



OUT OF HOME: ASSEMBLING MOMENTS OF INTIMATE PUBLICNESS

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Public space promises public life: hanging out with or without purpose, meeting or observing strangers, socializing. Yet, public spaces are not per se places of publicness; they do not automatically invite an interest for the other and trigger mutual engagement. To become public spaces, we suggest, publicness depends on an additional productive unsettling of individual rhythms: an extending of one's own values, perceptions and routines, to overcome one's own home, that is, to leave one's comfort zone.



In our research we locate publicness in what we call intimate encounters. This intimacy as micro-spatial engagement with the other is not (and probably never) a purely solely experienced state of mind. In public space it's always already a social condition, the social condition of leaving "home", which is the privileged place of intimacy as protected being-in-oneself. The home provides that comfort zone in which we experience the world as ours, as a domesticated, routinized, familiar place. Leaving that comfort zone of home towards an engagement with the other is thus a moment of becoming public, through intimate encounters.



We assume that it is such sensorial, intimate encounters in and through which *publicness is produced*. Thereby we aim at further unpacking publicness as a productive process: We understand publicness not as a given *condition* for “public” life, but as a socio-material relation that emerges from intimacy, from the most micro-spatial engagement with the Other. Providing access to this intimacy, the encounter is the minimal move from which publicness can emerge.

Such encounter we do not limit to the level of clearly defined bordered objects – intimacy reaches into the micro-biological exchange of bacteria, molecules. The intimate encounter does

not only draw us to a touchable object, exterior to ourselves, or another human being, but towards the inside of our body as home, urging us to engage with what it is that constitutes its walls. Mostly in everyday practice, we do not discover ourselves as others, nor the other as intimately connected to us. Thus, drawing attention to the always-already connectedness with our social and built environment, the public, is the aim of our procedures.



Our interest is to collectively develop several research projects that allow to experience this encounter. By creating moments of shared intimacy in projects such as 'Il Bügl Public' and

'Fuori di Testa', we aim at experiencing the boundaries of the self and the other in the intimacy of encounters between humans, things, spatial arrangements, plants and animals. The intimate encounters, triggered in and through our projects, destabilize routinized ways of object-uses and evoke more-than-human interactions.



With our research we pursue two interrelated objectives: First, we theorize the mutual connection of publicness and intimacy with anthropological perspectives on “affordance”. We argue that these can be fruitfully seated within artistic research literatures and become practical

in artistic research projects. Second, we plan to demonstrate this by assembling moments of intimate publicness as artistic research practice.



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