

Immersive Arts Space – Zurich University of the Arts / Online

Tuesday, 30 June – Wednesday, 1 July 2026

Probing XR's Futures: Midterm Meeting

Abstract

Since November 2023, the SNSF-funded project *Probing XR's Futures: Design Fiction, Bodily Experience and Critical Inquiry* has brought together an interdisciplinary team of researchers at the Immersive Arts Space (IAS). The project has informed complementary lines of inquiry in and across perceptual experiments, design fiction, and interaction analysis, as well as transversal interest in breaching experiments and engagement with critical disability. In the process, the research team has probed form, fiction, and interaction in various configurations of collaboration and across contrasting settings (the studio lab, street corners, bars, and more). On this basis, many conference presentations and publication projects have seen the light of day, including a several *CHI* papers, a forthcoming special issue of *New Media & Society*, and a coedited volume entitled *Sensing XR: Bodies, Technology, Interaction* (Salter, Mondada & Sormani, in preparation).

This two-day midterm meeting – held at IAS on 30 June and 1 July 2026 – will take stock of the running project, its empirical results and multiple insights, while identifying next moves and promising crossovers for project finalization (until 31 October 2027, the scheduled closing date of *Probing XR's Futures*). The meeting program may thus be summarized in three familiar questions: “What have we done? What have we learned? And what’s next?”. In answer to these questions, Day I invites its participants, and the research team members in particular, to assemble and revisit their principal results, insights, and pending questions, be it in terms of form [1], fiction [2], and/or interaction [3], if not breaching experiments, critical disability, and more [4]. On this basis, Day II invites discussion on epistemic implications, aesthetic possibilities, and crossover experimentation – that is, in and across form, fiction, and interaction, the project’s main strands of interdisciplinary inquiry so far.

Program

DAY I – Tuesday, 30 June 2026

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| 11-11.15am | <i>Welcome & Introduction: Research Strands and “Crip Grounds”</i>
Chris Salter, Puneet Jain & Philippe Sormani (IAS, ZHdK) |
| 11.15am-12.15pm | <i>Form [1]: Perceptual Experiments and Aesthetic Experiences</i>
Chris Salter, Oliver Sahli & Pascal Lund-Jensen, in collaboration with Lorenza Mondada et al.

Discussant: Geraldine Honauer (Artist, Basel, tbc) |
| 12.15-1.30pm | LUNCH |
| 1.30-2.30pm | <i>Fiction [2]: Designs, Scenarios, Worlds</i>
Puneet Jain, Chris Elvis Leisi, Stella Speziali & Olivia Stutz

Discussant:
Miriam Sturdee (University of St Andrews, Computer Science) |
| 2.30-2.45pm | Break |
| 2.45-3.45pm | <i>Interaction [3]: Expectations, Encounters, “Meta” and More [4]</i>
Philippe Sormani, Oliver Sahli, Pascal Lund-Jensen & Puneet Jain, in collaboration with Lorenza Mondada et al.

Discussant: Clemens Eisenmann
(University of Constance, Sociology) |

3.45-4pm	Break
4-6pm	<i>More Experimentation: Design Fiction in and as a Rehearsal Space</i> Puneet Jain, Chris Elvis Leisi, Stella Speziali & Olivia Stutz, in collaboration with Team IAS
6.00-6.15pm	<i>Sensing XR: Book Update & Outlook Day II</i> Philippe Sormani & Chris Salter (IAS, ZHdK)

DAY II – Wednesday, 1 July 2026

11am-12.15pm	<i>Wrap-Up Day I, Tour de table, Crossover “Hunches”</i> All – Moderators: Puneet Jain & Christian Bayerlein
12.15-1.30pm	LUNCH
1.30-3pm	<i>Crossovers I: Book Matters – Form, Fiction, and Interaction</i> All – Moderator: Philippe Sormani, Feedback: Christian Bayerlein
3-3.30pm	Break
3.30-4.30pm	<i>Crossovers II: Aesthetic Extensions – Performances, Installations, and Residencies</i> All – Moderator: Chris Salter, Feedback: Christian Bayerlein
4.30-4.45pm	Break
4.45-5.15pm	<i>Closing Discussion & Project Outlook</i> All (IAS, ZHdK)

Support, Venue & Participation

The event is supported by SNF and IAS and will be held at Immersive Arts Space, Förrlibuckstrasse 109, CH-8005 Zürich. Project team and advisory board members, as well as associated researchers and interested colleagues are invited to participate.