COLLECTIVE INDIVIDUALS II

INTRO

Now in the Corona-Virus Crisis, we have found ourselves spending all of our time trapped in our homes. These spaces have become the constant of our existence and the backdrop of every aspect of life. Sleep, sports, shopping, work, meeting, coffee breaks, concerts, lectures, museums, drinking. All in the same space. All by ourselves. When we seek to connect with others, we used to turn towards the door. Now we turn towards the computer screen.

But how does the collective space in the virtual world look like?
Before we were advised to stay at home 24/7, we met in spaces that were defined for a collective use and designed for that specific program. Now we use computer programs, that are equally as defined and designed for a specific use. Moodle becomes the piazza of the architecture theory course. Zoom becomes the meeting space for the studio. The laptop is our tool to access these virtual spaces. The screen enables a visual connection. The microphone allows the exchange of sounds. Does this generate a collective space?

As the physical public spaces do no longer exist, their purpose is shifted into our individual space. What was once the most intimate room in our personal life, is suddenly becoming the stage for daily business. A small hidden camera of your computer transforms your three-dimensional space with all personal objects into a little flat frame that allows you to connect with the world. On one day you are able to be in Paris, Copenhagen and Shanghai and the distance will still be the same. However, you are constantly watched and controlled by others. Have you ever asked yourself what is it worth to give up your privacy to be part of the collective?

When working on the allotment gardens in Altstetten, we were interested in the grid structure generating a collective from all the individual parcels. We can observe a similar overall grid structure when using zoom, consisting of small individual thumbnails, yet their connection into a collective becomes far more abstract. In Hanne Darboven's work,

she structures the masses of her collected materials in a similar superordinate grid.
That rigid picture on the walls is disrupted by various physical objects placed into the exhibition spaces, creating connections and links in the information displayed flat on the walls throughout the space.

From our exhibition space at the HIL, we have now shifted our installation to the virtual space and therefore into your private rooms. The drawing reflects on the exhibition's context. It serves as a common element to come back to while everyone moves from room to room, and wants to animate thoughts about what might connect us individuals when we are physically disconnected.

The outcome of our installation are three videos that deal with the question of the collective space in the virtual world. "Room#1" is displaying the shift of the private room into a collective space by overlaying the interface of the platform Zoom with the physical private room. "Room#2" is illustrating the transformation of the real life into the endless continuum of the digital space and "Room#3" shows an overlaying of movements and the transformation of a white room into your personalized four walls. The complexity that lies behind these three rooms is connected through a common audio that is composed of relevant passages of our interviews. The audio, our narrative goes beyond the frame of the camera and allows all individual spaces to be connected and thus a collectivity is created.

CONSTANT

VIRTUAL

CONTROL CAMERA

ROOM #2

DIFFERENT RHYTHMS

IRRELEVANT

CONTROLLING

RULES

VIRTUAL

ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM

ROOM #3

DIFFERENT MINDSETS

CONNECTION

SCIENCE FICTION

ALIVE

PHYSICAL DISTANCE

SWITCH

LONELY OBJECTS

REAL LIFE

ZOOM STUDIO SPACE

CLOSED TOGETHER COLLECTIVE IRRELEVANT EMPTY

UNFAMILIAR
RELAXED
ADAPTING

MECHANICAL

COLLECTIVE SPACE LINKED

REAL DECELERATION

OVER

24/7 TIME STRUCTURE

ROOM #1

DIRECT FRAME

EMOTIONAL

COLLECTIVITY

INDEPENDANT

RESOLUTION NEW

DISTANCE AWARENESS REDUCED LOCK-DOWN

GRASPABLE

CONNECTED

COLLECTIVE SPACE

REAL LIFE

The distance is constant, as it is independent from the physical room itself. You might start judging the distance from different aspects. Everything becomes more mechanical, and the emotional distance becomes stronger. The physical distance becomes irrelevant and not graspable. The only physical distance is the one between yourself and the computer screen. The video chat creates a distance that brings you closer together. You get an interesting insight into people's life's that you wouldn't get otherwise, and you might learn something new about them. I am also much more direct. The presence of the other is not so strong, because you don't see so much of the body language. It's like on the phone; "la lala lala la la". I chat. Even though we were both committed to work you could tell that we were in different rhythms, and in a different mindsets. I imagine it being like a hard drive. It's a living room attached to a living room, attached to another living room and so on. The collective space is everyone's room, their own four walls and that is also the room in which you spend your whole day. Sounds terrible. No one can touch each other anymore. I guess that's what they are trying to hinder right now. Maybe there have to be new things like a boyfriend pillow. Or The national radio station in the French part started a playlist every Saturday afternoon where everyone is going on their balcony and listens to it. It became an event. I guess that is a way of creating collectivity as well? Maybe we need people, signs or objects that make us a collective. I'm sure there is a potential in the internet as a basis for a new urban structure. For me, all our build environment is actually urban. But the term isn't so strictly linked to people in my eyes. Zurich for example is just as urban now as it was before, only empty. I feel lonely when I go outside, and everything is more virtual. Urban is a place that is alive, where there are people on the streets, where there is a hustle and bustle and where exchange between people takes place. At the moment that is no longer the case. It shifts. The collective space is where you meet. As these places are all closed now, we try to meet virtually. Are you still there? I do not eat. Every now and then I do research or write things down. In bigger calls I turn the camera off. When the video is off, you can just paint your nails, drink coffee and eat your cereal. My awareness grows for things that are good for me. Of course I follow the rules of the government: I'm not seeing any other person beside my family. I do home office and I don't go to university, it's all by phone, email and video conferences like zoom. I also don't go shopping anymore because only one family member is allowed to buy groceries at the moment. The worst would be if it was to continue like this much longer, and if the state started controlling our life's even more. I'm afraid that surveillance in our countries is adapting to the Chinese model. A full lock-down might give a lot of clarity for people as they have time to think. All that deceleration should do the trick. You don't feel like you have to go anywhere. You stay at home and have time for yourself and the things you always wanted to do, like baking bread. Being at home like this makes it totally irrelevant what normally seems appropriate or not. As you lose somehow the connection to the physical distance, you might start to look out for signs in the other persons room. I also look around me a lot more. I change my seating position one million times per minute. I'm bit more relaxed, maybe too relaxed? I Love live yoga classes. But it's just not as much fun as real life and somehow really unfamiliar. I'm relatively aware of where that frame is that I'm visible in and where it ends. The problem is that the audio is not limited to that same frame, and way harder to control. I am really happy when Zoom meetings are over. When I had to give a short talk on a topic at the end of a lecture, I couldn't see any reaction from the 120 people listening. Except from the professor. This has an unkind anonymity that I find rather cold. It feels like talking to a wall from which no feedback is returning. Like a logistic center. Reduced to the function of exchanging goods. I imagine it like noble families in the Middle Ages, who always lived in their palace and used their sedan chair with closed curtains for excursions. Fading out all the outside they arrive at the next palace. It is now moving towards science fiction. Everything is shifting into the digital space, including parties. You simply switch to the party room. The advantage is that you are always connected, but this can also be a disadvantage. You can follow people's lives 24/7 and suddenly you are interested in people you don't even know in real life. The boundaries between the real and the virtual become blurred. A complete resolution.

ROOM#1

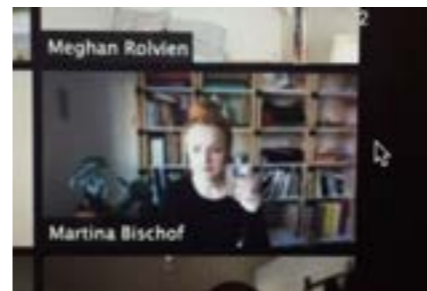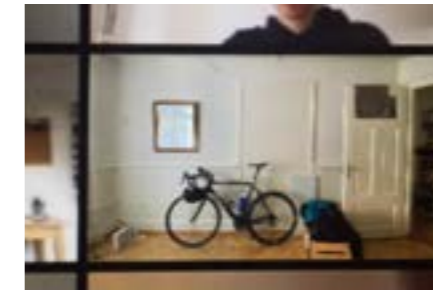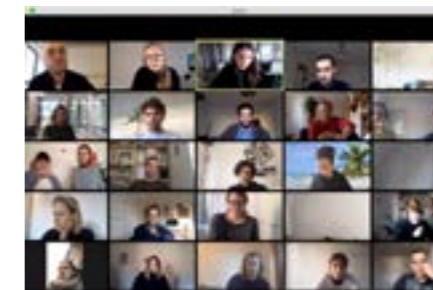*https://youtu.be/0EbA3b1Mmdg*

A screen.
A grid.
Faces. Spaces. Objects. Sounds.
A Space.

No faces in the space.
Individual space.
Physical.

Many faces in the screen.
Many spaces.
Flat.

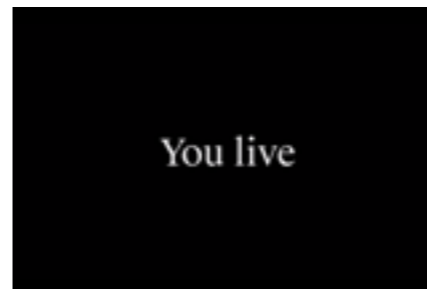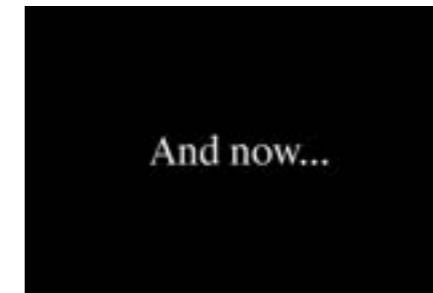A screen in the space.
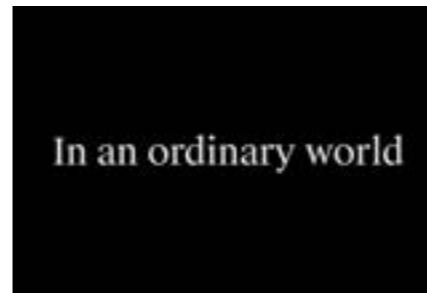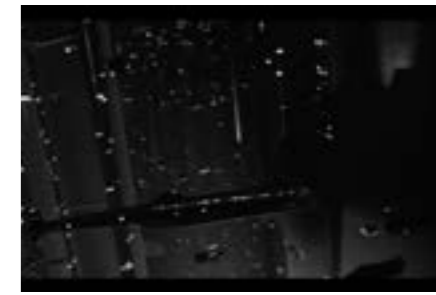What is the collective space?

ROOM #2

https://youtu.be/N-mfMYYJEVs

A collection.
Fragments of separate stories.
Added up. Forming a new total.

The physical space.
One has lost its function.
The other has gained 20 new ones.

A shift in space.
Physical is replaced by virtual.
But how does the virtual space look like?

ROOM #3

https://youtu.be/o6V6Hw9I68E
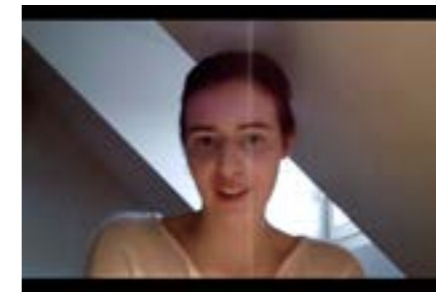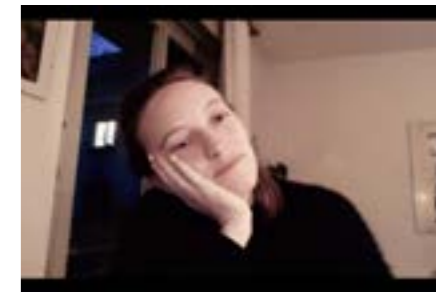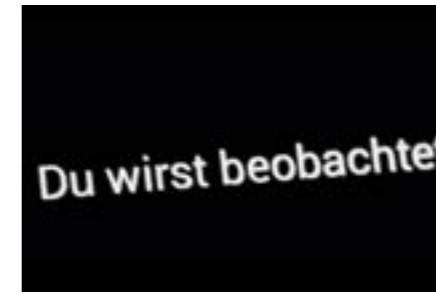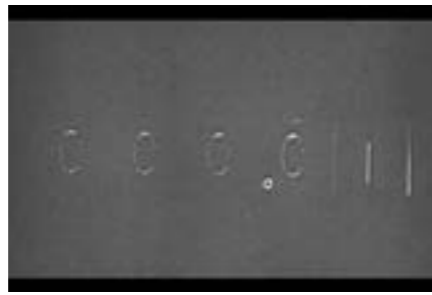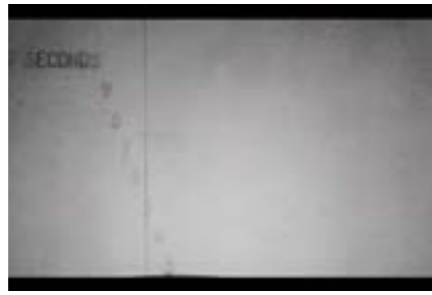
A white room.
A cell.
Four walls and a window.
Trapped.

The room is transforming.
Object by object.
Personal objects.
Individuality.

A computer.
A flat screen.
Your portal to the world.
The collective space.

INTERVIEWS

The current Corona pandemic has radically changed the daily life of millions of people. The public space has shifted into everyones private rooms. By simply going online, everyone is becoming part of the endless continuum of the digital space. The following Interviews of twelve personalities are giving an insigh in their first perceptions and experiences on using the virtual space.

INTERVIEW 1 - ELLA

How has your life changed under the current situation of domestic isolation due to the coronavirus crisis?

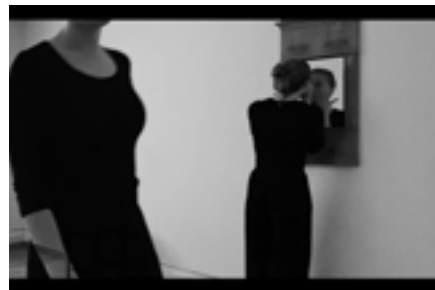„*I think apart from the fact that I still go to work, what has changed most for me is spontaneity. You can't invite people to your home […] and all the other social contacts are only virtually. The only thing you can do is to go for a walk, of course with distance.*"

Due to the enormous restrictions in everyday life, digital platforms such as Zoom are becoming increasingly important for human interaction. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these digital platforms compared to real life?

„*I perceive zoom surprising because you've never heard of it before. And now all people are "zooming". I think it already works quite well. Especially zooming in smaller groups. […] On the other hand there are also lectures that I would much rather attend in real. […] When I had to give a short talk on the topic at the end of a lecture, I couldn't see any reaction from the 120 people listening. Except from the professor. This has an unkind anonymity that I find rather cold. It feels like talking to a wall from which no feedback is returned.*"

Can you describe the platform Zoom in three words?

„*Practical, unexpected, dependent.*"

What kind of activities do you do during a zoom meeting and how do you feel about that?

„*I chat.*"

Which activities do you do all over the platform Zoom?

„*None.*"

How would you describe the collective space under the current situation of domestic isolation in three words?

„*Incomprehensible, Home, Abstract. […]Now People are meeting just to stroll around the city. It's kind of a Sunday feeling.*"

What does the term urban mean to you? And to what extent has the term changed?

„*Urban implies alive for me, so it doesn't feel so urban at the moment. It's always this „just before closing time" mood.*"

How would you describe the distance in the digital world between you and your Zoom partner in one word?

„*Less distant. […]*"

What effects will the current measures of the pandemic have on people's behaviour in the future?

„*I believe there is a development of mindfulness towards others. And an awareness of the effects of one's own behaviour on others. […]*"

Which social progress do you hope for from this coronavirus crisis? What would be the worst thing that the crisis could cause?

„*I believe that right-wing extremists could take advantage of this and that the borders within Europe and the rest of the world are no longer that open again. […]*"

Do we still need a physical public space, if life and social contact only exist through digital platforms?

„*Yes, because I don't think that this will remain a permanent condition. If you look outside, I have the feeling that people still need it.*"

How would you imagine the urban structure, if life only takes place through online platforms and the virtual world?

„*I imagine it being like a hard drive.*"

INTERVIEW 2 - EVA

How has your life changed under the current situation of domestic isolation due to the coronavirus crisis?

„Everything takes place at home. On the one hand side, I have less communication outside and fewer changes of location. On the other hand, it has also changed in such a way that I have even more of human interaction because now we are eight people in the flat. And all of us are always at home in this limited space.“

Due to the enormous restrictions in everyday life, digital platforms such as Zoom are becoming increasingly important for human interaction. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these digital platforms compared to real life?

„Clearly, „digital“ is the best alternative at the moment. [...] But it's just not as much fun as real life and somehow really unfamiliar. I also find it exhausting to have zoom conferences or zoom lectures all day long. Compared to a day at university, which gives me more motivation. I am really happy when Zoom meetings are over.“

Can you describe the platform Zoom in three words?

„Skype with many, Conference, Professional.“

What kind of activities do you do during a zoom meeting and how do you feel about that?

„I only drink when it's a larger call, and Markus or friends. I do not eat. Every now and then I do research or write things down. In bigger calls I turn the camera off.“

Which activities do you do all over the platform Zoom?

„Live Yoga Classes“

How would you describe the collective space under the current situation of domestic isolation in three words?

„Empty, Restricted, Digital.“

What does the term urban mean to you? And to what extent has the term changed?

„For me, all our build environment is actually urban. But the term isn't so strictly linked to people in my eyes. Zurich for example is just as urban now as it was before, only empty. [...]“

How would you describe the distance in the digital world between you and your Zoom partner in one word?

„Already quite far away.“

What effects will the current measures of the pandemic have on people's behaviour in the future?

„Hopefully they will have an impact! That you notice how much time and privacy you have when you're not on the way all the time, that you can do some meetings digitally. And that one learns to appreciate the direct human contact in everyday life again.“

Which social progress do you hope for from this coronavirus crisis? What would be the worst thing that the crisis could cause?

„The worst thing would be social distance forever. That people would basically no longer get close to each other and wouldn't give „hello" kisses anymore.“

Do we still need a physical public space, if life and social contact only exist through digital platforms?

„I believe that this situation will never last forever. It still needs the real places.“

How would you imagine the urban structure, if life only takes place through online platforms and the virtual world?

„No matter how progressive the development is, people simply want direct contact.“

INTERVIEW 3 - GRETA

How has your life changed under the current situation of domestic isolation due to the coronavirus crisis?

Not much at all. As a matter of fact, I'm feeling rather comfortable right now. Everything that causes more stress, like going to school and working, has been eliminated. You have to organize your day at home more and force yourself to work, which makes it a little more difficult too. When you get used to it after a while it is quite nice. And you still go outside every now and then. My awareness grows for things that are good for me. Like going out for a walk or a run.“

Due to the enormous restrictions in everyday life, digital platforms such as Zoom are becoming increasingly important for human interaction. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these digital platforms compared to real life?

„It lacks the physical aspect. The language you speak with your body through gestures. I notice that I sometimes observe myself talking with my hands through the camera image. When you see it that way, it suddenly seems very strange. It seems inappropriate. At the same time you become aware of how much body language is involved in normal communication. The video chat creates a distance and at the same brings you closer together, because you speak directly from your most private rooms. From my home to your home. Much more personal.“

Can you describe the platform Zoom in three words?

„Practical, additional, tool.“

What kind of activities do you do during a zoom meeting and how do you feel about that?

„I painted my nails in the lecture yesterday. Being at home like this makes it totally irrelevant what normally seems appropriate or not. When the video is off, you can just paint your nails, drink coffee and eat your cereal.“

Which activities do you do all over the platform Zoom?

„University courses and lectures. But I also use it to talk with friends from Berlin.“

How would you describe the collective space under the current situation of domestic isolation in three words?

„Thoughtfull, connected, caring.“

What does the term urban mean to you? And to what extent has the term changed?

„The globalized urban surrounding is just somehow freed. Just as we are slowed down, so does it happen for the urban space.“

How would you describe the distance in the digital world between you and your Zoom partner in one word?

„Not so much different. It lacks only the physical aspect. It still has intimacy.“

What effects will the current measures of the pandemic have on people's behaviour in the future?

„In the worst case, we will rely much more on being connected online.“

Which social progress do you hope for from this coronavirus crisis? What would be the worst thing that the crisis could cause?

„I hope that the physical and interpersonal aspects will be considered as more important again. Like relief once all these regulations are gone again. I'm afraid that surveillance in our countries is adapting to the model Chinese modell.“

Do we still need a physical public space, if life and social contact only exist through digital platforms?

„No, they actually lose their value if you are not allowed to go outside. Then all that left overs would be the remaining access network for what does not work „online".“

How would you imagine the urban structure, if life only takes place through online platforms and the virtual world?

„Like in science fiction movies. That machines fly around between buildings and you move through the air.“

INTERVIEW 4 - LESLIE

How has your life changed under the current situation of domestic isolation due to the coronavirus crisis?

„It's gotten faster, I think. Because you're always available and everything is done via email. It's no longer that you say we'll lets meet later.
You can always send the mail and it is taken advantage of that."

Due to the enormous restrictions in everyday life, digital platforms such as Zoom are becoming increasingly important for human interaction. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these digital platforms compared to real life?

„The disadvantage is that you can't talk directly to each other. And you have the feeling that you could talk to 100 people at once. For me, zoom is like a phone call with additional functions. [...]"

Can you describe the platform Zoom in three words?

„Oh, wow…like being in a movie, it's fast."

What kind of activities do you do during a zoom meeting and how do you feel about that?

„Drinking coffee. Painting my nails. And looking at myself on the screen. Every once and a while I'm on the phone. But actually it's not much different to what I do during a normal lecture as well."

Which activities do you do all over the platform Zoom?

„Lectures and group meetings so far. I haven't done any after work get togethers or games using Zoom."

How would you describe the collective space under the current situation of domestic isolation in three words?

„Living room
It's a living room attached to a living room, attached to another to living room and so on."

What does the term urban mean to you? And to what extent has the term changed?

„Urban is dense and lively for me. Like the street space, which is full of things like cafés, shops and museums. That doesn't really exist anymore. It's like living in the countryside in the middle of the city."

How would you describe the distance in the digital world between you and your Zoom partner in one word?

„Quite near. Because you are in your private space, you're even closer to each other. I am also much more direct. The presence of the other is not so strong, because you don't see so much of the body language. You do not send so many signals to which I have to react. It's like on the phone; "la lala lala la la"."

What effects will the current measures of the pandemic have on people's behaviour in the future?

„You won't be visiting people so often anymore. I can imagine that people will continue to make more video calls in the future. I now have Zoom on my phone too."

Which social progress do you hope for from this coronavirus crisis? What would be the worst thing that the crisis could cause?

„There is certainly a technical progress. I don't know if that's necessarily so good. You also realize how much you can actually digitalize. [...]
I am afraid that such „emergency" measures serve as door openers to a continuedly use of such techniques even after the crisis is over. It's a bit paranoid, but I think that there is so much data of you online that you are constantly monitored. [...]"

Do we still need a physical public space, if life and social contact only exist through digital platforms?

„I believe that they will be accepted again as soon as the situation turned to normal again. [...] But you don't need transportation right now. Look outside, every tram is empty."

How would you imagine the urban structure, if life only takes place through online platforms and the virtual world?

„It transports me from my room directly into the next private room. I imagine it like noble families in the Middle Ages, who always lived in their palace and used their sedan chair with closed curtains for excursions. Fading out all the outside they arrive at the next palace."

INTERVIEW 5 - ELISA

How has your life changed under the current situation of domestic isolation due to the coronavirus crisis?

„There have been many changes. I don't see friends anymore and I used to meet someone almost every night and go out for dinner or do sports. It's all gone now. [...]"

Due to the enormous restrictions in everyday life, digital platforms such as Zoom are becoming increasingly important for human interaction. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these digital platforms compared to real life?

„For example, with Instagram, the advantage is that you are always connected, but this is can also be a disadvantage. You can follow people's lives 24/7 and suddenly you are interested in people you don't even know in real life. The boundaries between the real and the virtual become blurred."

Can you describe the platform Zoom in three words?

„Helpful, tool, self-portrayal space."

What kind of activities do you do during a zoom meeting and how do you feel about that?

„Drinking and eating food, yes, but I can't attend the meeting well enough if meanwhile I am doing research on the Internet."

Which activities do you do all over the platform Zoom?

„I have a lot of calls with friends"

How would you describe the collective space under the current situation of domestic isolation in three words?

„Non-existent (considered), restricted, reduced, not physical"

What does the term urban mean to you? And to what extent has the term changed?

„I feel lonely when I go outside and everything is more virtual."

How would you describe the distance in the digital world between you and your Zoom partner in one word?

„The distance is relatively small."

What effects will the current measures of the pandemic have on people's behaviour in the future?

„In the long term, unfortunately, it will continue in the same way as before. It will take two to three months and people will live just as mobile and global as before."

Which social progress do you hope for from this coronavirus crisis? What would be the worst thing that the crisis could cause?

„There is a wave of solidarity at the moment, but unfortunately I have the feeling that nothing will change."

Do we still need a physical public space, if life and social contact only exist through digital platforms?

„I believe that this can never be completely replaced, and it also needs space for marginalized people. We are in a very privileged situation, certain people are not yet able to use the media, we are not yet at the point where everyone knows what Zoom is, either because they are old or because they are retarded. [...]"

How would you imagine the urban structure, if life only takes place through online platforms and the virtual world?

„A complete resolution, but I can't imagine that. (Laughing) I've never seen so many people in the forest, people just want to go out to get some fresh air."

INTERVIEW 6 - LUCIE

How has your life changed under the current situation of domestic isolation due to the coronavirus crisis?

„It's quite a restriction in my everyday life. I can't see my friends anymore. But I'm very surprised how well it works."

Due to the enormous restrictions in everyday life, digital platforms such as Zoom are becoming increasingly important for human interaction. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these digital platforms compared to real life?

„Normal things [...] are valued again. You spend more time with yourself, and thus you appreciate the exchange with others much more, and certain things gain in value."

Can you describe the platform Zoom in three words?

„Digital, framed, monotonous"

What kind of activities do you do during a zoom meeting and how do you feel about that?

„Always like to have my teacup beside me."

Which activities do you do all over the platform Zoom?

„Only lectures until now."

How would you describe the collective space under the current situation of domestic isolation in three words?

„[...] In the current situation, the collective space is everyone's room, their own four walls and that is also the room in which you spend your whole day, sleeping and working in part [...]"

What does the term urban mean to you? And to what extent has the term changed?

„Urban is a place that is alive, where there are people on the streets, where there is a hustle and bustle and where exchange between people takes place. For me, a metro station is a typical urban place, on which one encounters people fleetingly and unconsciously. At the moment that is no longer the case."

How would you describe the distance in the digital world between you and your Zoom partner in one word?

„Fare away. But we are still connected with each other, in that sense that I can hear and see you."

What effects will the current measures of the pandemic have on people's behaviour in the future?

„An awareness is strengthened. Suddenly it is possible to hold university lectures online. You would have never expected that this is working so well. The whole digital thing will certainly have an impact on us. We no longer have to physically attend meetings. It can certainly be replaced by a zoom meeting. That way the commute to work can be minimized. All that deceleration should do the trick. You don't feel like you have to go anywhere anymore. You stay at home and have time for yourself and the things you always wanted to do, like baking bread. Boredom is also good sometimes. And it is also exciting to see how you deal with it. Boredom promotes creativity [...]"

Which social progress do you hope for from this coronavirus crisis? What would be the worst thing that the crisis could cause?

„I would be very upset if my brother could not come back anymore. If the borders between the countries would remain closed."

Do we still need a physical public space, if life and social contact only exist through digital platforms?

„At the moment I don't need the physical public space anymore, I have no reason to go anywhere."

How would you imagine the urban structure, if life only takes place through online platforms and the virtual world?

„It is now moving towards science fiction. [...] Everything is shifting into the digital space, everything is only taking place digitally, including parties. You simply switch to the party room."

INTERVIEW 7 - ALEX

How has your life changed under the current situation of domestic isolation due to the coronavirus crisis?

„Not a lot. Happier. Closed off things that make me anxious. Isolated from some negative influences. Don't feel judged to enjoy free time or do something else that is not commercially motivated."

Due to the enormous restrictions in everyday life, digital platforms such as Zoom are becoming increasingly important for human interaction. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these digital platforms compared to real life?

„People are overestimating the idea that the media has changed. Platforms are efficient; no commute, no clothes. Push forward digital revolution, might open new possibilities for jobs. Negative: the social contact. Limited possibility to read body language."

Can you describe the platform Zoom in three words?

„Telephone (old school)"

What kind of activities do you do during a zoom meeting and how do you feel about that?

„Feels different than in a real physical meeting. Play with the hands, do things like scribble on the side."

Which activities do you do all over the platform Zoom?

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How would you describe the collective space under the current situation of domestic isolation in three words?

„Friendly. Open. Familiar (feels good) in general. But in the situation now: interesting, radical and new."

What does the term urban mean to you? And to what extent has the term changed?

„Urban: dense population living together. Can feel lonely. Now is a forced change. Selfisolation is radically different to normality. Idea of urban might change or might not. I'm thinking of social things. Physical is just there. It will not change so fast, or rather should be adabtable to different social circumstances so we don't have to knock down all the buildings as soon as something changes in the social situation. The urban is physically fixed."

How would you describe the distance in the digital world between you and your Zoom partner in one word?

„Can not be described in the same sense as usual human interaction. We learned distance in meters, centimeters etc. But now I can talk to my friend in Australia and it felt quite close. But something was definitely missing. Almost as close but something is missing but what? Not sure whether it will be better at some point."

What effects will the current measures of the pandemic have on people's behaviour in the future?

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Which social progress do you hope for from this coronavirus crisis? What would be the worst thing that the crisis could cause?

„New efficiencies. New ways of working and organising work. We all know that there are a lot of negative issues with work how it was before: commute, flying, time, stress... Too connected to the laptop but can also take advantage from it: it's a tool. Selfisolation might give a lot of clarity for people as they have time to think."

Do we still need a physical public space, if life and social contact only exist through digital platforms?

„Sounds terrible. No one can touch each other anymore: you get physical contact only when you are outside. I guess that's what they are trying to hinder right now. Maybe there has to be new things like a boyfriend pillow. Of course we need public space. I love public transport. It's a space of transition as well that is missing when working from home (time to think). If public squares are not used for markets any more and physical social contact, maybe they could be used as sustainable green pockets in the city that could regulate the climate? How would then an actual square in the internet look like?"

How would you imagine the urban structure, if life only takes place through online platforms and the virtual world?

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INTERVIEW 8 - CHRISTIAN

How has your life changed under the current situation of domestic isolation due to the coronavirus crisis?

„I just have three days of home office. Otherwise not much has changed. Of course a lot of meetings, events or private appointments have been cancelled."

Due to the enormous restrictions in everyday life, digital platforms such as Zoom are becoming increasingly important for human interaction. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these digital platforms compared to real life?

„Of course in group meetings you never have everyone in sight. Especially for teachers this must be quite extreme. This is quite limiting in all these digital platforms. The coordination of the talk is more difficult. Plus the physical contact is definitely missing, which makes it hard to get hold of reactions. On the other hand it's way faster and more efficient: no time for transport, you are being a lot more organised, no socialising before or after the meeting."

Can you describe the platform Zoom in three words?

„Easy to use for users. Low entry to be part of it. It includes purposeful features to make the use easy for different kind of tasks without becoming to complex."

What kind of activities do you do during a zoom meeting and how do you feel about that?

„Depends a bit, we were part of a bigger event the other day. It was mainly a lecture and impossible to participate. Then I did start checking my emails on my phone for example, something I probably wouldn't do if I was actually in the same room."

Which activities do you do all over the platform Zoom?

"Only for business purposes."

How would you describe the collective space under the current situation of domestic isolation in three words?

„It became extremely limited, from the usual collective space there is maybe 5% left of it. In my life it's probably reduced to my family and maybe one or two coworkers in my office. And somehow the collective space in the internet was also part of what made this whole situation possible: as it has obviously already before the crisis been a massive platform of information and therefore been used to change peoples habits (also as a tool to create social pressure of course)."

What does the term urban mean to you? And to what extent has the term changed?

„Zurich is urban. Traffic, architecture, and mostly the people, higher diversity, more languages, different kinds of people. And also simple more people, a higher density.
And for me this definition has not changed as a consequence of the isolation."

How would you describe the distance in the digital world between you and your Zoom partner in one word?

„The distance is constant, as it is independent from the physical room itself. You lose the feeling for the physical distance, and you might start judging the distance from different aspects, for example the quality of the audio and the picture. And so someone who is maybe even in the same house could feel much further away than someone in Australia (with a really good internet connection). Everything becomes more mechanical, and the emotional distance becomes stronger."

What effects will the current measures of the pandemic have on people's behaviour in the future?

„None if they change it soon. If this develops into an even stronger crisis, like a financial crisis, the outcome is unpredictable."

Which social progress do you hope for from this coronavirus crisis? What would be the worst thing that the crisis could cause?

„Many different options, especially financially, for example a long on going depression. Out of that situation it would also strongly influence the society."

Do we still need a physical public space, if life and social contact only exist through digital platforms?

„Well we don't only travel for social contact. For example what about the tourist attractions like the Eiffel Tower? And we also need transportation for goods.
But places to meet people wouldn't be necessary anymore I guess, they wouldn't make sense anymore."

How would you imagine the urban structure, if life only takes place through online platforms and the virtual world?

„There would have to be different forms of life: bigger apartments, the means of communications would be further developed. Very technical. Maybe holographic screens, virtual reality, experience not only through audio or visual but also on other senses. (Similar to 4D Cinema experience)
In that sense all questions would be raised concerning privacy and data protection."

INTERVIEW 9 - REGULA

How has your life changed under the current situation of domestic isolation due to the coronavirus crisis?

„Decelerated, Intensified. More communication on social media or by telephone. More consciously going out into nature. And less grocery shopping in Migros."

Due to the enormous restrictions in everyday life, digital platforms such as Zoom are becoming increasingly important for human interaction. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these digital platforms compared to real life?

„Communication is reduced to the picture and the audio. The physical presence is missing, and with it there is an energy missing. Maybe also because we are not used to it yet? You have to be a lot clearer in your communication and in the organisation in the group. But on the other hand you get an interesting insight into peoples lifes that you wouldn't get otherwise, and you might learn something new about them."

Can you describe the platform Zoom in three words?

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What kind of activities do you do during a zoom meeting and how do you feel about that?

„I just wanted to play around with these features now but as you just asked a question again I have to concentrate again. I think it depends on what role you have in the context: if you are the host of the meeting it is difficult to do something on the side. But if you are just the guest or the listener it is fairly easy to get distracted or do something else on the side, especially as the computer allows us to have many different windows open at once."

Which activities do you do all over the platform Zoom?

"Only for business purposes."

How would you describe the collective space under the current situation of domestic isolation in three words?

„What do you mean with collective space? Do you mean this chat right now or are you talking about the physical collective space like Migros?

For me, collective space is where multiple people can be, like a class room, physical or virtual, or a tram wagon for example. Or a museum.
And now I strongly feel like the collective space has been sort of moved into the internet. There are even virtual museum tours now."

What does the term urban mean to you? And to what extent has the term changed?

„Urban is everything that is not the country side. So as an example more diversity. The social and the physical are closely linked together. Technically places like Zurich HB are not as highly used or visited anymore these days."

How would you describe the distance in the digital world between you and your Zoom partner in one word?

„As you lose somehow the connection to the physical distance, you might start to look out for signs in the other persons picture: Is it day or night? What is the weather like? What room is the other person in? On what floor? What objects does the other person have that I can somehow create a relation to?"

What effects will the current measures of the pandemic have on people's behaviour in the future?

„I believe a few people have been woken up towards what they spent time with. But not all of society."

Which social progress do you hope for from this coronavirus crisis? What would be the worst thing that the crisis could cause?

„The worst would be a total desolidarisation. In the best case a bit of a deceleration. But I'm not sure whether this is possible."

Do we still need a physical public space, if life and social contact only exist through digital platforms?

„Not really I guess."

How would you imagine the urban structure, if life only takes place through online platforms and the virtual world?

„No more markets I guess, no more museums, ... Like a logistic center. Reduced to the function of exchanging goods."

INTERVIEW 10 - HANNA

How has your life changed under the current situation of domestic isolation due to the coronavirus crisis?

„Well I don't go outside much anymore. Only to go shopping really or do sports, or go for walks in the forest. And all my social life has been reduced to whatsapp or houseparty (the app)."

Due to the enormous restrictions in everyday life, digital platforms such as Zoom are becoming increasingly important for human interaction. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these digital platforms compared to real life?

„At the moment there is no real choice. They have become really important I guess but it's a lot more energy draining for example to follow lectures. Plus the social aspect and spontaneous exchange is missing, you feel alone. Especially when you have to turn off your microphone and camera during a lecture, it's so easy to get distracted and start doing something else."

Can you describe the platform Zoom in three words?

„Practical, easy, connecting."

What kind of activities do you do during a zoom meeting and how do you feel about that?

„I drink coffee. During the seminar discussions I'm quite active. But in a bigger lecture it's easy to do something on the side, drawing on the project or go on the internet. But 100% focus on zoom is hard."

Which activities do you do all over the platform Zoom?

"Just the project, as it allowes us to share our screens and discuss like that. I also take a language course this semester that are now via zoom."

How would you describe the collective space under the current situation of domestic isolation in three words?

„I met my two best friends the other day over zoom, just for playing games and talking. I know of a friend who meets with his classmates everyday at 4pm to have a coffee break on zoom. The national radio station in the frensh part started a one hour playlist

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every Saturday afternoon where everyone goes on their balcony and listens to it. It became an event. I guess that is a way of creating collectivity as well?"

What does the term urban mean to you? And to what extent has the term changed?

„The notion of urban has definitely changed. Outside we get monitored now and if you are too many people, the police will turn up. They can track now how many people are on one spot. All the main spots for outdoor activities seem to be monitored now, even in the forest there is now constantly the police checking the situation. I feel like the urban qualities have lost in relevance. And people also don't want to spend a long time outside anymore in the collective spaces."

How would you describe the distance in the digital world between you and your Zoom partner in one word?

„For example, my group partner was in the mountains, while I was here in Zurich. And even though we were both committed to working you could tell that we were in different rhythms, and in a different mind set. And that's different than when you meet in the studio, then you are somehow in the same work mode. On zoom, you are still each in a different setting, a different space I guess."

What effects will the current measures of the pandemic have on people's behaviour in the future?

„Either everyone wants to travel again, or, and I'm hoping this won't be true, we will close up, on a national but also on a social level."

Which social progress do you hope for from this coronavirus crisis? What would be the worst thing that the crisis could cause?

„More solidarity. And I'm shocked by the ignorance of everyone towards other subjects besides Corona. I hope people will become more critical towards certain methods by some countries."

Do we still need a physical public space, if life and social contact only exist through digital platforms?

„Public transport is still the only transport option for anyone not owning a car. So even if rarely, it would still be somewhat necessary I guess."

How would you imagine the urban structure, if life only takes place through online platforms and the virtual world?

„I would like more vegetation and green, as this is something I believe can't be found in the internet."

How has your life changed under the current situation of domestic isolation due to the coronavirus crisis?

„*Of course I follow the rules of the government, so I'm not seeing any other people instead of my family. I do homeoffice and I don't go to my uni, it's all by phone, video conferences, uni takes place online, by email or zoom. I also don't go shopping anymore because only one family member does the groceries at the moment. But on the other hand my focus on uni has gotten stronger because I don't really have a choice.* And I started learning the guitar. Certain of my projects have to be discussed in the space, which is impossible now, so that is a bit of a challenge.*"

Due to the enormous restrictions in everyday life, digital platforms such as Zoom are becoming increasingly important for human interaction. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these digital platforms compared to real life?

„*I believe people are using these platforms in a way to make work processes even more efficient. They somehow give you a structure, within which you have to come to a productive outcome more so than in a meeting in real life. People are less available all the time than when they are at university.*
On the other hand, presentations are quite challenging, especially in a bigger group, to make sure that the information gets through to everyone."

Can you describe the platform Zoom in three words?

„*Traditional/Classy (regarding the interface). Oriented towards a variety of target groups (business, family, friends,…). Very neutral and neutralising. User friendly.*"

What kind of activities do you do during a zoom meeting and how do you feel about that?

„*Often there have been breaks of 15 minutes or one hour between meetings which helps to stay focused. During meetings I try to take notes by hand.*"

Which activities do you do all over the platform Zoom?

"*Video conferences and screensharing mainly for uni. And additionally whatsapp to talk to my friends, or the app houseparty. Plus I use all my social media platforms a lot more regularly to check what my friends are doing at the moment.*"

How would you describe the collective space under the current situation of domestic isolation in three words?

„*At the moment people go public through the internet. I find it hard to define the internet as collective space as it depends a lot on what you are interested in. Maybe we need people, signs or objective that make us a collective.*"

What does the term urban mean to you? And to what extent has the term changed?

„*Urban is something that has to do with a certain way of life, and with freedom. In that sense the notion has changed during the Isolation, as it is more like a danger zone now. Urban space is always connected to human interaction, which is now something that can be seen as dangerous in these days. Maybe it can find new forms?*"

How would you describe the distance in the digital world between you and your Zoom partner in one word?

„*I recognise the room that you are in. That's why I know where you are, and I know how far away that is from where I am. So this feels quite familiar. Where as in a talk with a professor, I feel like there is a bigger emotional distance, because you are somewhat more exposed, and so are they. A part of your private life is all of a sudden involved in this fully professional context.*"

What effects will the current measures of the pandemic have on people's behaviour in the future?

„*I believe that jobs which support the social stability will gain attention and will be higher valued in the future. And personally hopefully people will start to question the priorities in their lifes and the relevance of certain aspects.*"

Which social progress do you hope for from this coronavirus crisis? What would be the worst thing that the crisis could cause?

„*The worst would be development of some sort of nationalism and the loss of empathy for each other.*
As a step forward I would hope for more