

Kuckuck

notizen zur alltagskultur



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

02/2025: Care & Activism

To care and to care for, to take care of and to aftercare, to be careful, to look after and to provide, to dispose, to feed, to supply and to re-produce, to act attentively and sustainably; to care for those who care. Care_labour is central to cohabitation with people, animals and the environment - we all care and are cared for. Nevertheless, or precisely because care_work is so central to our everyday lives, it often remains invisible or is taken for granted. In times of growing social, economic and political challenges, the significance of care is becoming increasingly lucid and the starting point for activism, protest and the search for alternatives: struggles for the recognition and fair distribution of care_work, struggles against the invisibility and exploitation of female and precarious labour.

Ideas and practices of care are still central to the construction of femininity, to gender order and attributions. The separation of productive and reproductive labour reinforces normative gender relations and exploitations - also in left-wing groups. A structure that continues to influence the agency of individuals to this day. In activist contexts, solidarity is usually thought of as intersectional, but not always practised as such. By analysing care practices, the concealment qua attribution of a specific "gender character" (Karin Hausen), the structural devaluation and lack of respect as well as the re-production of racist, classist, sexist and patriarchal structures become visible.

From a historical and current perspective, social and political movements are often androcentrically dominated, care practices and policies are gendered. Female-associated resistance practices, which made and make the mobilisation of broad resistance movements possible in the first place, are still not recognized until today. Unequal gender relations are marginally treated as a 'second cause', which loses significance when it comes to other political struggles. Women* engage in (social) reproduction on many levels and thereby maintain their own labour force and resources for social and political struggles as well as those of fellow allies and comrades. This makes it possible to formulate that care is not only an anti-capitalist labour capacity, but also a global field of power and can be understood as "armed love" (Miriam Ticktin).

However, the concept of care and care practices go far beyond the field of reproduction - driven primarily by feminist technoscience. Care is used as a principle of thought and action and stands for a relational understanding of planetary, ethical and political responsibility that extends beyond the human horizon and serves as a framework for new perspectives on (political) ecologies that are more-than-human.

02/2025: CARE & ACTIVISM

This issue is dedicated to the topic of care & activism from a variety of perspectives – including those that remain unmentioned here – and calls for contributions that are at the intersection of the two topics. Equally welcome are contributions that approach the topic from an activist, collaborative and/or engaged science perspective as well as scientific and/or artistic contributions that bring theoretical, practical and experiential perspectives to the following questions:

Which forms of care are viable for the future? Which practices of care_work can offer resistance to existing inequalities? How can care practices be negotiated in an activist context? What is care_work in an activist context anyway? How can re-production be conceived and practised as activism? Who feels responsible for care_labour in activist initiatives? What significance does care_labour have in the context of other struggles? Who recognises care needs and responds to them? What can care look like as a collective project, as an alternative to state, economic structures that are entangled in neoliberal, post-colonial, patriarchal structures? What ideas, examples and visions of a solidarity-based care economy are there? What about caring for people, the environment, plants, animals and collective forms of reproductive labour? How are gender norms reproduced and at the same time undermined and questioned? How is care negotiated in relationships, through intimacy and sex? How can this care be organised and who should be cared for? Who remains undersupplied, unprovided and excluded from care? What significance do class, gender, age and race play in this? How are they integrated into neoliberal working and living conditions? How do we write about all these issues with care?

We look forward to receiving **abstracts, ideas and proposals of 150 words** for empirical, conceptual, essayistic, activist and/or artistic contributions as well as a **short biographical note** from the contributor(s) by **March 3rd, 2025** to the following email adress: kuckuck@uni-graz.at

The deadline for submissions is August 3rd, 2025. Contributions should be no longer than 20,000 characters including all references and will go through a collaborative editing process by the kuckuck editorial team.

Further information for authors can be found on the website:
https://www.kuckucknotizen.at/kuckuck/index.php/en/preview_en/119-info_author_en



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