

Candidacy for the EAAE Council 2024



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Motivation

The strategic development of Schools and in particular of education—facing societal challenges of climate change and social division, advocating culture and creativity, and not at least upholding in the institutional contexts of universities—needs considerably more exchange and collaboration between Schools. As Dean for Research of the Faculty of Architecture and Landscape in Hannover, one of the German TU9 Technical Universities, I want to contribute to the important platform and agency that EAAE has developed for cooperation and advocacy of Architecture Schools.

I can rely on experience in research and in European cooperation from projects funded e. g. by the EU Creative Europe Programme. Currently, I am coordinating the Circular Design EU Innovation Alliance with 11 partners, amongst them ACE. As architect and urban planner, my focus is on design-driven approaches to urban and territorial transformation processes. I am keen on creating interfaces with other disciplines such as infrastructure planning, engineering, social and cultural sciences, and with landscape architecture – which is one of the assets of our School.

Since 2020, together with colleagues from the TU9 Schools, I am working on the topic of research evaluation. We advocate for the specific qualities of architectural research in the context of our universities and towards funding bodies, also in the context of the new COARA framework. In this process, it became clear that further influence on frameworks for research is necessary—necessarily in larger European alliances. I discussed these conclusions with a contribution at the EAAE Conference in Madrid.

My intentions for collaborating in the EAAE Council are starting from research, with the aim to support deepening and extending the many existing and ongoing initiatives of EAAE in this regard. I would like to address not only European frameworks (such as the very crucial setup of panels in ERC, the programming of Horizon, Frascati, etc.) but also to try to strengthen and extend alliances (with ACE, ELIA, but also other partners in the context of NEB, of cities' organisations etc.) and to address national funding bodies together. I would like to contribute to new formats to communicate research in architecture, very timely for many societal challenges, to politics, academia, and society, advocating its value, character, and interactiveness (e. g. with a European Research Prize in Architecture). And I would like to support to improve exchange, networking, and collaboration between the EAAE Schools: for understanding research in architecture as a deeply culturally influenced, multi-faceted, and multidimensional strength. Not at least, I would like to contribute to foster exchange and collaboration in research education, in doctoral programmes, for research orientation on master level, and for research-oriented practice: with the aim to position research as inherent part of architecture and its multiple creative practices.

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