

Call: Think Pieces “Conceptualizing Disruption”

As most of the projects have reached the midpoint of their work, we thought it would be useful to discuss the usage of disruption in its various aspects. For this purpose, we ask you to submit a Think Piece that explores the conceptualization of disruption in your research. This will facilitate collaboration among researchers from all projects, enabling them to engage in discussions about the various concepts of disruption and the obstacles encountered during its application.

Disruption can be studied from a variety of perspectives, and it can affect numerous aspects, such as technical systems, social networks, knowledge, beliefs, social practices, environments, temporal structures, aesthetic experiences, and more. These disruptions occur on individual, institutional, and societal levels, giving rise to conflicts, changes, and, at times, even standstills. As diverse as disruptions can be, the research topics of the projects at TUDiSC are equally diverse. Disruption, in many ways, serves as both a topic (the “paradoxical basic property of social reality”¹) and a method, sometimes emerging as a result of research conducted at TUDiSC. Given the constitutive pluralism of methods and theory that characterizes TUDiSC, there is a lack of a consistent shared understanding of disruption. Can disruption be classified temporally, normatively, or by its reach? Is it a historically overarching concept or specific to (post-)modernity? Does it even - which is the thesis of the cluster initiative - have a great relevance not only in terms of time diagnosis, but also in terms of social theory? In what way is disruption used in your work, what understanding of it have you developed, and how is this linked to your collaborations?

We are therefore interested in hearing your thoughts both on how you conceptualize disruption in your research – if at all – and on whether disruption itself is a characteristic of your research. And if so, in what ways? Working in a research network like TUDiSC without a shared concept of its main research topic is unconventional, maybe even disruptive. What benefits could a shared conceptualization of disruption bring?

¹ Greschke, Heike/ Koch, Lars/ Wagenknecht, Susann: Conceptual Basis. https://tu-dresden.de/gsw/forschung/exzellenzmassnahmen/tudisc/conceptual-basis?set_language=en

Is it possible to conduct research on disruption, without a dense definition of what is meant by "disruption"? Do we even need a common terminology to discuss disruption and transformative processes? How might various concepts of disruption demonstrate the versatility of the research perspective pursued in TUDiSC and how can it be translated into different disciplines and research fields? What is the specific angle that makes the research at TU Dresden outstanding concerning disruption?

We encourage all TUDiSC members to share their thoughts on a conceptualization of disruption by **December 15th**. Please submit a Think Piece reflecting on your views on disruptions, their intricate connections, the challenges they pose to your work, and the prospects you envision for the future. We kindly request that your submission does not exceed **1,500 words**. We are happy to accept Think Pieces from individual members, multiple authors, or projects. Think Pieces can be handed in in German or English to the [TUDiSC Coordination Team](#).

On **January 19th, from 9 AM to 12 PM**, we will discuss the Think Pieces at a joint workshop at the Open Science Lab 1. The program will be sent to you at the beginning of January. We invite everyone, not only those who have submitted a Think Piece, to participate in the Workshop!

The Think Pieces can be published on the TUDiSC publication platform 'Insights into Disruptions', which will be online from January 2024.