



CEKO
Mr. E. de Groot
Postbus 123
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Amsterdam, 16 July 2020

Ref: 20 1093/MH
Subject: Administrative response to BKO report Netherlands Film Academy

Dear Commissie Evaluatie Kwaliteit Onderzoek,

Enclosed you'll find the report of the external review of the lectoraat Film of the Netherlands Film Academy of the Amsterdam University of the Arts, as offered by AeQui in April 2020 after a site visit in November 2019. We discussed the outcome of this report with the director and lector of the Netherlands Film Academy and subsequently prepared our administrative response contained in this writing. Our response is somewhat delayed due to the corona crisis.

We are very pleased with the positive evaluation of the research of the lectoraat Film of the Netherlands Film Academy. We've been able to further sharpen our ideas on the topics discussed, based on the committee's good and clarifying questions.

We agree with the report presented to us in April 2020 and will use it to further strengthen our research. We hereby respond to the recommendations and suggestions of the committee.

recommendations

In order to further develop and consolidate what it has achieved, the committee advises the lectoraat to develop a view on how to build on the knowledge and insights that have been acquired in the master, and a perspective on how it might support the continuity of the individual research projects of its students after they graduate.

The committee recommends that the research unit develop a discourse that enables communication and reflection on methodological principles underlying the artistic research projects, thereby creating conditions for exchange with the professional domain and across disciplinary boundaries.

The committee recommends that the evaluation processes be strengthened by arriving at a systematic methodology for evaluating and recording the quality of all its research projects, particularly where it concerns the artistic research in the master programme.

response

We would like to contextualise our response to these three relevant recommendations by referring to another important recommendation the committee gives in its report: "It encourages the lectoraat to take incremental steps in this transition [towards a new constellation of research and education within the Film Academy], staying within its means and capabilities." It's this advice to take the development of the lectoraat – from being primarily related to the (development of the) Master 'Artistic Research in and through Cinema' to a research environment for the Film Academy as a whole – step by step that we very much take heed of.

It implies further integration of all research endeavours of the master researchers, the staff of the academy, alumni and research fellows within the frame of the lectoraat. Involving them in the Studios/Labs and research groups (for details look into the self-assessment report), we hope to secure the constant influx of practice-based expertise derived from their ongoing inquiries (that will be shared with peers and other student-researchers) and incorporate that expertise into the collective research tracks developed within the Studios/Labs. We further intend to translate that accumulated expertise into grant applications of the Studios/Labs, research groups, or the lectoraat itself (e.g. Comenius Senior Fellowship). Within this (or similar) model we aspire to not only provide student-researchers with an opportunity to pursue their inquiries further after graduation but also allow the staff of the academy to integrate research in their artistic practice, raise their professional qualifications and integrate elements of practice-based research in the curriculum.

Additionally, we intend to launch a research group preoccupied with the sustainability of the mode of Artistic Research developed within the lectoraat and its convergence with the professional field, that will further disseminate the results of our research activities within the professional domain and across disciplinary boundaries.

The self-assessment handed in for the BKO-visit already delineates the details of our development plan by indicating short, mid and long-term steps required to put such a structure in place. The three recommendations quoted above give us additional suggestions for that incremental process.

They all circle around questions of methodology and communication: about being more explicit about the methodology and evaluation of artistic research (in and through cinema) and about subsequently communicating this understanding more actively and to a more clearly defined field of relevant interlocutors. These questions, demanding us to specify the relevance of artistic research and to determine whom we are talking to, are indeed essential. They were raised, in different ways, on the pages of the critical review, and we are presently also using the preparations towards the upcoming accreditation of the Master programme to further and systematically address them.

In that process, we further refine the four-stage methodology that the Master has developed, with its sequence of four semesters (subjectivity, methodology, experimentation and conceptualisation) appropriate it to the needs of the work done in the lectoraat and its future Studios and Labs. While, similarly, defining and articulating the relevance of artistic research within the space of the Master, will allow not just the Master but also the lectoraat to better connect to outside peers and partners and develop a nourishing network for the research projects to be undertaken within the lectoraat.

Working towards the development of a systematic methodology for evaluating and recording the quality of all research projects within the lectoraat, we're currently finalizing the works on the proof of concept for the Online Platform for Research in and through Cinema that will serve as an archive and accumulative reservoir of records, allowing for continuous feedback and evaluation of our research initiatives and methods.

Furthermore, we're engaged in a discussion with peers from both the educational and professional field to evaluate principles and standards within the developing field of artistic research in and through cinema. Last but not least, as part of the step by step development of the next phase of the lectoraat, the Research Hub of the lectoraat will appoint a board drawn from heads of departments, delegates of the research groups, fellows, staff members, and student-researchers that will be charged with upholding the quality of our ongoing research initiatives.

In this way we want to further strengthen the research of the lectoraat Film of the Netherlands Film Academy.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'B' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small arrowhead.

Bert Verveld
president Executive Board