

# THE DE-FASHIONING TEST KITCHEN

## TRANSLATING DE-GROWTH INTO ACTION

A STUDENT THINK AND MAKE TANK

15&16 SEPTEMBER 2023 Berlin / hybrid

### DE-FASHIONING EDUCATION

A CRITICAL THINKING AND MAKING CONFERENCE

THE DIGITAL MULTILOGUE

ON FASHION EDUCATION 2023



fashioning education

#### WHEN?

15 – 16 September 2023, 9am – 6pm

#### WHERE?

HAUS BASTIAN  
Am Kupfergraben 10, 10117 Berlin

#### FOR WHOM?

Students and recent graduates whose studies and work revolve around fashion and textiles and who are on the journey towards socio-ecological change in the field of fashion

**De-Fashioning Education** is a call to action as much as contemplation. A collaborative, critical and creative re-thinking and re-making of fashion education. An exploration of different fashion learning cultures.

Education for essential de-growth calls for radically different educational models and approaches: a community of learners who aim to co-create shared and diverse futures, relationships with nature, and with one another.<sup>[1]</sup>

**De-Fashioning Education** explores how to bring the learning and practices of fashion into balance with nature's limits and needs and the equality and well-being of all human beings. An education for being, not only for having.<sup>[2]</sup>

[1]

Degrowth / Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (2014) 'Dimensions of learning for a de-growth society' Degrowth conference Leipzig, 3 September <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iewh1DGzUg>.

[2]

Fromm, Erich (1976) 'Introduction: The Great Promise, Its Failure, and New Alternatives' in: To Have or to Be? New York: Harper & Row, pp. 1–12.

Using the impulses of the **De-Fashioning Education** Conference [7] as a framework, the Test Kitchen is a space for collective reflection, experimentation, action and to explore possibilities of de-growth in our own fashion and textile practices.

Perspectives of young fashion practitioners (as change agents) play a crucial role in the pursuit of de-fashioning education and fashion practice. Join us for this two-day workshop to learn about de-growth concepts and practices, reflect on them within the context of your work and translate them into your own practice within the context of the group. Be part of the de-fashion movement that carries fashion towards social and ecological justice!

Through a series of workshops we will explore de-growth from a wide range of perspectives and positions and interlink these with topics such as local production, activism, the role of care, our approach to the human and non-human environment, and our role as designers within a global fashion system.

How does de-growth translate into designing, thinking and working in fashion practice?

How do I define my own role in relation to the de-fashion movement?

Aside from a core group of students and recent graduates, all conference participants are welcome to join for sessions.

What is the relationship between my own work and the de-growth movement? What does a de-fashion ecosystem look like? How is it organized and by whom?

What do de-fashion learning spaces and cultures look like?

THE TEST KITCHEN is organized and facilitated by *Isabell Schnalle* and *Nina Birri* and a range of collaborators who will join us for workshops.

*Isabell Schnalle* is a transformation and fashion designer with a background in tailoring who works at the intersection of design research, activism and education. She is currently researching the transformative potential of narratives as a cultural tool for social change to implement climate justice education in art and design schools. Since 2020 she has taught in the field of transformative and climate justice education. In 2022, she co-founded the art collective Threads and Tits, which is currently working with The Yes Men and the Clean Cloth Campaign for fair working conditions for textile workers through the means of action art.

*Nina Birri* is a designer with a background in fashion design, business administration and user research. She is currently exploring the notion of novelty in times of material scarcity in the context of upcycling discarded materials. Sociological concepts of identity and gender influence her work as well as design methods and practices. In her freelance work, Nina Birri regularly empowers teams to go through design processes themselves and integrate design methods into their everyday lives. As part of the Berlin Start Up scholarship, she founded her design studio Bitter, reclaiming discarded clothes and textiles to create unique but serially produced garments for everyday wear.

If you have any inquiries, please contact Isabell Schnalle or Nina Birri.

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[ninaolivibirri@gmail.com](mailto:ninaolivibirri@gmail.com)

#### CREDITS

Students enrolled at The Berlin University of the Arts are eligible to gain Studium Generale Credits (2LP).

- Active participation in the two days
- Performing and documenting a (small) de-growth action after the conference such as organizing a repair evening with friends, analyzing your closet, an activist performance, manifesting de-growth values in a series of posters, etc.
- developing this de-growth action is part of the test kitchen

Students enrolled at other German universities may get credits as "Nebenhörer":

Please find the information sheet (German only)

[here](#)

Please find the application form for guest auditors (Students of an other German university)

[here](#)

Those who are not registered as students at any university in Berlin or the Federal Republic of Germany can become guest auditors to get credits:

Please find the information sheet

[here](#)

Please find the application form for guest auditors

[here](#)

JOIN THE TEST KITCHEN

Register here until 15 June 2023