoclastic Controversies Project

This older project has been reinvigorated in 2020 by collecting all the material of the previous exhibitions and publications (together with new material) in a new monograph, that will be published by Intellect. Through its combination of photography and written text, the Iconoclastic Controversies book offers a reflection on the relationship between memorialization and antagonistic nationalism, and at a broader level, between the discursive and the material. The book focusses on Cypriot memorials and commemoration sites, as material structures that invoke a particular past, and invite to remember it, in evenly particular ways.

Iconoclastic Controversies

A photographic inquiry
into antagonistic
nationalism

Nico Carpentier



Below is the provisional Table of Contents. Currently, the manuscript is being lay-outed by Intellect, and is expected to be ready in the second half of 2021.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: An Introduction to Iconoclastic Controversies

Chapter 2: Communicating Academic Knowledge Beyond the Written Academic Text

Chapter 3: On Antagonism and Nationalism—
A Discursive-Material Re-Reading

Chapter 4: The Discourses and Materialities of Cypriot Antagonistic Nationalism

Chapter 5: The Iconoclastic Controversies Photographs

Chapter 6: The Reception of the Two Cypriot Exhibitions with Vaia Doudaki, Yiannis Christidis and Fatma Nazli Köksal

Chapter 7: The Interviews

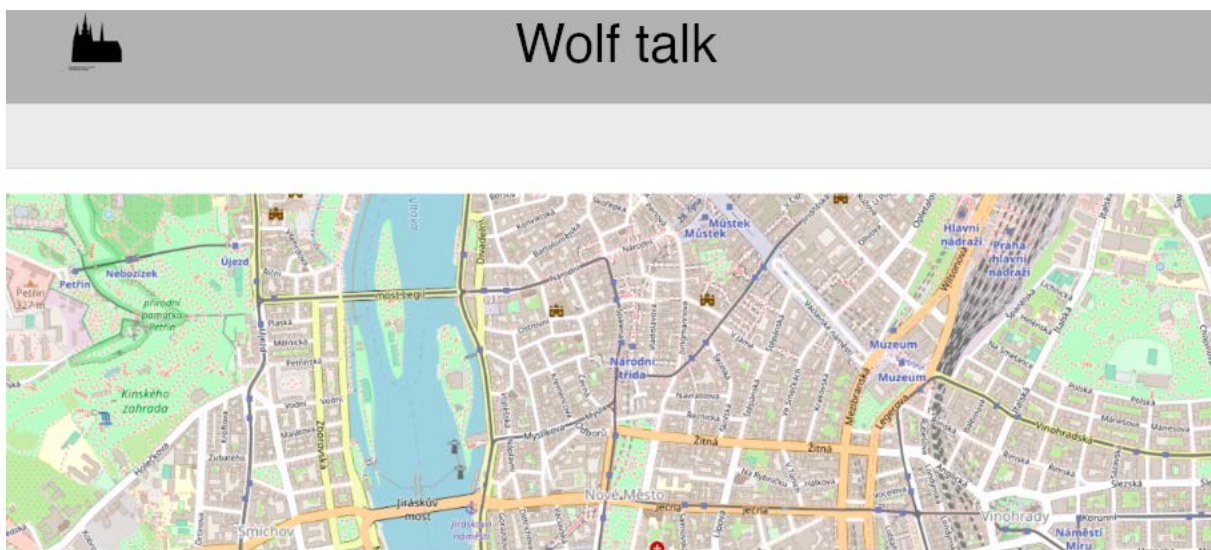
Appendix 1: Interviews by Project Partners about the Two Exhibitions in Cyprus

Appendix 2: Media that Covered the Two Exhibitions in Cyprus

References

Future plans

The Prague Zoo Wolf Assemblage and Silencing/Unsilencing Nature project will be continued in 2021 as well. Currently, an exhibition for the Fotograf Festival is being prepared. During this exhibition, a series of the Prague Zoo Wolf Assemblage photographs will be displayed at 12 different locations, connected to a series of short podcasts, which are accessible through QR codes on location, and an online interface (including a map). The latter is currently in production.



Part of the Silencing / Unsilencing Nature (SUN) educational package has already been translated in Czech and Chinese, and preparations have started to organise additional SUN workshops in these two countries.

A new phase of arts-based research for the Iconoclastic Controversies Project is expected to start in April 2021 with a research stay in the north of Cyprus, which will allow complementing and enriching the current analysis (which only took place in the south of the island).

Finally, the search for financial resources to allow for one or more arts-based research residences in Prague will be continued.