Critically fit — Structures and Methodologies of Doctoral Research

Critically fit is a two-day seminar exploring the relationship between research and action, with a focus on how performative, critical and contemporary research in architecture is articulated and enacted. Themes include architecture and materials, space production, and territory.

Content: doctoral research can be considered a device to transform the industry and the discipline at large. The aim of this course is to prompt and discuss work that performs, critiques, and challenges the conventional research in architecture. The seminar will focus on the following themes:

- Justice
- Extraction/Materials
- Space Production
- Territory

Invited guests with research expertise in and around architecture will present their work and then act as a respondent to the presentations of the doctoral students. A performative dissertation is composed of a section that lays out the ground for the research question, a hypothesis on the focal point of the research, and finally, a strategic position on how the research can contribute to critically impact the discipline of architecture, the construction industry and related socio-spatial aspects. The seminar is interested in the ways that structuring research can specifically target specific goals. The course also intends to open a discussion on the performance of research, and to tap into the existing knowledge within the school and foster dialogue within the community.

This seminar will run over two consecutive days in November 9th and 10th, 2023. The course will host 10 PhD students who have established and confirmed their research plan. Applicants should submit their research plan to riot@epfl.ch for acceptance to the course by the 20th of October.

The seminar is open to the public for attendance.