



Dated 19 Dec 2019

Statutes of the Research Platform Worlds of Contradiction (WoC)

from

Please note: The German version of this statute is legally binding.

On _____ and in accordance with § 110 (3) of Bremen University Law (BremHG) as published on May 9th, 2007 (Brem. GBl. p. 339), last amended by Art. 1 of the Fifth University Reform Act of March 5th, 2019 (Brem. GBl. p. 71), the Rector has ratified the following version of this statute, which the faculty boards of the faculties 6, 8, 9, 10 and 12 had approved based on § 87 in conjunction with § 92 (1) BremHG:

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§ 1 Legal Status

The research platform “Worlds of Contradiction” (WoC) is an academic institution of the University of Bremen according to § 92 of Bremen University Law (BremHG) under the responsibility of faculties 6, 8, 9, 10 and 12.



§ 2 Objectives and Tasks

(1) WoC is a research platform which encompasses the humanities, cultural studies and sciences, social sciences, law, and educational sciences. Its aim is to develop and implement research projects, to foster early career researchers, and to implement projects of research-based learning as well as transfer projects with a special emphasis on interdisciplinary collaborative projects, all while serving to internationalise the participating academic fields.

(2) WoC initiates discussions about project developments, supports the implementation of project initiatives, provides an institutional framework for projects, creates a productive interface between projects, develops research development strategies and implements these.

§ 3 Membership

(1) The following are members of WoC:

- a. founding members (see Appendix 1 to the statutes)
- b. professors of the faculties referred to in § 1
- c. the academic staff, readers, (senior) lecturers and (senior) researchers of the faculties mentioned in § 1
- d. the WoC Managing Director
- e. the staff of the WoC Office
- f. members of the WoC graduate network

(2) Membership according to § 3 (1a) exists without application. Membership according to § 3 (1b) and § 3 (1c) can be applied for and is granted by the resolution of the WoC General Assembly. Membership according to § 3 (1d) and § 3 (1e) exists for the duration of the staffing without a separate application being necessary. WoC membership based on being a member of the graduate network according to § 7 is without separate application.

(3) The WoC General Assembly bases its decision on the admission of new members according to § 3 (1b) and § 3 (1c) on the following criteria:

- a. Research in the area of WoC key topics
- b. Interest in interdisciplinary collaborative research

(4) With the exception of the occupation in WoC ending (members according to § 3 (1d) and e), WoC membership ends with a unilateral, written declaration made to the Spokespersons or by decision of the WoC General Assembly. Before an exclusion, the member concerned must be given the reasons for exclusion as discussed by the



General Assembly, and they must be given the opportunity to comment. The reasons for the exclusion must be given in writing.

§ 4 Bodies

Bodies of WoC are:

- a. WoC Spokespersons (§ 5)
- b. the WoC Managing Director (§ 6)
- c. WoC Labs (§ 9)
- d. the WoC Graduate Network (§ 8)
- e. the WoC Council (§ 7)
- f. the WoC General Assembly (§ 10)
- g. the WoC Advisory Board (§ 11)

§ 5 WoC Spokespersons

(1) The WoC General Assembly elects two WoC Spokespersons from among the group of professors in the Assembly for a period of 5 years. Re-election is permitted. The election of two professors from two different faculties in accordance with § 1 is preferred in terms of diversity.

(2) The management of the institution, according to § 92 (1) BremHG, is the responsibility of the Spokespersons. They are equally responsible for WoC matters. The WoC Spokespersons represent the research platform to bodies, committees and university management, as well as to the outside world within the framework of the purpose of WoC. They are entrusted with the development of WoC in content and strategy in line with the resolutions of the WoC Council and the WoC General Assembly.

(3) The WoC Spokespersons chair the WoC Council and the WoC General Assembly. They convene the meetings of the bodies and keep them informed about all essential WoC matters. They coordinate WoC activities and draft the annual report. The WoC Spokespersons finalize the budget in accordance with the allocation of funds.

§ 6 Managing Director

(1) The WoC Managing Director ensure the research coordination of the research platform and the implementation of the decisions of the WoC Spokespersons, the WoC Council and the WoC General Assembly. Among other things, the Managing Director carries out the management of the funds allocated to WoC, takes on the management of public relations, project organisation, as well as the planning and



realisation of academic events within the framework of joint research activities in WoC. They support the WoC Spokespersons in all matters of the research platform and are subordinate to them.

(2) The Managing Director is appointed by the Spokespersons.

§ 7 WoC Council

(1) The WoC Council consists of the Spokespersons, the Managing Director and the delegates of the WoC Labs (see § 9) and the WoC Graduate Network (see § 10). Each member of the WoC Council has one vote.

(2) The WoC Council decides on the following WoC matters by a simple majority of the members present:

- a. Establishment and Dissolution of Labs
- b. Members of the Advisory Boards

(3) The WoC Council shall comment on the annual report of the WoC Spokespersons.

(4) The WoC Council meets at least four times a year upon the invitation of the WoC Spokespersons. Invitations have to be issued at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

(5) The WoC Council has a quorum if at least half of its members are present. If the WoC Council does not have a quorum, the WoC Spokespersons will schedule another WoC Council meeting; this meeting has a quorum regardless of the number of attendees, which must be mentioned in the invitation.

§ 8 WoC General Assembly

(1) The WoC General Assembly includes all members according to § 3.

(2) The WoC General Assembly elects the WoC Spokespersons (§ 5 (1)) and decides on the following matters:

- a. Amendments to the Statutes
- b. Admission of Members
- c. WoC Research Programme
- d. WoC Annual Report

(3) The WoC General Assembly decides with a simple majority of the members present. Changes to the statutes require a three-quarter majority of the WoC



members. Decisions of the WoC General Assembly which directly affect questions of the research direction of WoC require a majority of the university professors.

(4) The WoC General Assembly has a quorum if at least half of the members are present. If the WoC General Assembly does not have a quorum, the Spokespersons schedule another WoC general meeting; this meeting has a quorum regardless of the number of attendees, which must be mentioned in the invitation.

(5) The WoC general meeting takes place at least twice a year during the lecture period. It is convened by the WoC Spokespersons. Invitations have to be issued at least 14 days prior to the meeting.

§ 9 WoC Labs

(1) WoC is divided into collaborative, interdisciplinary research laboratories (WoC Labs). Labs are established by the WoC Council upon receipt of a suitable application. Every WoC member with a doctorate can apply for the establishment of a laboratory under the conditions of Section 2. The task of the labs is the development and implementation of projects according to § 2.

(2) Prerequisites for the approval of the establishment of a lab are:

- a. An interdisciplinary research project
- b. The participation of at least three researchers with the participation of at least one professor from the faculties listed in § 1
- c. A project duration of at least two years
- d. The submission of a corresponding project outline

(3) Membership in WoC Labs is decided by the members of a lab.

(4) Each lab elects a delegate for a period of two years from among its postdoctoral members who will represent the lab within WoC and who will become a member of the WoC Council.

§ 10 WoC Graduate Network

(1) The WoC Graduate Network serves the research-oriented networking and cooperation of PhD students and postdoctoral research assistants according to § 23 (1) BremHG (Postdoc) in the WoC key topics.

(2) Admitted doctoral students of the University of Bremen whose research projects fall within the remit of the WoC key topics can apply for membership to the graduate



network. The members of the network decide on the admission of new members by a simple majority.

(3) The members of the WoC Graduate Network meet at least twice a year upon the invitation of the managing director. The WoC Graduate Network elects two delegates from among its members to be members of the WoC Council for a period of one year.

(4) Membership in the graduate network ends with a unilateral, written declaration to the managing director or by decision of the members of the graduate network. Prior to an exclusion, the member concerned shall be informed of the reasons for exclusion as discussed by the members and given the opportunity to comment. Reasons for the exclusion must be given in writing.

§ 11 Advisory Board

(1) The Advisory Board consists of a maximum of ten external, internationally renowned scientists. It shall elect a chairperson from among its members. The Advisory Board advises the bodies of WoC on development and strategy matters, and advises the graduate network and the participating early career researchers on matters of internationalisation. It comments on the development of the research projects.

(2) The Advisory Board meets at least once a year upon the invitation of the Spokespersons.

(3) The annual report is submitted to the Advisory Board's attention.

§ 12 Annual Report

Each year, the annual report is submitted to the faculty councils of faculties 6, 8, 9, 10 and 12, as well as to the Advisory Board.

§13 Resources

(1) The resources necessary for the activities of WoC shall be contributed by the academics participating in WoC, unless such resources exist specifically for the benefit of WoC.

(2) The professorial resources will continue to be managed by the respective faculties.



(3) Beyond that, the continued existence of WoC will be ensured through the acquisition of third-party funding. Third-party funding and equipment which are specifically available to WoC as an institution are the responsibility of, and are to be managed by, the Spokespersons.

§ 14 Legal Validity

This statute comes into force with the approval of the Rector.