

# Rules of Play

Rebecca Wall, 2018

## COLUMN A

On the eve of the project days, all the actors responsible for the organisation and the process came together for a final meeting and a few short rehearsals. It quickly turned out that some framework conditions had to be maintained over the two days in order for the project days to work. The column about column A tells you what these rules are all about.

## ABOUT COLUMN A

Hannah Arendt considers spatial framing as the substantial prerequisite for the realization of all actions. “Before the action itself could even begin, a limited space had to be completed and secured within which the actors could then appear: the space of the public sphere of the polis” (Arendt 2016). A large tent measuring twenty by twenty meters served as the spatial framing for the project days. The size of the tent corresponded with the dimensions of the permissible building window of the future meeting house. The tent was situated in the south-western quarter of the building site. This position had already proved to be a convenient contact point for the neighborhood during the Summer School 2016. The tent stood opposite the Support Structure that had been built during the previous summer and was visible from all sides due to transparent sheeting. During the preparatory days (also called Setting the Stage), the participants had already built a ramp so that the slightly elevated wooden platform could be comfortably reached. The rules of the play, printed in large letters on DIN A4 sheets, were pinned to a wooden display right by the entrance:

1. The performance facilitator sets the rules, watches over them and advises on their compliance.
2. Each session is reserved for one action in a group, in one place, according to one rule.
3. The pitch or field is limited to the area of the tent.
4. The playing field is the location for action.
5. Everyone acts as an individual and as part of a collective.
6. Everyone plays three roles: sender, receiver, observer.
7. Choose a group. A group constitutes a place.

8. Stay in the group you have chosen for the duration of one session of the play. Contribute to the group as long as it makes sense to you. As soon as this changes, ask yourself: a) What does the team need to be productive? b) Am I required somewhere else in the field?
9. Each group respects the duration of the session, which is determined by the performance facilitator.

Onlooker-rule: Whoever enters the field is part of the play.

The rules formulated here represent the first attempt to structurally frame the actions on the formally empty playing field. These rules thus set the first organizational framework for the improvisational actions. Making the rules and their framing transparent introduces the distinction between the open and the closed form into the design of the planning process.

## REFERENCES

Arendt, Hannah. 2016. *Vita activa oder Vom tätigen Leben*. Piper 3623. München Berlin Zürich: Piper.