



Invitation to contribute to the panel:

Fieldscapes – A situated approach to multispecies design

Chairs

[Emma Sicher](#), [Rasa Weber](#)

Call

Interspecies interactions are intensely explored in Multispecies Studies, with special attention to the challenges posed by contemporary poly-crises. Scholars like Ávila (2022) emphasize the need for conscious approaches in design research to acknowledge multispecies interdependence and promote practices of care and coexistence for a more equitable (Holland & Roudavski 2024), cosmopolitical (Yaneva & Zaera-Polo 2015), and regenerative “Pluriverse” (Escobar 2018). Bringing these theoretical insights into practice poses critical challenges.

Biodesign (Myers & Antonelli 2012), an interdisciplinary field engaging with living organisms—from bacteria to corals—explores new ‘living’ materialities (Karana, et al. 2020) through prototypes, artifacts, and architectural structures. While intense collaboration takes place with biotech disciplines, there is limited inclusion of other-than-academic, vernacular, and tacit knowledge, such as cultural craft techniques and field-based multispecies ontologies.

We advocate for fieldwork as an underexplored diffracting method that can enhance multispecies sensibilities, deepen engagements with situated configurations and ecologies, and foster reflexivity and sensitivity in Biodesign processes. This panel seeks to elaborate on experimental field-based contributions to Biodesign.

We aim to explore how ethnographic methods, practice-based designerly ways of knowing, and development of knowledge in actu (Mareis 2017) can contribute to the study of interspecies interactions in the field. We also want to examine how prototyping can become a diffractive practice, engaging with the flux of materialities (Ingold 2007) and organisms in situated contexts. Furthermore, we are interested in how Biodesign-artifacts can foster invitational practices (Lindström and Ståhl 2020) through regenerative socio-materialities in situated configurations and ecologies.

We welcome critical discussions on epistemological, ontological, and praxiological translations across diverse sites (Latour 1983), attempting to bridge academic and other-than-academic and disciplinary boundaries.

Requested deliveries

☐ Abstract

200 words + 75 words bio(s) of the author(s)

Template on the next page.

☐ Short paper

5 keywords

1000-2000 words (references excluded)

APA style references

Images can be added in color in the text or the appendix

The purpose of the short paper is to summarize and elaborate on the content of the presentation. We kindly invite you to include critical reflections on the methods, challenges, open questions, and future prospects related to the practices presented. Modifications or clarifications may be requested for the selected short papers. The final versions will be collected into a single document that will be sent to all presenters to facilitate focused discussion during the conference. The panel intends to create an opportunity to elaborate on the current spectrum of multispecies design in the field and to reveal various aspects that constitute these emergent exploratory practices and their implications. Unfortunately, no proceedings are foreseen after the conference.

Important dates

- 1) Deadline abstract ☐ **October 31st**
- 2) Communication of the selected abstracts ☐ **November 4th**
- 3) Short-paper delivery ☐ **January 10st**
- 4) Notification of changes ☐ **January 31st**
- 5) Delivery of the refined paper ☐ **February 13th**

Delivery to: emma.sicher@hu-berlin.de

Object: STS Hub 2025 / Fieldscales / Abstract proposal / Author(s) names

More information about the conference: <https://sts-hub.de/25/>

STS Hub 2025

Panel

Fieldscapes – A situated approach to multispecies design

Paper title

First name, Last name^a; First name, Last name^b; ..

^a Institution of affiliation

^b Institution of affiliation

...

Keywords

1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Abstract

200 words

Please try to briefly include the motivation/background, approach/method, reflexive considerations, and aspects you wish to bring up during the presentation.

Bio(s)

75 words each