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Keywords: Practice-based research, qualitative methods, civic engagement, sustainable neighbourhood development, shared ownership, cooperatives, participatory governance, cultural theory

My work addresses the social and spatial challenges of the built environment, and the role designers and citizens can play in shaping sustainable urban neighbourhoods together with private and governmental actors. One recurring focus is how diverse needs can be translated into functioning urban infrastructure and accessible common places and how such translations are shaped by, and depart from, their cultural context, drawing on debates in cultural and critical urban theory on the everyday production of space.

WORK EXPERIENCE

INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

- since 2025 **Presentations and talks**, [Mikado](#), Challenges of collaborative urban planning for civic initiatives and public stakeholders
- 2012 – 2014 **Design by research**, [Waterbergen](#): Multifunctional (rain)water storage for re-use in public space, Unsolicited Architecture, coop Dingeman Deijs and Jeroen Atteveld, Nal, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, Zuidas and Amsterdam UMC
- 2004 – 2012 **Artistic and managing director**, International art project space with artist/curator-residency, [Agentur Amsterdam](#)
- 2010 – 2014 **Director and coordinator**, coop Hans Ligteringen, Architecture Centre Makeblijde, Houten
- 2008 – 2010 **Project coordinator and sparring partner**, [Podium for Architecture](#) Haarlemmermeer and Schiphol, Hoofddorp
- 2005 – 2006 **Curator**, Exhibitions, radio programmes, lecture series, roundtable discussions on art, migration and urban regeneration projects, coop Daniela Swarowsky, [ZIM](#), Rotterdam

TEACHING

- 2022 – 2025 University of Amsterdam (UvA), Coordinator & Tutor Cultural Studies, Global Arts, Culture and Politics (BA)
 - I Amsterdam**, The city as a place for social movements with Amsterdam as a case study for economic, social and cultural urban developments
 - Kunst en cultuur in het publieke domein**, Tutor seminar
- 2024 Fontys University of Applied Science, Tilburg, Tutor Urban Studies (MA)
 - World school**, Sustainable and participative urban design with excursion to Vienna
- 2004 – 2021 Academy of Architecture Amsterdam. Tutor (MA)
 - Research**, Research papers & guidance on graduation topics
 - Human Environment and Society**, Research methods participative design in public space
 - A Perfect World: Designing a City for All**, Design Workshop coop Architecture Centre Makeblijde and Reinder Bakkers

ADVISING

- 2026 - [New Emergences Foundation \(NE\)](#), Board member (November onwards), Platform for digital media culture, electronic music and sound art
- 2021 - [The Commissie voor Ateliers en \(Woon\)Werkpanden Amsterdam \(CAWA\)](#), Commission member, Municipality of Amsterdam
- 2025 **dwelling matters**, Concept development international research platform for affordable housing and placemaking in urban regeneration projects, Amsterdam
- 2021 – 2024 [Bureau Postjesweg Presents \(BPP\)](#), Board member, Art in urban regeneration projects, Amsterdam Nieuw-West
- 2019 – 2024 [European Foundation for Living \(EFL\)](#), Adviser academic network, UvA
- 2017 – 2021 [Creative Industries Funds \(SCI\)](#), Adviser commission architecture
- 2013 – 2017 **Mobiation**, Board member, Foundation for the experiment in minimum space/impact and maximum living, Amsterdam
- 2010 – 2014 [In Search of Europe?](#), Advisor, Interdisciplinary research and exhibition, Daniela Swarowsky coop Zentrum Moderner Orient (Z.M.O.), Kunstraum Kreuzberg, Berlin

EDUCATION

- 2016 – 2024 UvA, **PhD Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA) | Sociology**, Part-time
Supervisors: René Boomkens, Jan Willem Duyvendak
- 2017 Amsterdam University of the Arts, **University Teaching Qualifications (BKO | BDB)**
- 2015 Open University Milton Keynes, **Preparation MPhil**, Sociology
- 1998 – 2002 University of Applied Arts Vienna, **Fine Arts**
2001 – 2002 Gerrit Rietveld Academy Amsterdam
2000 Royal College of Arts London
- 1994 – 2000 Vienna University of Technology, **MSc Architecture**
1996 Strathclyde University Glasgow
1997 Masterclass Wiel Arets, University of Applied Arts Vienna

AWARDS | STIPENDIA

- 2022 PhD University of Amsterdam (UvA)
Finishing Fellowship, Amsterdam Institute for Humanities Research (AIHR), UvA
- 2015 Preparation MPhil
Scholarship Open University, Social Sciences (Sociology), Milton Keynes
- 2012 *WaterBergen*, Design by Research coop Dingeman Deijns and Jeroen Atteveld
Unsolicited Architecture, Dutch Architecture Institute (Nal), Mondriaan Foundation, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, The Hague

LANGUAGES

Dutch (fluent)
English (fluent)
French (very good)
Spanish (average)
German (native)

ICT

MS Office, LibreOffice, Blackboard, Canvas, Atlas.Ti

PUBLICATIONS (Selection)

- Christof, K. (*In preparation*, 2027). Maintaining "Autonomy" in Cooperative Civic-Governmental Actors Relations.
- Christof, K. (*In preparation*, 2027). Zwischen Autonomie und Kooperation: Expert:innen-Bürger:innen und gemeinnützige Räume in Amsterdam, Berlin und Wien. *sub\urban. zeitschrift für kritische stadtforschung*
- Christof, K. (*Commissioned for* 2026). Consolidating civic engagement within public policy frameworks. In Lectoraat Image in Context and DesignArbeid (ed.): *Autonomy versus Collaboration: Dilemma's of Place-Based Practices*. Set Margins'. Eindhoven and Utrecht
- Christof, K. (2025). [Citizen Professionals: Reclaiming Collective Spaces](#). #69. Set Margins'. Eindhoven
- Christof, K. (2025). [Ruimtes voor betrokkenheid](#): samen de stad maken. Interview. *Jaarverslag 2024. Een nieuw Amsterdams atelier- en broedplaatsenbeleid en Samenwerkingsafspraken*. Commissie voor Ateliers en (Woon)Werkpanden Amsterdam (CAWA), 29-30
- Christof, K., & Draaisma, J. (2025). [Verlangen naar autonomie](#): Common spaces voor de stad. *Amsterdam Alternative*, #59, 6-7
- Christof, K. (2024). [Longing for Autonomy: Citizen Professionals Engaging for the Common Good](#). University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam [PhD Thesis]
- Christof, K. & Majoor, S. J. H. (2021). [A City of Strong Government and Active Citizens](#): Eigenlogik Amsterdam. In M. van der Veen, & J. W. Duyvendak (Eds.), *Participate!: Portraits of Cities and Citizens in Action*. nai010 publishers, Rotterdam, 40-61
- Christof, K. & Sack, F. (2021). [In Search of Berlin: A City Renegotiating Realities and Visions](#). In M. van der Veen, & J. W. Duyvendak (Eds.), *Participate!: Portraits of Cities and Citizens in Action*. nai010 publishers, Rotterdam, 82-103
- Christof, K. (2020). ["Citizen Professionals" as Civic Intermediaries: Autonomy as a Social Value in the Making of Communal Spaces for the Neighbourhood](#). In R. Lastman (Ed.), *AMPS Proceedings Series 19.1: The City and Complexity - Life, Design and Commerce in the Built Environment*: City, University of London. London 17-19 June 2020, 166-177
- Christof, K. (2018). [Methodological tools for explorations of urban changes in built environments](#) [Review of: B. Campkin, G. Duijzings (2016) *Engaged Urbanism: Cities and Methodologies*]. *Rooilijn*, 51(1), 76-78
- Christof, K. (2017). [The Citizen Professional, Mediatization, and the Creation of a Public Domain](#). *Culture Unbound: Journal of Current Cultural Research*, 9(3), 279-306
- Christof, K., Ligteringen H. (Eds) (2014). *A Perfect World: Designing a City for All*. Architecture Centre Makeblijde, Amsterdam
- Christof, K., Ittersum, E. (Eds.) (2014). *Cahier Houden Van Houten #1*, Architecture Centre Makeblijde and Uitgeverij Blauwdruk, Houten.
- Christof, K., Vergeer A. (2013). Innovatief Landschap. *Blauwe Kamer*, 02-2013, 70-71
- Christof, K. (2012). Bottom-Up Top-Down: The Neighbourhood as Tool for Urban Design. *OnAIR*, Amsterdam School of the Arts, 12, 10-15
- Christof, K., Vergeer, A. (Eds.) (2012). [Over de Grens](#): Over de rol en de betekenis van de grens in de hedendaagse landschapsarchitectuur, Blauwdruk and Architecture Centre Makeblijde, Wageningen
- Christof, K. (Ed.) (2010). [Working with Architectonic DNA](#). JapSam Books, Heijningen
- Christof, K. (Ed.) (2009). *Kunstwerken voor de publieke ruimte*. Podium voor Architectuur Haarlemmermeer
- Christof, K. (Ed.) (2008). *Vermittlung bitte! Nederlandse en Oostenrijkse architectuurcentra in gesprek*, Podium for Architecture Haarlemmermeer

PUBLIC TALKS | WORKSHOPS (Selection)

- 2026/07/13 "Prefigurative Politics in Urban Space: Citizen Professionals Redefining Urban Governance from Below". **Presentation and talk**, [Think & Drink Colloquium](#), Georg-Simmel Center for Urban Studies, Humboldt-Universität Berlin
- 05/28 "Noord verkent... voorbij de tijdelijkheid: Welke regels bepalen onze stad?". **Live-recording podcast** 'Algoritme van de Stad', with Joop de Boer (Pop Up City), Jesse Jop Jorg (We The City), Karin Christof and Sabrina Lindemann (OpTrek), [A Lab Amsterdam](#)
- 05/09 "Professionalisierung der Zivilgesellschaft: Von der Initiative bis zur Großbaustelle". **Presentations and talks** with Rebecca Wall (researcher cooperative urban development) and Kim Gundlach (HdS Initiative), KO-Markt, Tag der Städtebauförderung, OTTO Konserve, [Haus der Statistik Berlin](#)
- 04/24 "Reaching Out from the Hood. Locally Embedded Neighbourhood Spaces". **Presentations and talks** by Martijn Huting, Karin Christof, and Flip Krabbendam. Hosted by Judith Schibli from [Supermercator Amsterdam](#)
- 03/09 "[Hoe kan de publieke ruimte beter ingericht worden in de toekomst?](#)" **Talk** with Jesse Jörg (urban practitioner, initiator and founder of We The City), People Kitchen: Amsterdam in development. Stichting de Ceuveld, Amsterdam
- 03/05 "Burgerdeskundigen? Bouwen aan een sociale en culturele infrastructuur van onderaf," **Lunch talk** with Liselotte Vandikkelen (programme leader Buurtenergie LSA) and Roel Griffioen (author, researcher and tutor Product Design Arnhem), [Landelijk Samenwerkingsverband Actieve bewoners \(LSA\)](#), Utrecht
- 01/15 "[Citizen Professionals Reclaiming Collective Spaces](#)," **Book launch and talk** with Michael Obrist (Professor for Housing and Design, TU Vienna). Moderator: Anna Soucek (editor cultural programming Radio Ö1). Host: Elke Krasny, Professor Academy of Fine Arts Vienna
- 2025/05/16 "[Exploding Practices: How the hell common as an artist?](#)" **Work Conference**, Jeanne van Heeswijk and DesignArbeid, Lectoraat Image in Context, BAK Basecamp for Tactical Imaginaries Utrecht
- 06/05 "Post-Autonomous Practices and Shared Spaces for the Neighbourhood," **Presentation and workshop**, [damdam Harvest Festival](#), Lumbung Land, DeAppel, Amsterdam
- 2022/03/18 "Participatie Nieuwe Stijl," **Lunch lecture** with Harm van Dijk (G1000.nu), Jutta Hinterleitner and Paul Gerretsen (Vereniging Deltametropool), Creative Industries Fund, Rotterdam (ZOOM)
- 07/07 "Art versus Politics?," **Symposium** René Boomkens, **Paper presentation**, with Christine Delhay, Lieven de Cauter, Pieter Bots, Doelenzaal UB University of Amsterdam

ARCHITECTURE CENTRE MAKEBLIJDE (Selection)

- 2014 **Vakmanschap; ambachtelijkheid als nieuw ondernemerschap in de landschapsarchitectuur.** Organiser lecture series, Architecture Centre Makeblijde coop Dutch Association for Landscape Architecture (NVTL)
- 2013 **Houden van Houten: Modelstad Houten Futureproof.** Organiser symposium. Future developments for New Town Houten, Architecture Centre Makeblijde coop municipality Houten
- 2012 **Hands-On Urban Place Making.** Coordinator workshop on issues of ownership. Architecture Centre Makeblijde coop Alterra Wageningen UR and Gemeenten voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling (GDO)
- Over de Grens: Over de rol en de betekenis van de grens in de hedendaagse landschaps-architectuur.** Coordinator lecture series, Architecture Centre Makeblijde coop NVTL
- 2011 **Climate Proof City.** Work Symposia Architecture Centre Makeblijde coop Alterra Wageningen UR
- Salons Houten.** Talks with cultural actors and entrepreneurs on how to tackle cultural planning within local-scale urban / rural developments, Architecture Centre Makeblijde
- 2010 **ACT+!** Moderator expert meeting. Sustainable urban development Schiphol. With Paul Jansen (programme director ACT), Michiel van Pelt (former Secretary Commission Spatial Development Airports), Podium for Architecture Haarlemmermeer