"Philosophy and Art - an extension to the knowledge paradigm"
by Leo Hemetsberger, Rosa Roedelius and Günter Koch
Humboldt Cosmos Multiversity: Definition of a „Multiversity“

• A group organised by the New Club of Paris (NCP) initiated by G. Koch met in autumn 2008 at Commerzbank Headquarters in Frankfurt (hosted by G. Szogs) to first time discuss a new university concept under the headline „Multiversity“

• The NCP idea was on reformation / substitution of university. (This NCP discussion has also been taken up by the European Academy of Science on university reform)

• Aalto (University) Campus of Society Innovation (ACSI) started in 2010 a new „education for innovation“ project with NCP as its major partner. This gave one strong impulse for founding the „Multiversity“, based on principles ACSI was founded upon.

• Multiversity - as a term – was discovered later to have been first time introduced by President of the (entire) Universities of California (UC) Clark Kerr in 1963 (!), quote:

„The 'Idea of a University‘ was a village with its priests. The 'Idea of a Modern University‘ was a town with intellectual oligarchy. The 'Idea of a Multiversity‘ is a city of infinite variety… This city is more like the totality of civilization as it has evolved… and movement to and from the surrounding society…“
Humboldt Cosmos Multiversity (HCM)
Key supporters of HCM in person, e.g. Minister, Rector (Univ.), President, Vice-President
A. v. Humboldt’s life œuvre: „KOSMOS“

Kosmos is the German word for Cosmos. A.v.Humboldt’s œuvre had the complete title “Kosmos – Entwurf einer physischen Weltbeschreibung” (“Cosmos – the attempt of a physical description of the world”).

Alexander v. Humboldt as a symbolic figure

• He and his brother Wilhelm took major Influence on the European university education system
• He was a real universal and international scientist mastering a multitude of disciplines and offering a „grand view“ of the world
• He combined on-spot empirical research with systematic scientific classifications and analysing relations cross disciplines
• He fostered to move South and Middle America in emancipated self recognition and to become interested in modern science
• He used Tenerife as his base and training camp on his first four years’ research excursion
• He started at the age of 57 to compile his life œuvre during > 30 years, i.e. was performing main science work in elder age
Conceptional Basics of the HCM

„Didactics“: ACSI related
= earned from the Aalto University @ Helsinki

Inspired by the Manifesto of the New Club of Paris

Humboldt Cosmos Multiversity @ La Casona

Transdisciplinary discourse on ‘Grand Challenges’

Humboldt‘s „Multiversity“ = COSMOS Philosophy
Humboldt Cosmos Multiversity (HCM)

Five structural & methodological instantiations of the HCM

1. Advanced Studies
2. HCM Seminars
3. Experience Labs
4. University type courses
5. (Incentive) Seminars

Instantiation „in real“, starting on Tenerife and potentially spreading out to other locations

Instantiation „in virtual“, i.e. continuous discourse and performances via Internet
Humboldt Cosmos Multiversity (HCM)

- Following the « Cosmos » philosophy of Alexander von Humboldt, i.e. to see the « world » in all its correlated aspects in a holistic and complete picture, HCM in methodology is multi- and transdisciplinary, and, so far, addressed subjects of:

  - « Silver Society » and « Silver Economy »
  - Knowledge Economy / Economics in regional development
  - Complexity analysis in science and socal development
  - New paradigms in financing
  - Computer science and industrial engineering
  - e-learning and new ways in lifelong learning
  - Art and Science, in specific Philosophy
  - … and soon affiliated: medicine, health care and astrophysics
“Philosophy and Art“ at HCM 2014

HCM’s Philosophy and Art sessions offer special ways to search for knowledge, capture, reframe and transfer it into different disciplines and into every day life.

Philosophy and Art can unlock assumptions of scientific, metaphysical and spiritual experience.

This combination has the potential to initiate radical new approaches in different fields, i.e. they trigger new connections beyond standard methods.
Philosophy is the love (Aphrodite) for wisdom and knowledge.
Philosophy questions reality and creates new realities (Hephaistos).
Philosophy is the premise of science and humanities.

Isn’t a dialog between humans always somehow «philosophical»?
We agree and disagree about values (Ares).
We are continuously searching for good life.
Love (Aphrodite) for the Arts creates culture (Hephaistos)
Art questions and reframes realities
Thus, Art is the premise of everything?

Isn’t a dialog with an artwork always one with your inner soul and self?
We agree to disagree about the Arts (Ares)
Art gives us answers about the good life
“Philosophy and Art“ at HCM 2014

„Sprouted from earth we are – why are we here?“

This was the headline set by Leo Hemetsberger (Philosopher) & Rosa Roedelius (Artist)

Philosophy and contemporary art cooperate in this project with the aims…

• to reflect the current situation of the place where we are = Tenerife

• to foster the beliefs about the sustainable development of the island = Tenerife
“Philosophy and Art“ at HCM 2014

Structure of the philosophical - artistic process

• Exploration on Tenerife - art works identified in landscapes and their documentation

• Philosophical lecture in combination with foto documentation of art works (installation, paintings, photography, objects) / discussions

• Presentation and reflection of the artistic and philosophical research on the island of Tenerife

• Participants were invited to create their own art work

• Presentation of the participants‘ art works, reflection

• Rosa Roedelius (as a « professional artist ») creates new objects of art

• Presentation of Rosa Roedelius’ installation and reflection on them
“Philosophy and Art“ at HCM 2014

Starting point: The myth of Aphrodite, Ares and Hephaistos

Questioning the imagery of these archetypes

The philosophical coherences of this ancient stories

Analogies to the current situation on Tenerife
“Philosophy and Art” at HCM 2014

1. philosophical introduction

2. workshop I - identity & ethos

3. workshop II – mastery and the good life

4. Presentation of the installation & reflection
“Philosophy and Art“ at HCM 2014

Participants of „Philosophy and Art“

- German and Austrian Immigrants to Tenerife
- Students of the University of La Laguna
- Citizens of Tenerife
- Scientists
- Politicians and opinion leaders of Tenerife
1. philosophical introduction

Since Sokrates we know, that we have to consider different topoi when we are talking about what’s important in life like \textit{justice}, \textit{virtue}, \textit{beauty}

So how can we support \textit{love} (Aphrodite) and \textit{arts} (Hephaistos) and reduce \textit{viciousness} (Ares)?

What matters is the individual attitude

Origin – Identity – Future:

We always have to deal with the results of our past actions
2. workshop I - identity & ethos

Results of introductory session:

As an immigrant to the Canarian islands, personal identity seems to be in conversion
Most of them perceive several overlapping identities in progress
Cultural bias is significant in the first years and hard to overcome

Most of them live in gated communities with few contacts to other communities but in peacefull coexistence (german with british, etc.) to local citizens

There exists substantial interest in Philosophy and Arts as methods to reflect important matters of the individual lives.
“Philosophy and Art“ at HCM 2014

3. workshop II – mastery and the good life

Results:

During the workshop participants were encouraged to reflect on their values and why they decided to move to the island.

Most of them coming from Central Europe came voluntarily. They came to find their « destination » / purpose of life on Tenerife.

Here they want to follow their individual pathways towards satisfaction and peace.

In general they do not share their concept of good life with local citizens.

In consequence they posed philosophical questions and tried to re-solve them by means of the arts, i.e. they discovered their own individual potential for artistic expression about their values.
4. Presentation of the installation & reflection

During the workshop we used art as a tool not only to understand the philosophical approach but also to visualize the archetypes and to evoke emotions.
“Philosophy and Art“ at HCM 2014

• Participants’ art works (selection)
Rosa Roedelius’ art work at HCM
“Philosophy and Art“ at HCM 2014
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Conclusions:

- Starting point: needs and aspirations of participants
- Methodological: Cycle of (1) philosophical statements, (2) self contemplation, (3) self expression in art, (4) philosophical condensation, (5) professional artworking, (6) „lessons learned“ -> (1)…
- Art serves as an expression tool for value ideas
- Art as a stimulator for new, fresh, unconventional…ideas
- Philosophy and Art(s) as the „glue“ between the different and divergent „disciplines of discourse“
- … supporting to overcome the „silo phenomenon“
Thank you for your attention and – keep an eye on HCM!

Humboldt Cosmos Multiversity is an official Association under Spanish law, located in Tenerife: Puerto de la Cruz, La Laguna and Tacoronte („La Casona“)

www.humboldt-cosmos-multiversity.org

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