

**Abstract: Critical Zones. A research seminar with Bruno Latour**

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In the framework of a research seminar at the Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design, Bruno Latour and the participants from science and the arts are currently preparing conceptually as well as practically the exhibition “Critical Zones,” which will open in 2020 at the ZKM | Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe. Both the research seminar and the exhibition deal with the geophysically critical state of the earth’s surface layer where all life resides: the critical zone. The term is extended beyond geosciences by Bruno Latour, suggesting a critical and participatory relationship to our living world. A world whose ecologically threatened state has reached an unprecedented scale and where ecology is necessary intertwined with historical, cultural and geopolitical shifts – constituting a state of uncertainty which Bruno Latour describes as *New Climate Regime*. The presentation, held by the curatorial assistant of the project and the coordinator of the seminar, will give some insights to this explorative research process. Focusing on its epistemological vector and methodology, it will discuss approaches such as *Brechtian thought experiments*, performative interactions between *The Planetary*, *The Territory*, *The Terrestrial* and *The Escapists*, or collaborations with researchers at the Critical Zone Observatory in Aubure, France, visited by the seminar group in January 2019.