

# U!RBAN COMMONS School

6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>  
OCTOBER  
2021

OHA! Offener Haus  
Studierendenhaus Goethe University  
Frankfurt, Bodenseeheim

## Commoning the Post-Covid City



Organised by Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences & the "U!REKA Lab: Urban Commons"

# U!RBAN COMMONS school

## Commoning the Post-Covid City

The “U!REKA Lab: Urban Commons” of the international U!REKA network of universities in Amsterdam, Edinburgh, Frankfurt, Ghent, Helsinki, Lisbon, Oslo, and Ostrava will host the 2021 Urban Commons School in Frankfurt. The event will bring together international and interdisciplinary students, teachers and researchers from different participating universities and beyond for an intensive exchange on the concept and practices of urban commons and commoning. Ideas and practices will be shared in lectures, workshops, presentations, performances, and exhibitions to further explore the political and social idea and ideal of commoning in urban spaces as a way to co-create, co-own and co-govern the resources of our cities.

- Get to know principles of urban commons through presentations
- Experience urban commons in practice through showcases and excursions
- See creative projects on urban commons in performances, screenings and exhibitions
- Learn about commoning skills and future possibilities in workshops
- Explore future possibilities of urban commons in research panels

The Urban Commons School will focus on the post-covid future of our cities and the role that practices of commoning and co-creation can play in the transformation and (re-)creation of urban spaces. A particular focus will lie on the host-city Frankfurt: on its existing urban commons initiatives as well as on new ideas, plans and project proposals for urban spaces that could be created and governed as urban commons. These ideas and impulses will be explored by international teams of young students, researchers and practitioners in Research Panels.

More information:

**urcommons.eu**



LUNCH  
BREAK  
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6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

9<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

10 - 11:30	11:30 - 13:00	14 - 16:00	16 - 18:00	18 - 19:30	19:30 - OPEN END
<b>Arrival and Check-in</b>		<b>Introduction Lecture</b> Urban Commons in the (Post-)Covid City: New Forms of Sustainable Cooperation and their Challenges	<b>U!R Commons Expo</b> Exhibition of previous results from the Urban Commons Lab with architectural research, artistic aspects and more	<i>free time!</i>	<b>Common Movie Night</b> Short films on urban topics.
<b>Research Panel 1</b> Community & Governance  <b>Research Panel 1</b> Urban Planning, Housing & Technology  <b>Research Panel 1</b> Culture & Arts		<b>Guided tour through Frankfurt's "Gallus" Quarter</b> The excursion shows different spaces in Frankfurt that deal with accessibility, sustainability and commoning practices	<b>Workshop: Moving City</b>  <b>Workshop: Common Singing</b>	<i>free time!</i>	<b>Feel, Think, Act</b> Students from Lisbon show a commons-related musical performance
<b>Lecture: Comm-unity. From "a place to live" to a shared neighbourhood</b> The lecture presents the project Transform from Gent that examines the topic of collective housing	<b>Lecture: Current Trends in Housing in Central Europe</b> The lecture focuses on the trends in housing development, i.e. housing suburbanization or the effect of traffic on housing.	<b>Research Panel 2</b> Community & Governance  <b>Research Panel 2</b> Urban Planning, Housing & Technology  <b>Research Panel 2</b> Culture & Arts		<b>Common Meal with ADA-Project</b> The dinner with all participants will be hosted by a collective kitchen – food as an urban commoning practice	<b>Daydreams</b> Students from Lisbon show a commons related dance show where dreams are referred to as commons
<b>Research Panel 3: Exchange Forum</b> All students from the different Research Panels get together, exchange their results, and entering the last phase of their research	<b>Research Panel 4</b> Community & Governance  <b>Research Panel 4</b> Urban Planning, Housing & Technology  <b>Research Panel 4</b> Culture & Arts	<b>Final Presentation: Research Agenda</b> The students present their results and research agendas from the Research Panels	<b>Get-together and Goodbye</b>		
					

# Urban Commons in the (Post-)Covid City: New Forms of Sustainable Cooperation and their Challenges

Lechrol

Stan Majoor (AUAS)

The Covid pandemic has underlined once again that contemporary cities face important social, environmental and economic challenges. Commoning practices show promising perspectives for addressing some of them. However, challenges remain in the sustainable organisation of these initiatives and their relationship to existing market and government practices.

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## Research Panel – Community and Governance

Research panel

Sandra Bos (AUAS)  
and Tine Vanthuyne (HOGENT)

**Covid closed many universities.** Campuses looked empty and desolate without their academic purpose. This raises the question of whether universities are isolated islands or part of their environment. Couldn't university grounds

be used for the benefit of surrounding neighborhoods? Couldn't they be open, inclusive and welcoming to people who pass by or live close by? What is the significance of a university campus for the wider community and vice versa?



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## Research Panel – Arts and Culture

Research panel

Diogo Bento (IPL), Raul Gschrey (FRA-UAS), Maria Repas (IPL)

**What will the role of the arts and culture be in the (post-)covid city of the future?** How can artistic interventions and socio-artistic participatory projects help to understand and shape a shared city and its social spaces? How could a commons-based creative and cultural transition of our cities work? We are going to visit typical places and urban commons initiatives in the city of Frankfurt to work on short artistic interventions, such as mapping, installation, performance, dance... The research panel will be THEORETICAL in the sense of thinking about the transformative role of the arts/culture; it will be PRACTICAL in the sense of creating aesthetic/

artistic interventions; it will be INVESTIGATIVE in the sense of finding out about social spaces; and it will be METHODOLOGICAL, in the sense of exploring the potentials of artistic-ethnographic and participatory approaches.

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## Research Panel – Urban Planning, Housing and Technology

*Research  
panel*

Angelika Plümmer (FRA-UAS), Barbara Vojvodíková (TU Ostrava), Iva Tichá (University of Ostrava), Kaisa Kanerva (Metropolia Helsinki)

**Cities have long worked to offer affordable housing for all and to bring residents together by creating places for them to meet.** Today we are

facing the challenge of how to meet the needs of the ever increasing and diversifying urban population while, at the same time, modifying

the entire public space so that residents can still meet safely. What would urban planning, housing and technology look



like if principles of urban commons and commoning – including sustainability and barrier-free accessibility – were applied? We will discuss and map this in a real-life case study with the tools of a strategic game.

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## Current Trends in Housing in *Lecture* Central Europe

Stanislav Endel (TU Ostrava)

**The lecture focuses on the most fundamental changes that have taken place over the last 30 years in the field of housing in Central European cities.** Attention will be paid to the overall composition of the housing stock, the increase in the phenomenon of investment housing and the associated shortage of housing, which leads to

a high increase in residential property prices. A change in the structure of residential development and the ever-deepening phenomenon of suburbanization will also be discussed. This is also related to the general increase in the number of cars, to which cities must gradually adapt.



## → Comm-unity. *Interactive lecture*

### From “a place to live” to a shared neighbourhood

Shana Sabbe (HOAGENT)

During the interactive lecture, we discuss the conceptual framework of the Project Trans-Form from HOAGENT in the form of visions and concepts, ambitions and strategies for living together in a changing neighbourhood. We will challenge participants to get to work with the insights they have gained. Participants map out their ambitions towards their own context/practice and decide on the most fitting strategies/work out new strategies to give form to these ambitions.

### Mov(ing) City

*Workshop*

Ângelo Neto (IPL),  
Anna Bolender (FRA-UAS)



We invite all who are interested in working out the relationship between graphs and choreographies in a site-specific context. How can we move (like) our cities? Departing from Walter Benjamin's essay “The Task of the Translator” and

the Deleuzian notion of “desire-machines,” this workshop proposes a line of research for “translator machines” that uses the body, writing and visual composition to think space and build new ways for space(s) to think us back, as a community, in the sense of Hannah Arendt's notion of a “common world”.

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### Common Singing

*Workshop*

Maria Repas (IPL)

Throughout human history, the sense of community has been, the most important feeling for leading humanity to its highest levels of civilization. Music, and choral singing in particular, have always played a decisive role in the motivation and sharing of well-being. This workshop will attempt to bring us all together in dreams and action towards a better world of personal responsibility and participation, sharing the enjoyment of our singing voices through common songs.

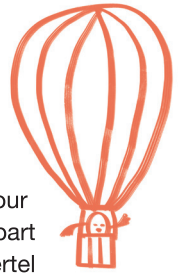
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### Commons Movie Night

*Film Screening*

Igor Karim (Goethe University)

The Commons Movie Night will provide a diverse program of short films



**set in and focusing on the urban space of Frankfurt.** The documentary “Zwischen dem Beton: Stadt Räume solidarisch / Between the Concrete: City Spaces Solidarity” (United we Talk) presents different Urban Commons initiatives. The more experimental and personal approach “Habibismore” (Theresa Plate) is a cinematic appropriation of the urban space by a BIPOC person. “As sobras” (Jonny Bucka, Agnetha Dunger) deals with the effects of the covid crisis on the art world. And “Das Beste haben wir rausgeschnitten/ We have cut the best parts” (Janika Kungl, Claudia Schultz) explores participatory film-making with the community of a self-organized trailer park. “Zwanzigstes Semester/ Twentieth Semester” (Patrick Kokoszynski) is an experimental exploration of the city space through the lens of a long-term student and his preoccupation with public book exchange shelves. The film screening will be introduced by Igor Karim (Goethe University), speaking about urban and anthropological filmmaking. What can art, what can cinema and participative documentary practice do to explore an urban commons future?

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## Guided tour through Frankfurt’s “Gallus” quarter *Exursion*

Petra Schwerdtner (FRA-UAS)

We invite you on a guided tour through a very interesting part of Frankfurt called Gallusviertel (Gallus quarter). We introduce you to the old part, which made architectural history, and the new one, which includes the city’s latest construction project. Furthermore, you can get insights into a series of initiatives that are aimed at realizing the idea of urban commons – into their limits and their successes.

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## Feel, *performance* Think, Act

Cristiana Simões, Inês Rodrigues da Silva, Liliana Dias (IPL)

**Feel, Think, Act, a project conceived by Cristiana Simões, Inês Silva and Liliana Dias, is a performance concert based on the Urban Commons ideas.** We talk and sing about a wide variety of subjects, such as the courage to move from a place where we don’t feel good, looking for something better; the cultural situation that we currently live in; love and longing; capitalism and profit; environmental issues and, finally, the pain it gives us when we think about all of this. These different manifestoes are gathered through music and sound exploration. Our goal, using our music, video projections and lights, is to transform a public space into a completely different experience.





## → Daydreams *performance*

Sofia Pádua Santos (IPL), Aoaní d'Alva (IPL), with original music composed by Sara Marita (IPL)

**Dreams are a common space:** the unconscious of humans (at least), maybe even of other beings or of nature as a whole. Dreams are revelations, confusions and indecisions arising from our emotions. Reality is the need for affirmation, for definition, for accepting who we are. The oneiric universe inspires us to build and share memories in order to question our political positions, to change social impositions and to find our common ground.

EXHIBITION

## U!R Commons Expo #2

**We show exhibits of the of the international course and students' research from different universities in Europe.** The exhibition takes you through the results of the U!REKA Lab: Urban Commons, in which students and professors work together on current urban issues and initiatives. Due to its interdisciplinary orientation, it presents educational, aesthetic and political approaches to the topic in its many forms and fields, such as mobility, housing, governance and the arts. The Lab is an ongoing process which makes the content of the exhibition a fluid inventory of what urban commons mean in the respective cities. Let us take you through an open research network, offering insights into our work, and give you an impression of what commons can mean for the future of our cities.



## U!REKA Lab: urban commons



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