

# TOOLKIT DOING, OTHER — WISE

EASY PRINT VERSION

Welcome to the Anthology Seminar Toolkit! Inside you'll find some ideas on how to create your own Anthology Seminar wherever you are, and with whatever resources you have at hand.\* We\*\* wanted to look away from the resource-intensive, geographically limited, institutionally gatekept idea of the 'seminar'. Inspired by circular economies and self-organising collectives, we tried to think about how it could be done differently. Inside you'll find some tips and ideas drawn from our experience, but this is just a starting point, enjoy making it your own!\*\*\*

\*The only assumption we'll make in this publication is that you have internet access.

\*\* In the credits you can find out who we are.

\*\*\* This is a free resource!

Please share it, and if you'd like to translate it to your language or tell us how your Anthology Seminar went, let us know at [anthologyseminartoolkit@gmail.com](mailto:anthologyseminartoolkit@gmail.com)

An Anthology Seminar Toolkit is collectively curated and produced by the class of 2023–2025 of the MA Programme in Curatorial Practice at the Faculty of Fine Art, Music and Design, University of Bergen (KMD/UiB): Josephine Boesen, Jialing Chen, Scott Elliott, Marny Garcia Mommertz, Maiken Håvarstein, Anna Jakobsson, Monika Kalinauskaitė, Peter Meanwell, Martina Petrelli, Favour Ritara, Ng'onga Silupya. Sarah Waiswa was part of the initial curatorial group and conversations, but was not able to continue on the MA Programme due to the tuition fees for non-EU/EEA students introduced in Norway and at the University of Bergen.

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## TOOLKIT: DOING, OTHERWISE

### 1. WHY ANTHOLOGY SEMINARS?

We love seminars because they gather inspiring speakers in one place, but for many reasons, it can be hard to keep up – and we can't all afford to attend. So, inspired by the anthology format – a collection of poems or music brought together in one volume – we decided to make our own Anthology Seminar out of existing online content. The internet's public domain is crowded with freely available lectures, panel discussions and artist presentations, often published by museums and academic institutions. With an Anthology Seminar, you can curate the content that is relevant to your interests and you can tailor the format to your context; because a seminar isn't just about the people speaking, it's about those who attend, and how they interact.

### 2. START!

Start by deciding your Anthology Seminar theme – this can be just one word, or a more detailed area of interest. Bring together different perspectives by gathering your friends, your peers, or your colleagues – and start assembling information around your theme. Everyone will have different ways of approaching the theme, and this will add depth and nuance to your programme. Try challenging yourself to look outside of your usual reference points! You can find content for your Anthology Seminar by inserting your theme words into any search engine, or video platform, or by searching wherever you get your podcasts.

Please be advised that while materials from online archives of museums, art centres, and universities are often free to access for educational and non-commercial purposes, it is important to check the specific terms of use and licensing conditions for each source. Local regulations and copyright laws may vary by region and could impact how these materials can be used or shared. Before including any resources in your seminar or presentation, ensure that you are compliant with any relevant laws or policies in your area.

If you live in a place with restrictions on the internet, consider using VPN technology, if it feels safe to do so: You can purchase some local VPN apps (like VeeeVpn) or Chrome extensions (like iGuge), or try the VPN technology provided by your university if you study abroad. Often, you can follow the instructions and download related apps on your university website.

### 3. PLAN THE DAY (OR NIGHT!)

What format should your Anthology Seminar take?

**Duration:** Whether it is several days in one block, weekly seminars, one day, or a few hours fully depends on the needs of your group. It may be helpful to ask yourselves how much content feels manageable in one go.

**Space:** Think about where you want to host the Anthology Seminar. We all have different schedules and spaces we feel comfortable in. You might decide to host an Anthology Seminar at home or in a public space. If you have a local library or community centre you could even ask them about making it a public event. Here are some suggestions for spaces that might inspire you:

- Online (examples: Zoom, Skype, BigBlueButton, Instagram, TikTok, Jitsi)
- Homes
- Gardens
- Parks
- Public libraries
- Cafés and restaurants
- Community centres
- Independent art spaces

However you plan it, make sure that everyone you invite has the information they need to be prepared. When writing the invitation think about the 5W's:

- **When?** Include time and date – for online gatherings, time zone.
- **Where?** Address and access, or links and passwords to online meetings.
- **Who?** Who are you / is your group?
- **What?** What are you inviting others to? Do they need to prepare?
- **Why?** Why are you organising an Anthology Seminar?

How public is the seminar, and why? Consider your channels of communication and specifically why you are using them. Does it always make sense to use all of the platforms available to you (e.g., send invites through a mailing list, alongside a website announcement and social media)? Or is it in the interest of safety/efficiency/collectiveness to narrow down your audience and distribute invitations more directly to specific communities or specific persons? Narrowing down your audience does not automatically mean restricting access – it could help in reaching specific individuals and groups that might have a direct relationship with the topics discussed, or simply need a safe space. This is also important to consider in contexts where certain modes of communication might be restricted or regulated. Word of mouth is also an effective way for spreading information.

### 4. GATHER, GATHER, GATHER

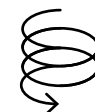
An essential part of the Anthology Seminar is a moment of gathering after watching or listening to the selected content, to share notes and respond together. What connected the selected content for you? What resonated with people in the room? Have your perspectives been challenged or changed as a result of what you heard? Think about what gathering means in your specific context. Is there a need for a moderator to take care of the conversation? Find a way to encourage everyone to contribute, if they feel comfortable to, and watch out that there is time and space for each person to participate. The moment of gathering can be the key to transforming a bunch of stuff you found on the internet into an inspiring and meaningful moment for the group you are gathering with.

In some cases, gathering physically may not be safe, sufficiently inclusive or even possible. In case of a virtual seminar, consider how the format and etiquette can be adapted to make it welcoming and comfortable. Keep screen fatigue in mind – perhaps your event would benefit from more frequent breaks? Communicate clearly about different times and levels of engagement, for example whether or when participants are required to keep their cameras on.

### 5. CREDIT WHERE CREDIT'S DUE

The Anthology Seminar format relies on the work of others – curating, creating, communicating, recording and publishing the content you will share. Don't feel bad about this, contemporary digital economies mean that institutions benefit from the sharing of their material, and they have already decided to put it into the public domain. Hopefully everyone involved was remunerated properly, but this does not mean that they should not be credited. Make sure that you credit properly the people involved. If possible, share links to where the video or audio was created (not just to a video hosting site), so people can explore further if they so wish. Remember not to charge anyone to view free content. Make sure to credit your collaborators too: your community is just as important. If you have any financial resources to spend, how can you use them to support your community? A few examples are employing local people, or spending with local businesses or collectives.

The idea of an Anthology Seminar started from the wish of making a world more equitable for all – be generous in your world-making!



Next in the toolkit are three checklists to help you organise!

## PRACTICALITIES

### Things to keep in mind if organising your Anthology Seminar

- What time does it start, and when will it end?
- What can people expect to do when they arrive?
- Will you provide paper and pens for note-taking?
- Who will host?
- How accessible is the venue and facilities for differently abled bodies?
- Are there toilets, and are they gender-inclusive?
- Will there be anything to drink and eat?
- Do you need to make any dietary accommodations?
- Are all allergens clearly marked?
- Will there be a social element to the event?
- Is a certain level of participation expected from the audience?
- Will any of the content put participants at risk?
  - for example, does it transgress local laws or customs?
- Is the event open for people with children?
- Is there a changing table and/or a nursing room?
- Can you provide colouring and/or puzzles for distracting small people?
- Who is doing the cleaning afterwards?
- Will there be a discussion element to the event?
- Have you prepared questions?
- Will the participants have something to take home?
- Do you want to make something that participants can take with them to remember your seminar? It could also serve as reminder that your audiences can self-organize too!
- Are people listening, watching or reading something at your event?
- How can you accommodate people in the best possible way?
  - maybe they need something to do while listening, or soft to sit on?
- How will these specifics be communicated to potential audiences?

## PROMPTS FOR DISCUSSION

- How do you feel after listening?
- Had you heard of the artist, speaker, subject, or context before?
- What stuck in your mind as you listened?
- Is there anything that is relevant to your day-to-day life or practice?
- Did it make you think of something you have experienced?
- Does the context of the Anthology Seminar influence how you listened?
- Did anything annoy you or make you react?
- Did you make connections to your knowledge or experiences?
- Does this discussion format work to talk about the subjects raised?
- What elements require further discussion or can be expanded upon?
- Is there something that you feel requires action after this exchange?
- Add your own!

## HOSPITALITY

Consider the level of hospitality that you are able and willing to provide. You are not obliged to organise catering or provide nutrition. However, it is worth considering the length, timing and audience size of your event. If you can't provide food you could also ask everyone to bring something for themselves. Food is also a medium of connection – it is already a shared element within the group, with the potential to provide comfort and maybe joy, and something engaging for the senses. In some cases, when the infrastructure permits it, it may make sense to cook a warm meal on-site. In that case, please consider who will be doing the cooking and what assistance and tools they need, and who will do the washing-up. Collaborative cooking might also be considered as an element of your seminar. Be diligent with communicating dietary restrictions, needs and allergies whenever food is involved in your seminar.

## SNACKS & DRINKS

Make sure to check for potential dietary restrictions or allergies beforehand.

- Fruit and vegetables are a great way for healthy snacking – keep it local and seasonal, this is about your context!
- Chocolate is always a great conversation starter.
- Nuts provide a dose of healthy protein and fat.
- Popcorn can be an easy and light snack that creates a fun atmosphere.
- Some of our local favourite snacks are: boiled peanuts, mini-pizzazs, roasted seaweed, fried cassava or plantain, knekkebrød with cheese, edamame beans, chips&dips.
  
- Water!
- Coffee: energising and enticing with sweet snacks, for morning events.
- Tea: gentle, hydrating, consider providing as an alternative to coffee.
- Hot drinks work well for outdoor events during colder seasons.
- Alcoholic drinks: consider if they exclude people or not.
- Fermented drinks or local specialties, e.g. kombucha or seasonal tree-sap for a spring event with an ecological leaning.
- Personal specialities, where appropriate, e.g. a loved one's lemonade recipe for an event on memory and personal histories.

Enjoy and distribute!