

Unveiling corporate restructuring practices

A Demo of an Art-Based, Collective and Dialogic method

by Natalia Bobadilla, Philippe Mairesse, Géraldine Schmidt for ABRIR

ABRIR : art-based research initiative on restructuring / IAE Paris (group of ten)

AND PLACES at have been through restructuring can inspire ndearour. Artists express their points of view her work and also work on events in real life by public spaces and / or by getting workers and e to join together. Such artistic initiatives suggest

helping to bring out new legal a mmunity life.

RESTRUCTURING: a a budge separating that one regress. How can you give the: gents webuit raining to the giv **e that flirts with a** sense of psycholo gical contract vio lation.

ALOSS **OF COHERENCE** BETWEEN PAST. PRESENT AND FUTURE LOSS OF LANDMARKS AND VALUES, A DISRUPTION OF THE WAY WE MAKE SENSE **OF THINGS AND EVENTS** 7b

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IDENTITY

Restructuring is a change of identity, not one that is desired but one that is imposed, one that touches people and organizations to the quick. Restructuring programmes also confront us at the place where our personal and professional identities become entwined. The arts are a way to retrieve our individual identities at a time when our professional identity has been denied. What films show is that to recover our self-esteem we have to undertake some kind of collective action.

Art as a mirror can engender new perceptions that make it possible to reconstruct identities: The mirror reflects a self that is made strange by its very reflection. The arts also point towards the kind of freedom the loss of a job brings with it. People find themselves in a position to create something newer; losing a job is being free to find time for one's self again and to take up some form of creativity at last.

BEHIND

THE FACADE

NOTLOSING

FACE

ART

REFLECTION

FOR

THE SE





Projection de la vidéo Lay Oof Project - Dismiss



- Restructuring practices as complex and hot issues, requiring innovative research designs
- An initial project submitted to the European Commission
- 5 experts' seminars in Paris, London, Liège
- 2 operational objectives : final event + educational tool
- An iterative process

Materials

- artworks
- fully transcribed minutes of the seminars
- 22 semi-directed interviews with participants

Outputs

Exhibitions between art and research : "Manif" (Paris March 2012); "Demo" : York 2012

- Commissioned artworks
- \circ excerpts of studied works
- $\ensuremath{\circ}$ staging of the research outputs
- Performances, lectures, discussions.

□ The A-BCD Method

- O A-B for ART Based
- o C for Collective and Critique
- o D for Dialogical

Internet training tool

http://www.arts-restructurations.org/

□ Academic papers

2. The ABCD method relies on the critical potential of art:

- art making can critically support resistance to disidentification, and empower the possibility for preserving or reconstructing the self, the body, the groups, the memory, the places and the territories.

- collectively building the critique : the encountering of a heterogeneous research community with art-based forms through highly dialogical and reflective processes, activating the 'divergent generalizability' described by Taylor (2004).

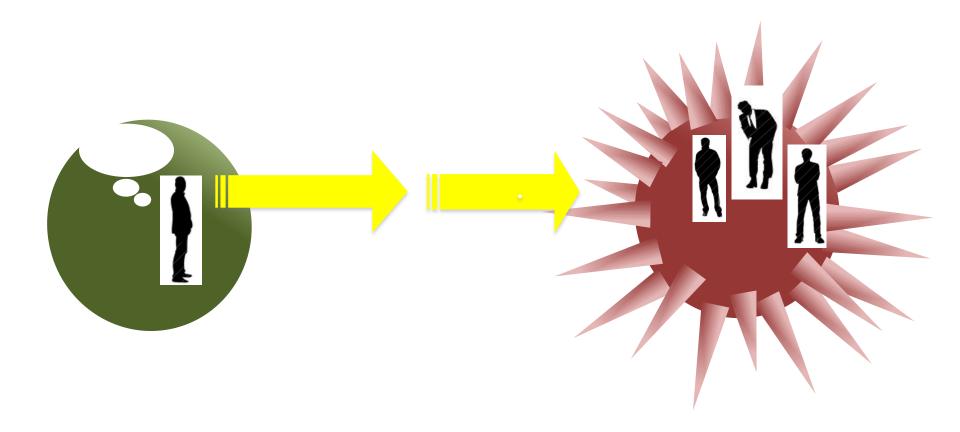
- fostering experience-based type of knowledge instead of cognitive knowledge, resulting in a change of the participants' representations, practices and points of view.



3. Collectively building the critique



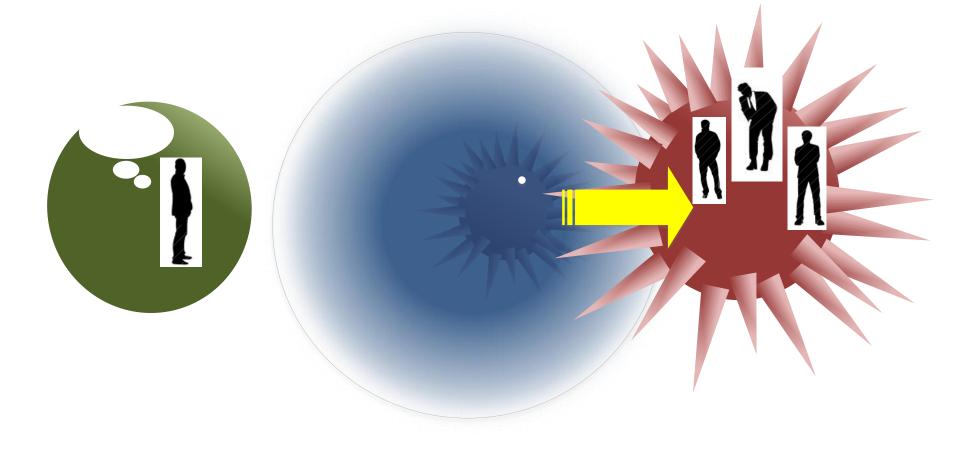
Looking for a new/different knowledge about restructuring





Looking for a new/different knowledge about restructuring

The idea: Artworks as mediating artifacts to grasp our research topic

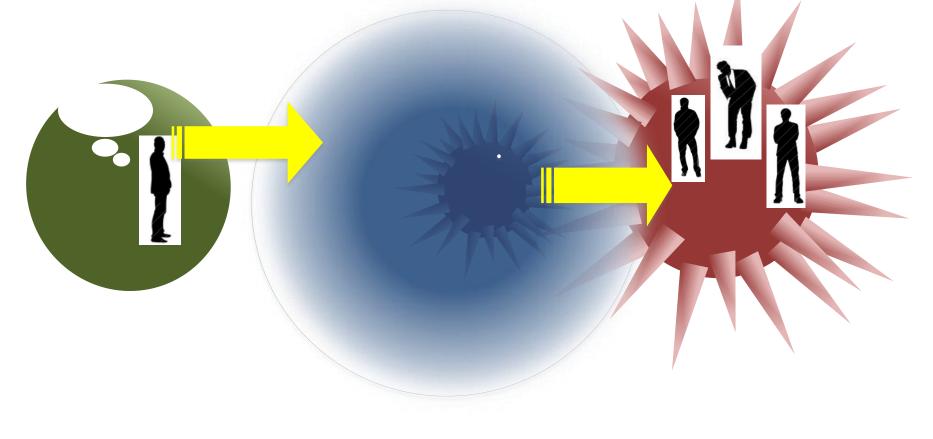




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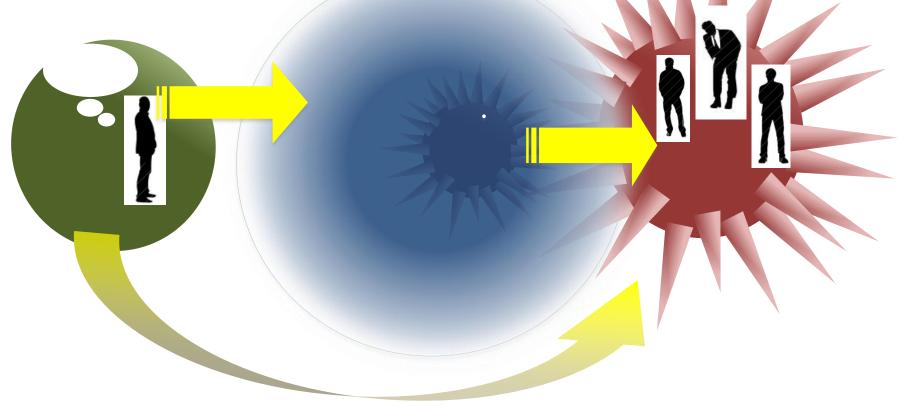
Looking AT the glasses we're looking THROUGH





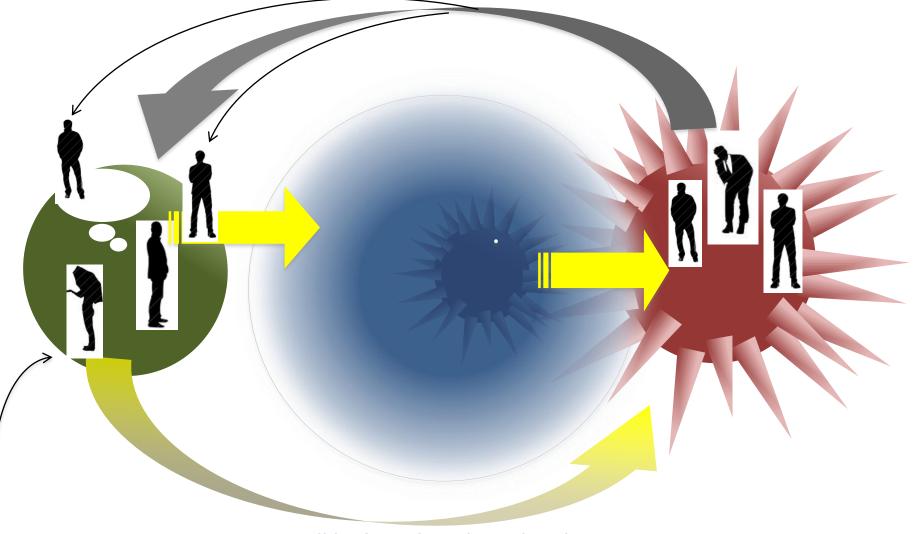
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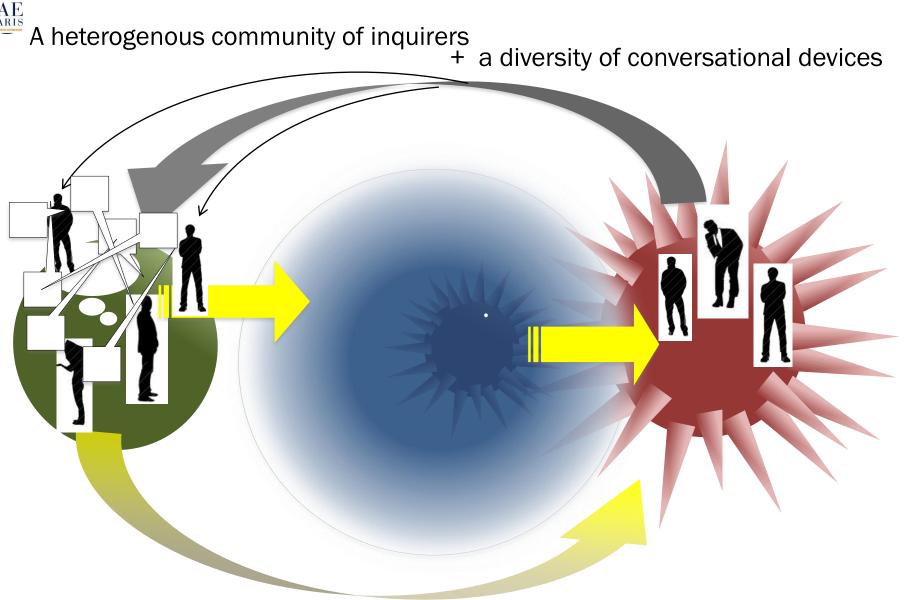
+ still looking directly at the object

A heterogeneous community of inquirers



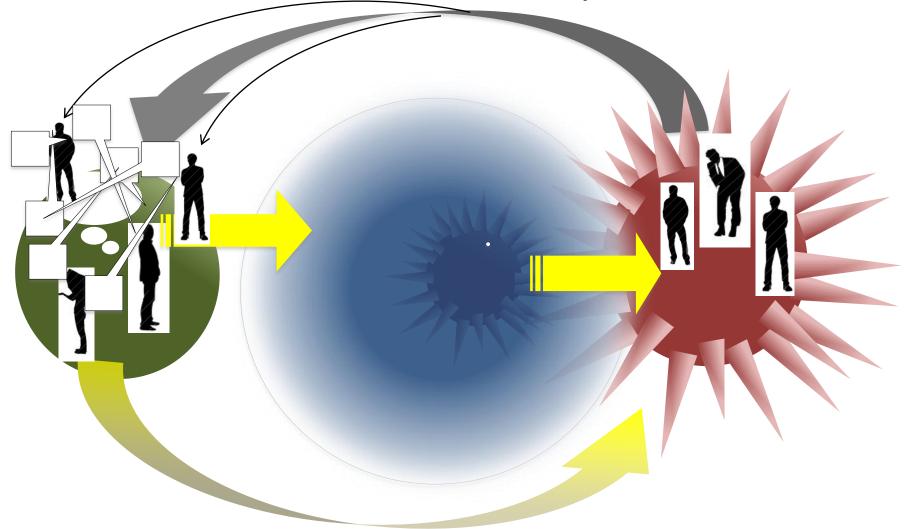
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IAE PARIS



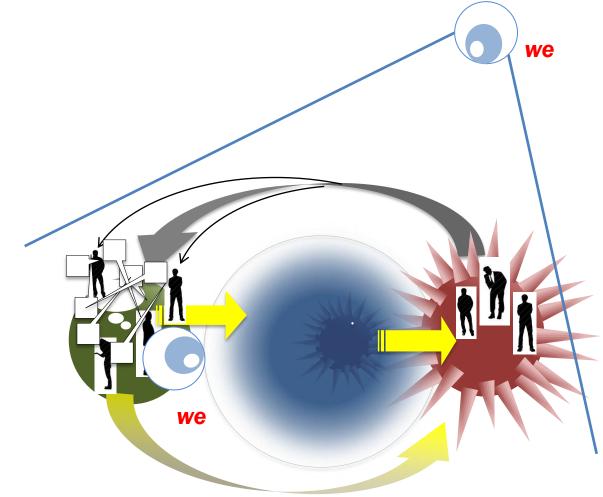
A heterogenous community of inquirers

+ a diversity of conversational devices





Conclusion and contributions : what we experienced





4 - Experiential knowledge

- Art characteristic : representing things in an autonomous form that can be considered for itself.
- Observing the object through the artwork is both observing the object as it is and the object as it is represented, revealing both the object and its double – its representation.
- Raises the issue of reality/fiction, objectivity/perceptions.





Projection vidéo : Intervention du comédien – SDF à Liège.



Conclusion and contributions : what we experienced

- Critical reflexivity on ourselves (as researchers, as practionners, as experts, as artists, as a group).
- **Critical stance towards our research object.**
- Questionning the researcher' skills : dealing with the uncertain, the unexpected, the surprising; be able to suffer and to show embarrassment, deceit, affects, confusion, and so on.



Thank you !