



YOUTH SECTION AT THE
GOETHEANUM - SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

2022 ANNUAL REVIEW





"THAT NEW BEGINNINGS CAN OCCUR"

CONSTANZA KALIKS

This year has been a time of transition for the Youth Section and, at the same time, full of initiatives, events, and projects. Above all, it has been a year of beginnings, of renewed beginnings. In January 2023, Nathaniel Williams will take over the Section's leadership at the Goetheanum - it is a great pleasure for us all to welcome him and his family very soon.

The previous team, and the young people working with Nathaniel from January onwards, have created a transition full of life. Thanks to the work of all involved, closing a period and beginning a new one wove together wonderfully. I want to take this opportunity to thank Andrea de la Cruz, especially - her commitment and dedication to sharing responsibility for this year of transition has made this renewed continuity possible.

Being able to start anew is characteristic of the individual biography - and also in a very decisive way of the social future. It is the fact of human existence which guarantees the world that new beginnings can occur: for there to be a beginning, humanity was created, said Augustine. That "A child is born" is a tremendous irruption in what has become, a wondrous assurance that everything can be transformed - and that there is existence. This promise, given with

each birth, is fulfilled in the freely chosen commitment towards the world and others throughout life and is already visible in youth. "Celebrations of hope and expectation" are to be the future celebrations of Michaelmas, "hope and expectation" is the gift that each birth brings.

It is not an easy time, even for many young people - difficulties arise from what we encounter in the world and sometimes within ourselves. "Stick together" was Rudolf Steiner's suggestion to young people [Steiner, R. (1924), GA 217a, pp. 108-109]: The fact that we share a common world, a common time, gives us the certainty that whatever happens, others are with us. To experience this is perhaps one of the most reliable foundations for life - and for the work of the Youth Section.

With great, even inexpressible gratitude for the collaboration with countless young people worldwide and at the Goetheanum, I wish Nathaniel, Gabriele and Jacinta and all the young people who connect with the initiatives and projects much courage, trust, awareness and joy for what will emerge and be developed in the Youth Section.

Constanza Kaliks
Youth Section Leader 2011-2022



2022 IN REVIEW

ANDREA DE LA CRUZ, GAIA TERMOPOLI, JOHANNES KRONENBERG AND IOANA VISCRIANU

What does it mean to stand at the threshold? What is required of us to make transitions and to go through them consciously? The year 2022 has been, for the Youth Section team, an attempt to learn to live in these moments; moments characterised by the vulnerability of needing to let go and the fulfilment that arises in gathering the fruits from the past so that they may develop into strong seeds for the future.

This year's Youth Section at the Goetheanum's team began with a group of older youth who had worked with Constanza Kaliks since 2015 (Ioana Viscrianu, Andrea de la Cruz, Johannes Kronenberg and Gaia Termopoli). They were entrusted with stewarding the Section's work and rounding off landmark projects of the previous years, whilst supporting the new leader of the Section, Nathaniel Williams, to settle into his new tasks before his arrival in 2023. One of their most important tasks included helping form a new team of young co-workers to take over the basic tasks of the Section. Through this process, the team grew to include Jacinta Gorchs (23, Argentina) and Gabriele Nys (20, Belgium).

Jacinta and Gabriele have undertaken the enormous task of attempting to learn, in a very short span of time, the history of the Youth Section and the youth movement in Anthroposophy since Rudolf Steiner's time. They have shown outstanding dedication to the Section's previous work, supporting the older team in closing projects and becoming fully involved. Furthermore, they have dedicated the year to reflecting on what might be essential questions for youth today and out of these, they have developed their own initiatives and offered open spaces for local and international youth to bring and explore their own questions too.

The older team has taken some final steps in their work at the Section, which will be more noticeable in 2023 when three publications will become available to the public as a result of their work. They have consolidated some essential questions that they carried for years about the significance of Anthroposophy's task in contemporary life, its School of Spiritual Science and the Goetheanum. Perhaps most importantly, they have been able to grasp the meaning of their common work as a team, and how fruitful a collaborative approach to work and responsibility can be when done in freedom, out of love for the tasks at hand.

Because of this, we would like to deeply thank Constanza Kaliks for all her years of work with and for young people worldwide, for always trusting us with the responsibility of carrying our own questions and enabling spaces for others to take the initiative too. And most of all, for nurturing our love for Anthroposophy and the Goetheanum throughout our years together.

We also thank Nathaniel Williams for his courageous "yes!" to our dear Section's work. And to his family for making the leap and accompanying him in his future tasks. We wish you all the very best for your adventures in Dornach.

To Jacinta and Gabriele, for being so present and committed to our common work, mirroring our processes as a team and teaching us that we still have a lot to learn! Our deepest thank you. You make us feel hopeful about the future and what will come from the younger generations. We will be there to support you.

To all of you: the young people that make the Youth Section a reality in 20+ countries around the world, the members of the General Anthroposophical Society, our colleagues at the Goetheanum, our funders and all the people who read our work and connect to our initiatives: Thank you for your unconditional support and trust, and for giving us a chance to grow "older" with the Youth Section at the Goetheanum - School of Spiritual Science.

Andrea de la Cruz, Gaia Termopoli, Johannes Kronenberg and Ioana Viscrianu
Youth Section at the Goetheanum co-workers 2015-2022





INITIATIVE CIRCLE AND "THE THREEFOLD SOCIAL ORDER AND THE TASK OF YOUTH"

JACINTA GORCHS

The Youth Section's Initiative Circle

In January 2022, the Youth Section Initiative Circle arose from young people's longing to enliven the Youth Section house in Dornach after several months of silence due to social restrictions during the pandemic. Amongst others, the group felt the need to discuss social issues like the international conflict in Russia-Ukraine. Some of the questions that arose for us were:

What is happening in the world? What do I know? Where do I take information from? Which sources do I trust? What happened to young people during 'corona' times? How do we deal with fear? How to foster human encounters again? Why war?

To look at the war situation first, the group invited Gerald Häfer, leader of the Social Sciences Section at the Goetheanum, to guide a conversation through this complex topic. As a result, a group of about 25 people came together in the Youth Section's house.

"What is the position of Europe? What is its task? Europe is between the west (America) and the east (Asia); could the task of Europe be to act as a mediator, to be in the middle?"

Europe is between two world orders: capitalism (America) and communism (Asia).

Nothing accurately captures this situation better than the broken and divided Germany after the II World War and the wall in Berlin. The eruption of the war in Ukraine brings the same question and dilemma: is Ukraine part of the west or the east? Is Europe's identity split into a western part and an eastern part but nothing by itself? Or have Europe and Ukraine their own identity, task, a third ideal, which is not the duality of East or West, capitalism or communism?"

Layla, member of the Initiative Circle.



Following this very interesting conversation, questions like "what responsibilities do I have as an individual in a situation like this? How can I know the social impact that my actions have? What do I support with my actions? What can we learn from Anthroposophy to work with social questions?" arose for the group.

Rudolf Steiner's indications on how to understand society could help us work towards healthy relationships. In this way, we began the conversations about how to engage with the Threefold Social Order.

The Threefold Social Order and the task of youth

"We are pleased to announce the beginning of a series of lectures and short interviews on the Threefold Social Order and the task of youth. Throughout the year, we will have experts in the field who will share with us their thoughts inspired by these three questions:

**What is Threefolding from your perspective?
What is the task of the youth in the Threefold Social Order?
How to make it possible now?"**

Since mid-2022, groups of young people—primarily students of anthroposophical schools in the area—meet with an expert on Social Threefolding for a 3-hour session once a month. In one case, a more extended session took place, spanning three afternoons. We worked together to learn about Rudolf Steiner's indications on understanding society and building healthy relationships.

Through images, examples, and experiences from people already working with these indications, it was inspiring to see that it is possible to start bringing these ideas into concrete projects. With each contributor, we recorded a short interview capturing the core ideas of what happened in the face-to-face session. Those will come out on GoetheanumTV at the beginning of 2023.

"I am convinced that it is with young people that one must work on the ideas and ideals for social renewal. At this stage of life, the new, the old and the present work together gently in constant movement. We are social beings; how do we deal with this? Social threefolding offers, especially to the youth, a path of awareness in building one's identity. This happens largely as a mirror of learning to observe social phenomena."

Jacinta, co-worker of the Youth Section at the Goetheanum.

This project will continue in 2023 as three intensive weekend seminars during the year. The first will already take part from 16-19 February at the Goetheanum.



OUR HOUSE: AN OPEN SPACE TO MEET

GABRIELE NYS

In September 2022, Gabriele took over the care for the Youth Section House from Gaia Termopoli. Here is a short summary of the last months of 2022.

In the first week of their program, the students from the Anthroposophical Studies were welcomed in the House and met the team of the Youth Section at the Goetheanum during a sunny lunch outside of the House. It was a great start and these wonderful people from all over the world have been bringing new ideas, interest and life into the Youth Section House! One can feel their willingness to share, gather and care as part of the community of the House.

On Michaelmas Day, the 29th of September, an old Youth Section House tradition blossomed again: Thursday Evening Dinner! From then on, every week we have been gathering at the House whilst cooking a delicious organic and vegetarian meal. After taking care of the space, every week we explore a different topic together. We went through space with a sun carved out of sweet potato, learned to sing rounds and shared our memories and traditions around Christmas, noticing the differences between being in Europe and coming from the Southern hemisphere.

The house has been an open space filled with introductions to various initiatives: students from the DNS Teacher Training invited us all to learn together in Denmark, whereas a local stone carving project made us warm to start hammering outside in the cold. The capacity of the House was challenged during the joint Thursday evening dinner with the participants from "Frage! Begegne! Spiele!" ("Question! Encounter! Play!"). We enjoyed Afghan rice and carrot salad, used all the chairs and fit as many people possible on our lovely sofa!

On the 3rd of November, we welcomed the General Secretaries of the National Anthroposophic Societies in the House! Over a bowl of soup, conversations in pairs were started over inspiring questions everybody brought with them. "What makes you enthusiastic about anthroposophy?"

When do you feel most connected to your highest self? What is special about meeting in an international group? What makes anthroposophy... anthroposophy? How can we build the bridges needed between the Youth Section and the rest of the anthroposophical movement to create lasting and supportive structures?"

Since November, we have been supported by the Goetheanum Garden team with biodynamic vegetables from their market. This has inspired us to talk about agriculture and taken the consciousness of our joint meals to even more appreciate the food we are preparing, and find precious potatoes in the shape of hearts.

As part of celebrating the seasons and the festivals in the House, a series of four celebrations for the Advent Sundays is taking place at the Youth Section. The story of the four Angels accompanies us in this time preparing for Christmas: one short piece being read out loud every Sunday. It has brought a wonderful inward turned atmosphere into the House, whilst filling the windows with the most creative and colorful paper stars. We look forward to hosting a Christmas dinner at the House, inspired by our Thursday evening conversation about all the different traditions and celebrations in families around the world.

A wonderful diverse group of people has brought life and ideas into the Youth Section House by staying with us. We are thankful for every individual, family and group that has cared for the House and became a part of the dynamic community in and around the House.



We look forward to hosting twelve co-workers from the Youth Section in Georgia throughout the time they participate in the Christmas Conference at the Goetheanum! In the coming year, we wish to celebrate and move with the seasons, bring art into the space by giving young artists a place to exhibit, welcome our new permanent residents, but first and foremost to continue to have the Youth Section House as a welcoming and open space to meet old and new friends!





LIVING & WORKING COMMUNITIES RESEARCH

IOANA VISCRIANU

Since July 2021, the Youth Section at the Goetheanum has led a qualitative participative research project on behalf and in collaboration with three socio-therapeutic living and working communities in Germany: Altschlirf[1], Münzinghof[2] and Sassen-Richthof[3]. This project will end with a final publication in the Spring of 2023.

Two main concerns led to the initiative of the three communities to initiate such a research project, on which this publication may give first insights: on the one hand, the need to explore the conditions of the reality of life within the communities and to make them capable of expression, and secondly, to work out the developmental questions and impulses that appear in them for the future and for the larger society.

The research team took as starting point of the research the questions and the reality of the three communities: "What is the specificity of socialtherapeutic communities?" and "What is the future potential of them?".

The practice in the communities has been surveyed on the basis of individual voices with the intention that the impulses and ideas guiding them, as well as the conceptual and action-related potentials can be shown on the base of the reality of the people in the communities. In addition, participant observation will be used to shed light on how the work is organised. For this purpose, the research team were visiting some of the houses of the communities, workshops and conferences.

The results of this phase of research lead in the course of time, to the question of the conditions and possibilities to create a life together and spaces of cooperation together with people with assistance. Therefore, the final publication will also address this question in the context of the societal discourse about inclusion.[4]

The regularly exchange meetings between the communities and the research team, as well as the interviews and focus groups have been

perceived by the participants as a "source of strength"[5], as a dialogue and a "profound connection to the ideal questions and motives" [6] on community building processes and the shaping of healthy living and working spaces together with people with special needs.

For the research team where the encounters with the people living in the communities, the questions of the research and the processes of exchange a wonderful opportunity to handle in depth basic questions about possibilities of shaping spaces for the human beings to foster healthy life conditions and chances of development according to the own individual impulse in connection with the reality of the world.

We look back with gratitude for this great opportunity and forward with joy for the final publication of the project and hopefully the fruits this work will carry in the future.

[1] www.gemeinschaft-altenschlirf.de

[2] www.muenzinghof.de

[3] www.lebensgemeinschaft.de/sassen

[4]

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability-inclusion.html>

[5] Extract of a lead Interview

[6] Extract of a lead Interview





The Research School took place between October 2021 and March 2022. It was inspired by young people's interest in the Youth Section's approaches to research during the (Re)Search: The Spiritual Striving of Youth - Shaping Reality project (2017-2021). It was designed for young people with interest in research grounded on Anthroposophy. Through theory and practice, through individual and collective work, we worked with questions related to philosophy, epistemology, ethical science and participatory research. The all-encompassing theme **"Research as Participation in the Process of Knowledge"**.

PARTICIPANT REFLECTION

Ilinca Manole, Romania

The colloquium "Research as Participation in the Process of Knowledge" set the beginning of spring in my heart because new questions and interests bloomed out of the experience. Even though I wasn't part of the research project, I found that I have many subjects to study for myself. I feel that the event was organized in a magical way because every day, we had a lot of answers that came up during the activities and we could make correlations between the lectures, campus tours, study mornings, eurythmy, research presentations and all the conversations we had.

I admired the fruitful process of the participants of the research. I was really happy to listen to people talking with so much passion and interest about subjects that are dear to their hearts. The whole weekend I was very present and focused on the discussion topics and it amazed me because most of the time I get distracted very fast.

The invitation for this report brought me a space to reflect and put in order my thoughts and experiences from the colloquium. Although it was hard to express myself in words, my heart will always know how important this event was and I will access the memories any time I need inspiration, a new perspective or warmth.

PARTICIPANT REFLECTION

Iasmina Manole, Romania

In 2020, during the "Research in times of Covid" project held by the Youth Section at the Goetheanum, I realised how important it is for me to keep the burning questions that come up during the days. The Research School (from October 2021 to March 2022) helped me to find my strength and to put myself together so I could take responsibility for building personal research out of a very tiny foundation. While this project unfolded, I discovered I need structured thinking, a scientific understanding of things and complicated words to describe phenomena.

Once I was sure of what I wanted my personal research to be about, I encountered two types of experiences:

1. The struggle to find and understand what other researchers or scientists have to say about specific topics;
2. The struggle to find what I have to say about them.

In my everyday life, if I was paying enough attention to my questions and the reality around me, I could find small pieces of a puzzle that matched the ones I already had.

My main question for the Research was if the digital connections between people can indeed be real and authentic. The reason for this theme arose at the same time as the hit of the pandemic and the "Research in times of Covid", a project strictly related to the situation going on in the world. Even though I was sceptic about the new way of communicating with others, I felt too overwhelmed by the things that were going on, so I didn't take any conscient steps to find answers.

The Research School started, and my enthusiasm for it was very high. Once I was sure about my topic, I saw how I grew fonder and fonder of my



questions. I never thought I could remember my experiences and thoughts about my research for whole days or weeks without writing them down, but it happened.

The colloquium for the research school that took place between 3-6th of March 2022 was a moment for my questions to breathe and find a new path for evolution. During the lectures, activities and the free time spent with the participants, some information settled in me, and some became impatient. We were all invited by one of the participants during the days to find questions for the colloquium, and on the last day, I found myself in a very interesting situation, questioning myself about "love".

"I love being here" and "I love philosophy" were some of the thoughts that frequently came into my mind during the weekend activities and made me want to dive deeper into the meaning of these words used with so much lightness. Having this question with me, I discovered how little I could say about this word and the feeling.

The colloquium and the predecessor projects brought me a lot of joy and helped me put into action what I hesitated to do when the impulses of my questions came.



YOUTH-LED RESEARCH

JOSEFA VIAL BRIZZI, EVA BEIJER

Inspired by our research activities, young people worldwide developed their own study initiatives in connection to the Youth Section. Here are two examples of research projects carried out by Josefa Vial Brizzi (28, Chile), who participated in the Research School and Eva Beijer (23, Netherlands) a student at Leiden University of Applied Sciences.

Puente - Merging Knowledge

by Josefa Vial Brizzi

Puente, merging knowledge, is a non-profit project created in 2021. It was born from Josefa's view of the need to understand the world in its full complexity, proposing that by integrating knowledge from different worldviews and disciplines around the world this could be achieved.

Puente's search is based on integrating knowledge from ancestral knowledge, family legacies, cosmovisions, cultural heritages, etc. with the principles of modern society (science, technology, etc.) through the objective and empirical investigation of different life phenomena.

The points of contrast and connection are studied between these visions, aiming to broaden our paradigms. Postulating that this openness to change allows us to progress towards new horizons, towards happier and healthier societies.

Our main objective is: *to create a broad library of knowledge that allows us to generate a new comprehensive theoretical framework and expand the paradigm we inhabit.*

We propose exploring and studying methodically different disciplines and cosmovisions, deciphering the knowledge for humanity and uniting them with sister disciplines or cosmovisions to obtain an integral understanding of the transversal or universal laws. What are we looking to solve?

We have stopped inhabiting our natural niche because we do not know which it is due to a deep disconnection between our humanity and nature, given by the fast, immediate and focused only on material lifestyle. In this way, the basic needs of human beings have been left aside in an increasingly automated society, which promotes an increase in the rates of deterioration of physical and mental health.

For this reason, we created Puente, seeking to go back to the feeling of well-being by reconnecting with the essential needs of the human being.

We invite you to explore new paradigms to generate spaces of self-understanding and reconnection, connecting with our roots, empowering the capacities of evolution and advancing as humanity; by recognising our natural space.

Genuine Encounters What do young people need? A qualitative study

By Eva Beijer

Genuine encounters, have we taken them for granted? I had never thought about that until I was faced with social measures that included lockdowns, social distancing, and sometimes having to fully isolate myself from the people close to me.

The pandemic with its lockdowns and associated social isolation, has had a negative impact on the mental well-being of people around the world, especially young people (18-24 yrs) (Clair et. al., 2021). Therapists had to work remotely, and not having a physical therapy space felt like a drawback. And therapists miss having more direct contact and connection with their clients (Haeyen, 2020).

During the lockdown periods, people worldwide couldn't meet each other in person. I felt that the lack of real, meaningful encounters with people had a negative impact on my mental health. This made the importance of sincerity and authenticity in conversations very clear. In a therapeutic process, creating a safe environment and a genuine encounter feel like essential elements. This sparked my interest in how genuine encounters come to be, what they feel like, and what people need in meaningful and real-life encounters.



In this article, I highlight and explore the question of what young people need in a therapeutic encounter, to express and reflect on their experiences, but it also has a broader aim for me as a beginning therapist.

In researching this question, I've been inspired by the phenomenological way of observing and doing research used by the Youth Section of the Goetheanum in Dornach. I did some preliminary reading to deepen my understanding of the subject. And to further understand different points of view on therapeutic encounters, I conducted a focus group with a small group of creative therapists consisting of three experienced therapists and one young therapist to also shed light on a young therapist's view.

The full article, including Eva's process and findings, is accessible online.

Beijer, E. (2022). Genuine encounters: What do young people need? Youth Section at the Goetheanum.
<https://youthsection.org/en/news/genuine-encounters-what-do-young-people-need>



STUDENT VISITS AND COLLABORATIONS

ANDREA DE LA CRUZ

How can we help each other overcome our fears and develop our qualities?

How do we go from something abstract to concrete in a materialistic world?

What makes me me? What makes me "I"?

Can we be brave to be vulnerable, and can we use our vulnerability to be brave?

How to be fully human in all aspects, even uncomfortable ones?

How can we make room for the human in us and in the world?

How to love instead of fear the world?

How can we find a way back to connect after the sorrows of these years?

How to re-enliven the thought that humanity is my family?

What is needed to go forward?

Questions from the students of Leiden's University of Applied Sciences

We received two student groups from the Leiden University of Applied Sciences in April and September this year. The first group were a cohort of enthusiastic, bright young teachers in training who, as part of their degree in education, is taking a minor in Waldorf Pedagogy. The second group was made of students undertaking the Minor in Anthroposophy founded in 2017 under the title of "Humans in the World". Every year since its inception, the minor in Anthroposophy students have visited the Goetheanum to undertake, through the facilitation of the Youth Section's team, a series of experiences focused on introducing them to the Goetheanum and the School of Spiritual Science.

As a joint venture with the General Anthroposophical Section at the Goetheanum, the Youth Section team planned and guided their visit to Dornach. Tours, artistic experiences, research practices and lively discussions were included in the program. Each member of the team led different sessions, with Johannes focusing on sustainability, Ioana on resilience in education, Jacinta on artistic practice and Andrea on questions related to youth and anthroposophy itself. In addition, Constanza Kaliks, Peter Selg and Philipp Reubke (Pedagogical Section) gave contributions on different topics connected to the student's interests and questions.



THE 4TH WORLDWIDE CLASS LESSON GATHERING FOR YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

JOHANNES KRONENBERG

At the end of August 2022, a group of young members of the School of Spiritual Science came together for the 4th Worldwide Class Lesson Gathering in Emerson College (UK), surrounded by green meadows, gigantic oaks and forest. But also placed in a societal moment of post-covid and war in Europe.

In 2017 the initiative started to gather the young members of the school and work on the 19 mantras (each 1 hour long, therefore also called class hours) given by Rudolf Steiner. Since there are about 300 young members younger than 40 years old worldwide (of about 22.000 members), it is important to us to craft and host a learning space where these members, mostly new to the Class Lessons, could meet and work together. This became one of the annual efforts of the Youth Section, carried out by a group of young members. This year we invited three new Class Holders again. James Dyson (UK), Marjatta von Boeschoten (UK) and Saskia Renkema (UK).

We worked on Class Lessons 10, 11, 12 and 13. It remained the effort to approach the 19 Class Lessons as an inner training path to school the capacities of thinking, feeling and

willing to support each one's work in the world.

The Class Lessons are not a goal in itself or solely self-development training. Instead, they are seen as contributing to the ability to act in a balanced and fruitful way in today's tremendously challenging circumstances. Of course, nobody could have thought that this year's gathering would be surrounded by the tension of war in Europe, just after two years of lockdown and social distancing due to Covid and the way it was dealt with. But exactly the aim to not hide from these world events, but try to encounter them anew with the learnings from the Class Lessons, can be seen as a shared understanding of this work in our group: the Class Lessons as a tool towards transformative work in society.

The role and importance of artistic practice have accompanied our work in the last few years. This year there was eurythmy with Nana Woo (Sekem) and singing with Frank Agrama (Elderberries Threefolding). Also, drawing and painting served as techniques to reflect on the content of the Class Lesson work. Also, sessions on the history of Emerson College by James Dyson helped the

group to understand where they were and what impulses stand behind this special place in the countryside of Forest Row.

Between April 27 - 30, 2023, we will gather for the 5th time. We are approaching the closure of this initiative, which has the aim to go through all class lessons 2-3 class lessons at a time per year. The location will again be the Goetheanum, since we alternate between the Goetheanum as headquarters of the School of Spiritual Science and a place in the world where our work can be hosted.





Lin Bautze
Ueli Hurter
Johannes Kronenberg

BREATHING WITH THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

JOHANNES KRONENBERG

“Someone asks.
Is my body the earth?
I am the earth.
The earth is me.
My body is the earth.
The earth is my body.
But I am not just a body. And not only the
earth. Part of me is a guest.
We are guests.
But also at home.
I breathe.
The earth breathes.
The earth lives.
I want to live on the earth.”

After the Climate Conference “Breathing with the Climate Crisis” in 2021, co-hosted by the Youth Section and Section for Agriculture the work continued. Lin Bautze and Ueli Hurter from the Section for Agriculture together with Johannes Kronenberg from the Youth Section came together to ponder on the next steps. After one year of conversations, writing and researching, the little book “Breathing with the Climate Crisis” was born. Through pondering, dialogue and writing, a not-so-typical text (for Goetheanum standards) became visible. The text, written in prose, tries to engage the reader in a free and open way, but speaking to a realm of

experience and empathy in the relationship between humanity and earth. The question behind the writing “how to breathe with the climate crisis?” and the question of how Anthroposophy can shed light on this complex, often reduced crisis became leading stars for the content. The book was presented and launched during the United Nations COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2022.

“We need air.
We need breath.

We need a new horizon. A new narrative. A new perspective.
We know. Almost everything. We know about climate change and the loss of biodiversity. Animals are dying, plants withering. We know about us human beings who do not listen to each other. We know about the challenges of our times. We know so much. Theoretically we know what we would have to do. Could do. Should do. Must do. But we rarely do anything. We hear shouts, we fight an invisible enemy. We fight something. We fight each other. We fight climate change. We fight the changes of our times. We fight the destruction of the earth.

We have a feeling of suffocating. In what we must do, could do, should do, in what we know. In the challenges of our times.

How can we draw breath nowadays? How can we breathe when our footprint only does more damage? How can we breathe, when our action contributes to more CO2, less biodiversity and greater injustice in the world?

I am seeking. New perspectives. A new viewpoint. Of our role as human beings. Fellow human beings. On our earth. Our relationship with each other.

We can do it. You. I. The earth. Together. Together we want to make a positive footprint. We want to breathe. We want to act. It needs you. Some things we can do alone. But many only together. Our times are asking for a change. All the way down to the roots. A radical change, a quick transformation. Get started!

We are the earth.

One chapter is coming to an end. We have reached a full stop. The new chapter will follow. The new story. We are those who write and those who are written about.

Just start writing!"

The text takes you through questions about our images of the earth, our worldviews, our view of the human being and humanity. The earth not as a broken machine that needs to be repaired, humanity not a the greatest destructor in history, but the human being as possible co-creator of the living organism Earth.

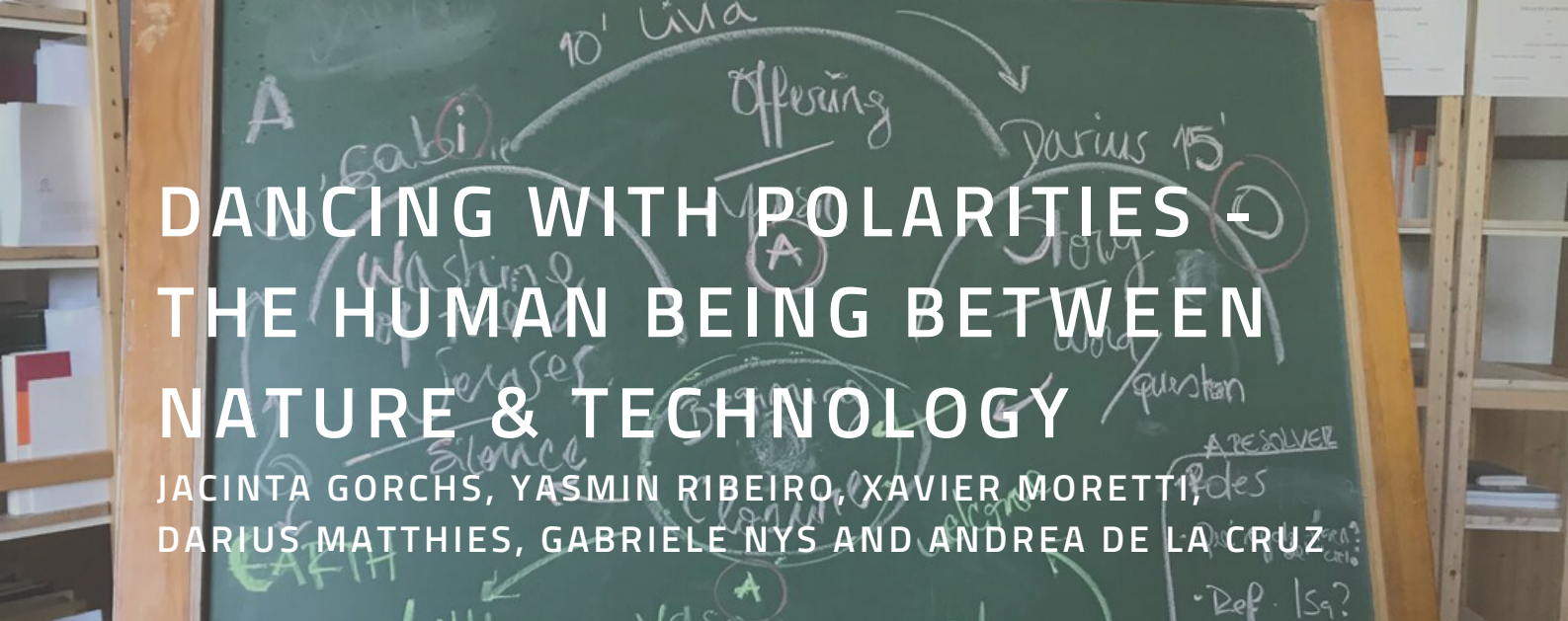


"Our mother earth has hardened through pain.

Our mission is to spiritualise her again, by reworking her through the power of our hands into a spirit-filled work of art."

Rudolf Steiner, over 100 years ago

The book will be available in print from January 2023 onwards and spread in a global campaign. An example of the initiative with the Anthroposophical hospital Havelhöhe (with 400 beds and 1000 co-workers) in Berlin which will hand out one book for each patient that will leave the hospital in the first three months of 2023, and also a copy for each co-worker. Havelhöhe itself is currently working to become one of the first sustainable and ecological just hospitals of Germany. The government supports a group of 10 researchers that are trying to inquire how the hospital can become a "Reallabor" and create learnings and pathways for other hospitals in Germany. The book is also free to download in English, German, France and Spanish via <https://www.sektion-landwirtschaft.org/arbeitsfelder/living-farms-neu/standard-titel>.



DANCING WITH POLARITIES - THE HUMAN BEING BETWEEN NATURE & TECHNOLOGY

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The Youth Section was approached by the Section for Natural Sciences at the Goetheanum, asking if we wanted to participate and be involved with the preparation of their Autumn Conference for October 2022: "Dancing with polarities: the human being between nature and technology". The theme was very inspiring and undoubtedly transcendental for today's youth. What could we, young people bring as a special element to this event? It did not take us too long to realize that what we could offer was an experience, an "immersive experience".

In the process of creation, we observed that the senses played a very important role in how the human being experiences both nature and technology. To emphasise this, we prepared a variety of situations where the senses could be at the centre of the experiences. We traced two paths: the Heavens experience and the Earth experience (both happened simultaneously, the group was divided in two). In the first, the participants were invited to take off their shoes, and their first activity - perhaps the most significant one - was "the washing of the senses". One by one, participants were invited to enter a cozy space and, with their eyes closed, surrender their hands to be washed, blessed, with warm water.

After this holy moment held in silence, they were guided to the terrace were covered in a warm blanket, they observed the starry sky. When they entered the building again, a soft guitar was playing in the background and a fragment of "Momo" by Michael Ende was read out loud. But before coming down, each one of them received an envelope with the question: "how do you perceive your humanity?" With this, they were slowly guided back to the beginning, where they left their shoes and the other half of the group.

During the Earth experience, participants were first invited to hold hands and, with music and songs, were led outdoors on a blindfolded walk. After returning to the room and finding a cosy space to relax, a traditional creation story was told. In this story, the most precious and significant human element was the "clay", and to honour that, we invited everyone to create something special out of it. This, together with a song and a dance, was a gift from the earth to those participants coming down from heaven.

It is very difficult to describe how touching it was to experience people's trust. It was wonderful to dive in this process, and the whole organization was almost like having had an immersive experience ourselves.



FRAGE! BEGEGNE! SPIELE! QUESTION! ENCOUNTER! PLAY!

ANDREA DE LA CRUZ

Question! Encounter! Play! is an inclusive arts project that aims to bring together young asylum seekers in Switzerland and young people in Europe. During the project, participants with and without experiences as refugees live and work together for a week in the Goetheanum's surroundings. Guided by members and collaborators of the Youth Section, the participants create a theatre play from scratch that considers their biographical journeys. Parts of the script and music, the stage and costume design are developed collaboratively from the weaving of talents and collective initiative during the week.

In 2021 the first edition took place in collaboration with Movetia, the Anthroposophical Society in Switzerland's Initiativforum für Geflüchtete, the Friends of Waldorf Education and Caritas' Degenbalm Centre for Asylum Seekers. For the project's second edition, the Youth Section teamed up also with The Necessary Teacher Training College (Denmark) and Monte Azul Community Association (Germany/Brazil). This year's cohort comprised 24 people aged 17-30 from 12 different countries. Participants came

from Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia, Australia and the Middle East. They arrived at the Goetheanum Campus on the 9th of October. They were welcomed by the project's facilitators, who had been preparing for the entire year before their arrival.

During the preparation months, the team worked on post-pandemic questions about individual and societal life. The recognition of life unfolding in thresholds or "between worlds" as a result of living "before and after moments" appeared as a central theme. "What (or who) guides us in these moments?" became a leading question for the process. The exploration of the complexity of biographies, our digital global societies, and the nature of relationships with oneself, others and the spiritual world infused a process of imagination for the team, in which we tried to develop respect for the uncertainty and delicacy of human life — and a draft playscript to work from. In the last weeks before the participants' arrival, during Michaelmas, the team members also worked with Steiner's indications of a possible Michaelmas Festival in the future[2]. The question how do

we practice a recognition of the dignity intrinsic to each individual, regardless of race, nationality or cultural belonging, carried them through the process.

"... We must seek for feelings and ideas which have nothing to do with human distinctions of any kind on earth. Such feelings and ideas cannot be found. They must be sought where the human spirit and soul pulsate – that is, on the path of spiritual science. (...) Only through this striving for spiritual truth is the real Christ to be sought and found..."[3]

The week's work develops in artistic and biography sessions. In the latter, participants are guided through grasping what brought them to the present moment. "Our biographies are completely different, but our future looks the same; it is unknown", said a participant from Argentina after the biography work with a peer from Afghanistan. In the creative workshops, participants work together towards the shaping of a common future (the final performance) out of their enthusiasm and commitment for the project.



On the 15th of October, just 6 days after the participants got to know each other for the first time, the Goetheanum community attended their "work in progress" performance at the Felsli. "It was very inspiring to see that in only one week, one could feel the deep connections that participants had made with each other, without prejudice, without pity. It looked like a meeting to build from, where language differences, abilities and special needs were included. From this encounter, a special friendship is born, based on knowing that the other is there. They are not superficial encounters; this project truly weaves people together".

References

- [1] In German (Frage! Begegne! Spiele!)
- [2] 8 lectures on Michaelmas found in the compilation "The Festivals and Their Meaning" (1996) Forest Row: Rudolf Steiner Press, pp. 317-389
- [3] The Michael Path to Christ (Extract) given in Stuttgart on the 25th of December 1919. Found in "The Festivals and Their Meaning" (1996) Forest Row: Rudolf Steiner Press, p. 389





LOOKING AHEAD

NATHANIEL WILLIAMS

I first walked into the Youth Section at the Goetheanum over 20 years ago. In that small building in Dornach, I met other young people from all over the world who were exploring their relationship with themselves, society, one another and anthroposophy. These meetings led me to participate and collaborate in projects in many countries and exercised a strong influence on the path of my life. Through these connections, I have discovered, like so many others, impulses toward service, creativity, and positive ways of facing challenges and crises.

In this sense, it is an honour to be invited to become the next leader of the Youth Section at the Goetheanum. I have worked with Constanza Kaliks, Andrea de la Cruz, Ioana Viscrianu and Johannes Kronenberg in recent years and I am grateful to have had them as partners for the transition and, hopefully, as future collaborators.

I am looking toward the future, with my heart trained on the spirituality of young adults and the new challenges of coming of age today. The life of the Goetheanum and the Anthroposophical Society find their justification by developing anthroposophical contemplative approaches to knowledge and action while fostering a network of authentic human connection, trust and appreciation. I am both humbled and excited to join this effort with colleagues at the Goetheanum and to work with the young adults who are building the international network of the Youth Section to serve this goal.

Nathaniel Williams

Leader of the Youth Section at the Goetheanum



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