



Activity Report 2019

23 January 2020

**iuwz SQRIDGE
Oedenkovenstraat 57
2140 Borgerhout
Belgium**

**info@sqrige.org
<http://www.sqrige.com>**



The statutes of SQRIDGE were deposited at the Belgian registry on 26 August 2019, and published on 28 August 2019 in the Belgian legal journal, thus legally establishing the NGO as an “internationale vereniging zonder winstoogmerk” (iuvzw, or an international non-profit organization), regulated by the Belgian law of 23 March 2019 establishing a code of companies and associations.

SQRIDGE has the following aims:

- a) promoting, enabling and performing artistic research and scientific research, and research that is located at its intersections;**
- b) actively engaging in international scientific research, in the broadest possible range of academic fields and disciplines;**
- c) actively engaging in and supporting the production, the display and the distribution of creative practices, at the international level, in the different artistic domains;**
- d) stimulating international collaborations, dialogues, debates and reflections in relation to arts, science and their intersecting domains.**

SQRIDGE currently has two directors, Nico Carpentier and Vaia Doudaki.

This document reports on the first activities of SQRIDGE, for the first (brief) period of its existence, from 28 August until 31 December 2019.



Establishing SQRIDGE as an organization

In September 2019, SQRIDGE opened its bank account at UDK, a bank located in Ghent (Belgium). The financial zone of SQRIDGE become fully operational in October. The accounting system was set-up in the same period.

SQRIDGE's web zone at sqrige.org became activated in early October 2019, with currently a small website up and running. Email addresses (including info@sqrige.org) were created. Also other visual elements (e.g., logo and letter head) were produced.

A first group of advisory board members were invited into the organization in November 2019. Currently, these are Fernando Oliveira Paulino, Hillel Nossek, Jaroslav Anděl and Dilek Beybin Kejanlioglu.



First sqidgings

Two activities were developed and prepared in this first period. First, the organizational work for the Respublika! Finland project, second a research project on the Prague Zoo assemblage. Both will only truly materialize in 2020. In addition, conservational work has been done on one of the pre-sqidgings, the Respublika! archive at Respublika.neme.org.

Sqidging 1: Respublika! Finland: Arts-based Research or Communication Studies? Yes, please!

The workshop is aimed at establishing a dialogue between different stakeholders about arts-based research projects in Finland, focusing on 1/the perceived relevance of, and opportunities generated by this type of research, 2/the experiences with organizing these kinds of research, 3/the requirements for strengthening this field of inquiry, and 4/the role that (Communication and Media Studies) scholars can play in (initiating) these projects. It will take place on 6 February 2020, at Helsinki University, and is organised by Nico Carpentier and Johanna Sumiala.





RESPUBLIKA! FINLAND

*Arts-based Research or
Communication Studies?*

Yes, please!

Program

10:00 Welcoming coffee

10:15 Opening by Johanna Sumiala & Nico Carpentier

Red Villa's
Community Space
(Lauttasaari Manor,
Kone Foundation,
Kauppaneuvoksen-
tie 18)

A first panel of cases and reflections

- 10:30 Nico Carpentier, Charles University, Prague
11:00 Panos Kompatsiaris, National Research University of Higher School of Economics, Moscow
11:30 Chris Bratton, Aalto University/The Center for Arts, Design, and Social Research (CAD+SR), Boston

12:00-13:00 Lunch break

A second panel of cases and reflections

- 13:00 Saara Särmä, University of Tampere
13:30 Razan Alsalaf, Concordia University, Montreal
14:00 Ou Ning, Columbia University, US

6th Feb
10-16.30h

14:30 Coffee break

15:00 Roundtable on arts-based research collaboration, chaired by Johanna Sumiala
Speakers: Anna Talasniemi/Kone Foundation; Erich Berger/Bios; Paula Toppila/IHME Contemporary Art Festival; Nico Carpentier, Charles University.

16:00 Collective wrap-up



INSTITUTE OF COMMUNICATION
STUDIES AND JOURNALISM
Faculty of Social Sciences
Charles University

Sqridging 2: The Prague Zoo Wolf Assemblage

This is a research project based on an observation of the four wolves in the Prague Zoo, and reflects on how the wolves are materially and discursively fixated by such an assemblage. The essay analyses the fears and fascinations that drive these fixations, and the contradictions they generate. The cat face filter, used in the photographs, then becomes a metaphor, that signifies the instrumentalization and enculturation of the wild. At the same time, the wolves manage to resist these fixations, albeit only to a limited degree, also raises their series of questions.

and the essay voices, to ask a theoretical



One output of this project is a visual essay, in the Czech Fotograf Magazine, expected to be published early 2020. A second output is a presentation at the “Media and Breakdown” symposium, on 19 March 2020, at Lund University in Sweden.

Programme

MEDIA AND BREAKDOWN | INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM | 19TH MARCH 2020 | LUND UNIVERSITY

4:45 pm

Keynote Panel: Breaking Down Barriers (Chair: Bo Reimer, Malmö University)

- **Annette Hill**, Lund University, Sweden – *Digital Media Blackouts: Transported Immobility in Rural Sweden*
- **Nico Carpentier**, Charles University, Czech Republic & SQRIDGE – *Breaking Down the Frontiers Between the Material and the Discursive: A Case-study on the Assemblage of Four Prague wolves*



Future plans

In 2020, SQRIDGE will develop a strategy for seeking and gaining grants, possibly in combination with other resources (e.g., donations), within the aims of the organization. The 2020 objectives combine the development of intersectional initiatives and reflections on these initiatives by the current members, with the stimulation of similar activities by non-members. To support these objectives, the advisory board will be expanded further.