

NAVET

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NAVET is a meeting place for research and projects in the intersection of art, technology and design, with the purpose of facilitating and creating opportunities for exchange and research collaboration among artists, designers, engineers, humanists, and scientists from both the humanities and technical fields.

Formally, NAVET is a Center at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology, initially funded by all partners, situated at the department of Media Technology and Interaction Design. The current partners are Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts, and Design, KMH Royal College of Music, and SKH Stockholm University of the Arts. It has a board consisting of the heads of research at each partner and representatives from KTH, as well as a Working Group with operative representatives from each partner. The board appointed director is Professor Roberto Bresin.

The centre is to strengthen the subject area of art, technology and design as a field of research, as well as develop knowledge of cross-cultural methodology in order to facilitate the inter- and transdisciplinary culture that the centre seeks to establish.

To do this, NAVET brings together a group of internationally leading researchers and institutions located in Stockholm, with the aim of consolidating and strengthening both the national and international research profile of the participating partners and allows for research and infrastructure collaboration with the different institutions. The constellation is unique in that the network covers among others the fields of engineering, design, music, choreography, film and media, opera and performing arts.

To stimulate collaboration within NAVET, calls for projects have been issued. These projects, called Small Visionary Projects or SVPs, make it possible for researchers to collaborate on joint projects to foster research collaboration and bring added values in areas covered by the institutions. This could include developing and testing new methods and ideas, or the use of instruments, infrastructures, or laboratories available at partner institutions but also development of new methods for interaction and collaboration between artistic and scientific fields of practice.

The emphasis of the projects is on activities that will contribute to the research in one or more areas promoted by the NAVET partner institutions. Therefore, the project team should involve at least two of the NAVET partners. The secondary goal of the SVPs is to work as seed funding, where researchers can try out a collaboration and then, if successful, use the results of the SVPs to apply for further research funding. Thus, the strategy is to fund several shorter projects, rather than a few bigger ones.

Examples of current projects

NAVETs has funded 10 projects at the time of this writing, through SVP calls and the creation of a postdoc position, and will issue a third call after the summer of 2020 with the intention of funding 5 more. Here, as an example, five of these projects are presented briefly.

utrumque

The utrumque research project, a collaboration between KTH and IEM in Graz, works with room scale acoustic feedback. By activating spaces using feedback, questions of shared physicality and presence and how to compose music in relation with the built environment and its multitude of vantage points are explored. The work has so far resulted in workshops, pieces, performances, fixed media publications and scientific articles.

Designing the Sound of the Future

This project is an attempt to design the sounds of work-places in a largely automated post labour future. The project will produce a new method for sound design of future scenarios inspired by methods of documentary filmmaking and sound computing, and provide an initial reflection on how this new method affects workflows in documentary production.

Knitting Concrete

By exploring potential technology transfers between knitting and concrete construction using 3D printing to shape concrete using digitally programmable paths, the project creates an opportunity for re-evaluating norms and conceptions that hitherto have produced concrete as a monolithic and uniform material. In this way, principles of knitting can provide new means of controlling the density, porosity and surface articulation in the shaping of concrete.

Cultural Right of Public Access

The project aims to investigate in what ways creative practices can become meaningful tools for children and young people to explore their own questions about what it means to be in the world today: how to make, name, materialize, portray and share the worlds they are part of. This is done by setting up of a mobile venue for art education beyond syllabi, institutions, economic, political, social and ideological interests

Transforming Practices

To reduce the climate footprint of film productions, the Transforming Practices project will monitor and evaluate life cycle climate impact of practices in film and media, in research and education at Stockholm Uniarts. This work will lead to new tools and documents to support a shift towards films with smaller climate footprints.