

PhD Abstract

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«Das emanzipatorische Theater. Institutions-transformative Praxen im Theaterraum Zürich» ("The Emancipatory Theater")

My research project is entitled «Das emanzipatorische Theater. Institutionstransformative Praxen im Theaterraum Zürich» ("The Emancipatory Theater).

Institutional transformative practices in theater"). It arose out of the urgency, based on my more than ten years of practical experience as a permanent dramaturg at Swiss theatres, not only to subject the difficult-to-reform, traditionally bourgeois institution of municipal theatres to a critique, but also to analyse ongoing transformative attempts and processes in the scene and to illuminate them with dramaturgical methods in order to then work out how a sustainable structural transformation of theatres could be possible with regard to social change, changing production conditions in the arts and new aesthetics.

The project has both a theoretical and an artistic component: in addition to a theoretical embedding in questions of institutional critique in the arts and an institutional analysis of the Schauspielhaus Zurich, an artistic handbook is to be produced that bundles dramaturgical-artistic practices and strategies, exercises and playful experiments for the institutional transformation of theatres that have been tested in the research process and makes them available to other theatre practitioners and organisations that are concerned with questions of institutional transformation.