



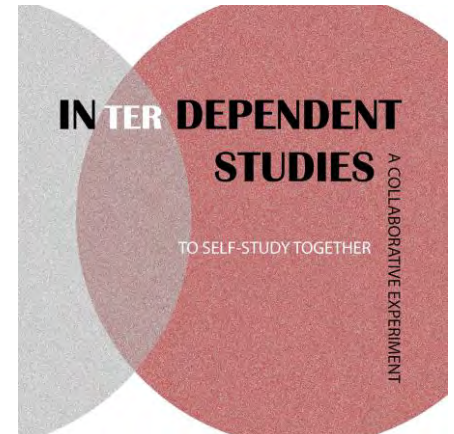
In(ter)dependent studies: Sharing session

4 Oct 2019



What is In(ter)dependent Studies?

- Collaborative experiential experiment
- Reflection on what is studying, independence, institution



Once upon a time...

An invitation to collaborate

In(ter)dependent studies: Self-studying together

Please note that programme details will be consistently updated based on collaborators' inputs.

Last updated on: 1 Oct 2019¹

[Register here.](#)



About the initiative

In(ter)dependent studies is an initiative, inviting collaborators to study independently, but somewhat together. It reflects upon ideas about personal development and “studying” [and interactions], and the purposes and purposelessness of such endeavours. It questions, for instance, the meaning when such pursuits are associated with institutions, certifications, and structure, the status of “independent” and “students”, and studying as an occupation.

This initiative begins with this invitation to you to take part, as a collaborator or “independent student”. A collaborator in this initiative will undertake a largely non-obligatory, self-monitored, and self-motivated studying endeavour over a month. The subject and curriculum, and learning goals, is up to individual personal planning and discretion. As a collaborator, you may choose to interact or engage with each other, as much or as little as you would like, for example, to work on further project collaborations.² The “outcome” of the programme is the process itself and thus, open-ended, as dependent on the collaborators’ interactions; this is in the way this letter and the programme details will be consistently revised based on various input.

The term, “independent student”, refers to the “independent studies” courses offered by educational institutions, whereby students undertake a course of study with little or no direct supervision, and also to other statuses such as “independent artists”, “independent researcher”, or “independent curators”, that also commonly refers to freelancers.

This initiative is in part prompted by the exhibition, *Siab Armajani: Spaces for the Public. Spaces for Democracy*, at CCA, and responds to its accompanying open call. Read more about them here: <http://ntu.ccasingapore.org/exhibitions/siab-armajani/>

Process

This over-a-month-long programme suggests for collaborators to spend three hours daily at various locations, with the **recommended timing** (see table), with the following suggested schedule:



Lynx Ng
17:19 16 Aug

Since the exhibition is the prompt, would it make sense to start with that for week 1?



Responses/ ideas

Relational aesthetics

Performative art

“Seems messy”

“Study for studying sake”

“What is the point?”

Recluse artist -
disengaged art.

Socially-engaged art

What's the status of student?

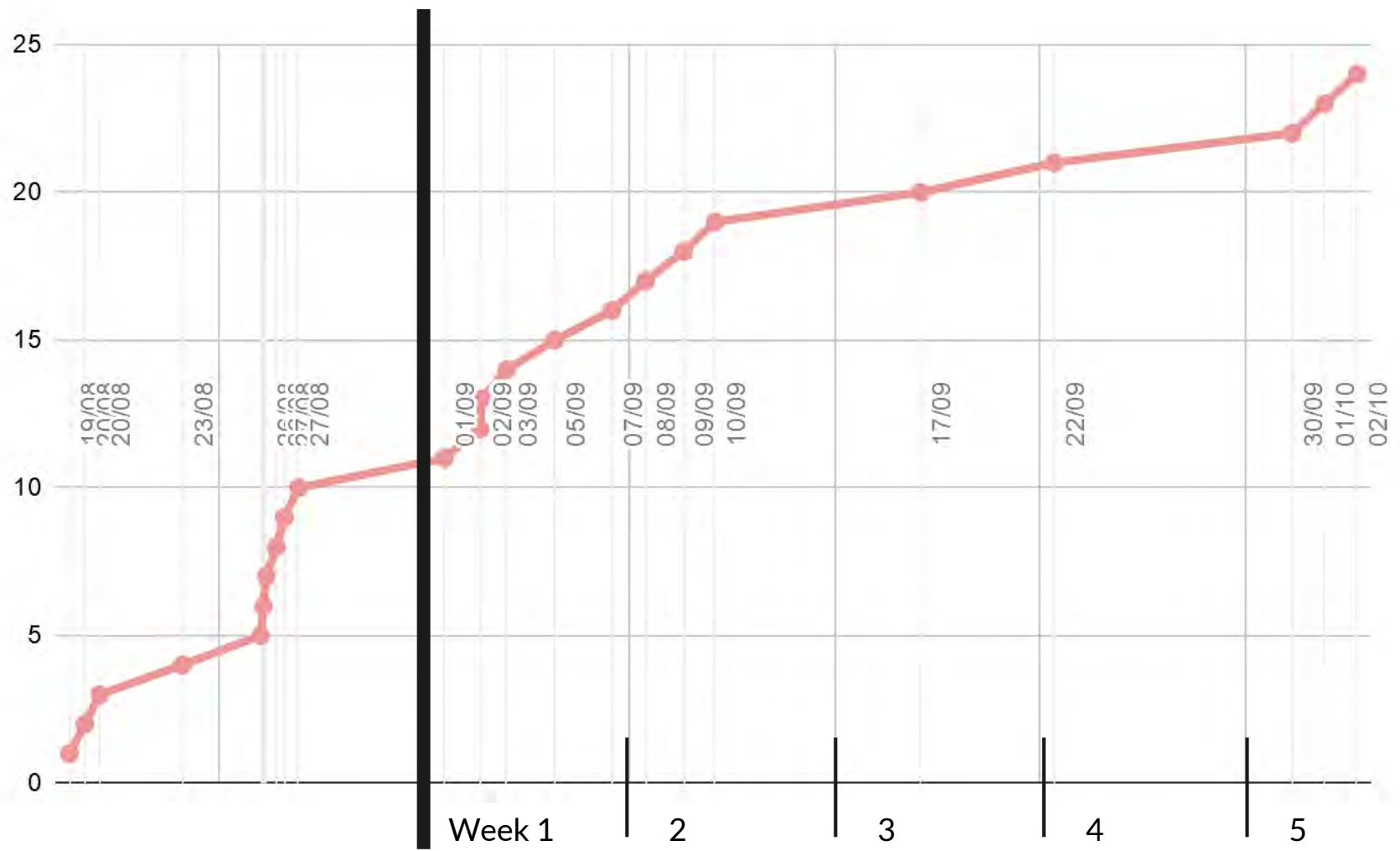
Deschooling society

Emancipated vs stultified students



Register?

- As a collaborator
- Contribute to the process
- Self-studying for 3 hours daily
- Lean back or lean forward as much as they want
- Join at anytime





Collaborators

Kozue

Jessie Lim

Lynx Ng

Nelson

Kim Hyesu

Don Wong

Isaac Ng

Ratna

Christina Lee

Rocky H

Winifred

Joey.Spl

Tan Wen

Lee Ju-Lyn

ahdini izzatika

Koh Jun Wee

Dea Ratna

Yan Ni

Saiful Abu Bakar

Jillian


Ashley Chin

Celeste Teng

[name removed for web posting]

[name removed for web posting]

[name removed for web posting]



**Let's see where
this brings us.**

Tan Wen,
Curious , thinking person



“Plan” vs Actualisation

Week	Original plan		Actualisation	
	Location	Timing	Location	Timing
1	Anywhere	2 - 5 pm	Anywhere	Random
2	CCA		CCA/NLB	2 - 5 pm
3	NLB		NLB	7 - 9 pm +
4	Private space		Private space/ Don’s place & Sick bay	Random
5	Anywhere		Anywhere + NLB + SAC	7 - 9 pm +

Week 1 1 - 7 Sep @ anywhere

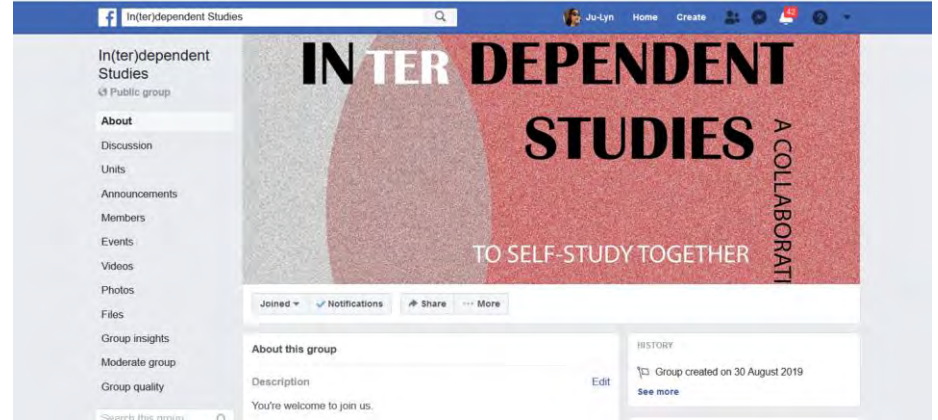
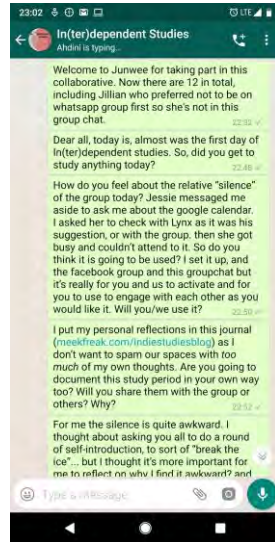
Whatsapp

Facebook platform

30 Aug: 11 pax

New joiners: 6

Total at end: 17 pax



Week 2
8-14 Sep
@ NTU CCA



Performative roles?

New joiners: 3
Total Pax: 20





Performativity

Presentation of the self in everyday life

Erving Goffman

X

Art as experience

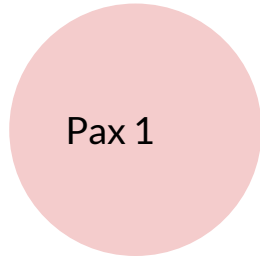
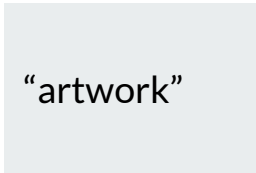
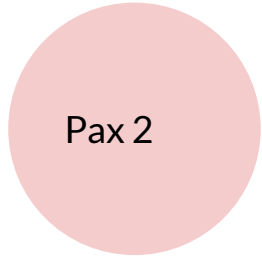
John Dewey



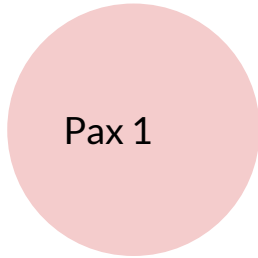
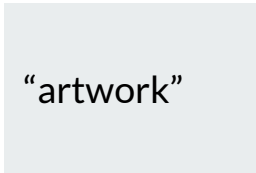
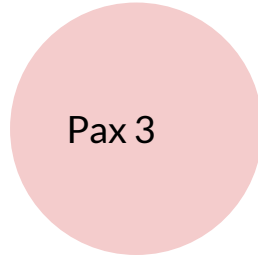
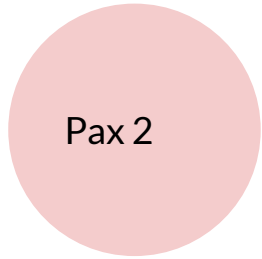
“artwork”

Pax 1

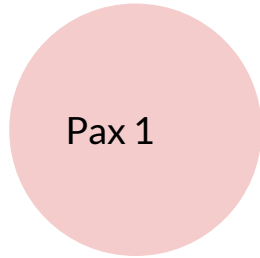
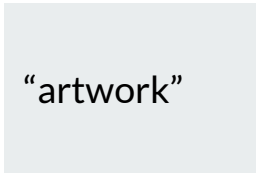
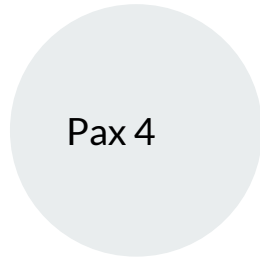
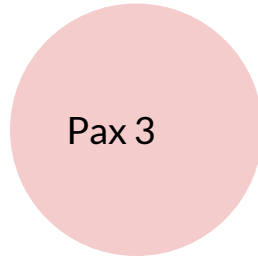
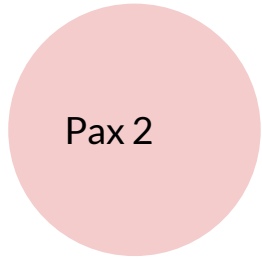
Indie student
Art audience
(Performance) Artwork
Performer



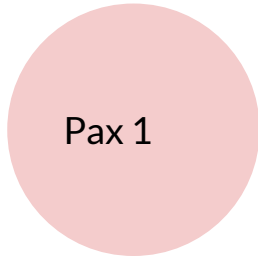
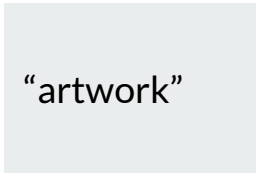
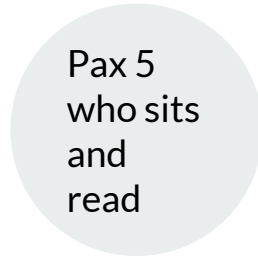
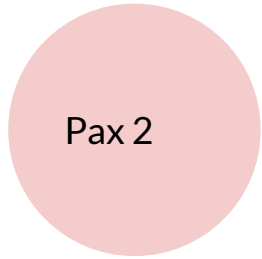
Indie student
Art audience
(Performance) Artwork
Performer
Co-performer
Performance audience



Indie student
Art audience
(Performance) Artwork
Performer
Co-performer
Performance audience
Co-performance audience
Audience of audience



Indie student
Art audience
(Performance) Artwork
Performer
Co-performer
Performance audience
Co-performance audience
Audience of audience



Indie student
Art audience
(Performance) Artwork
Performer
Co-performer
Performance audience
Co-performance audience
Audience of audience

Pax 2

Pax 3

Pax 6

Pax 4

Pax 5
who sits
and
read

“artwork”

Pax 1

Indie student
Art audience
(Performance) Artwork
Performer
Co-performer
Performance audience
Co-performance audience
Audience of audience

Pax 2

Pax 3

Pax 6

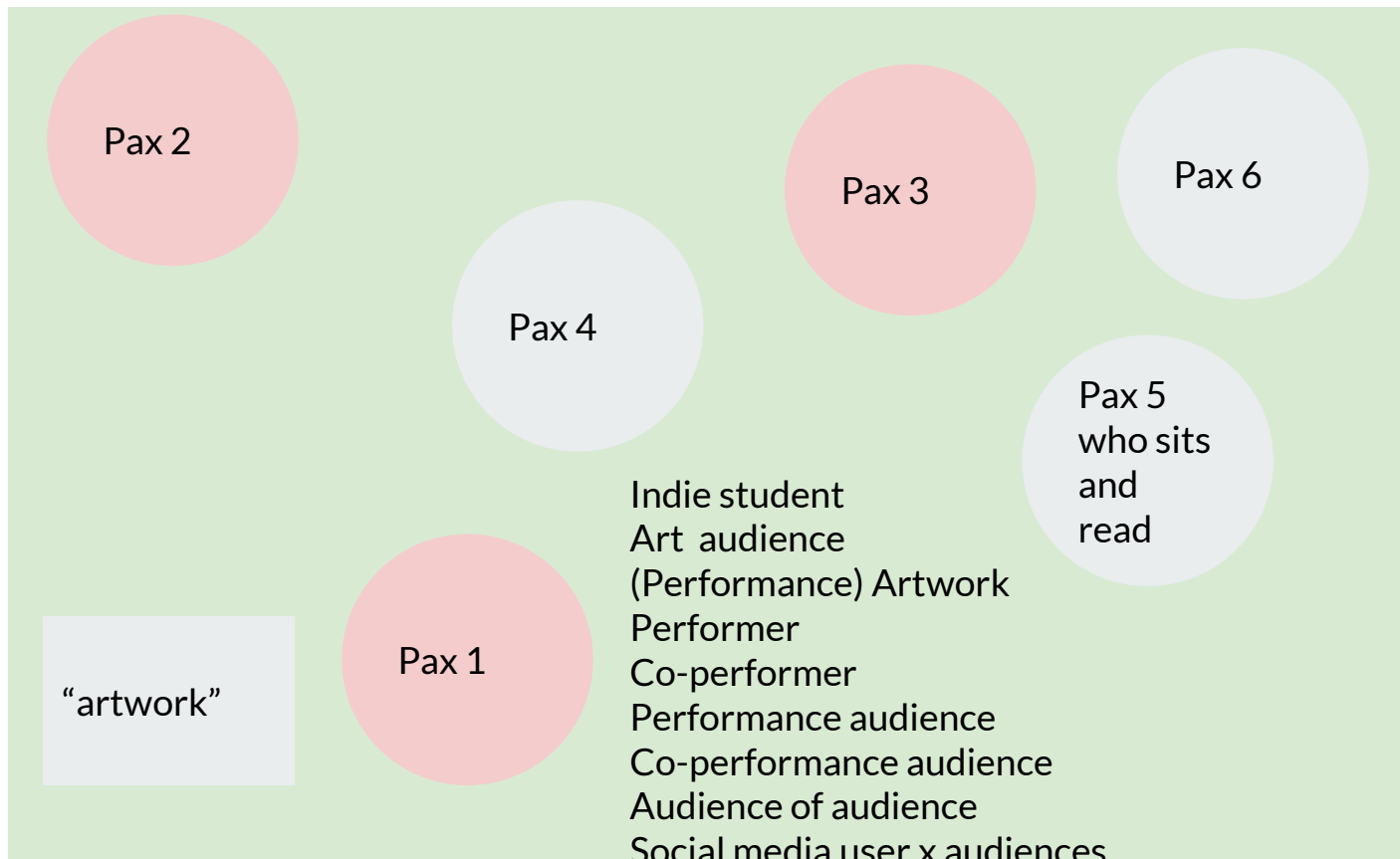
Pax 4

Pax 5
who sits
and
read

“artwork”

Pax 1

Indie student
Art audience
(Performance) Artwork
Performer
Co-performer
Performance audience
Co-performance audience
Audience of audience
Social media user



Paxes
on
Whatsapp

Paxes
on IG

Paxes
on FB

“Do you have the numbers for me?”

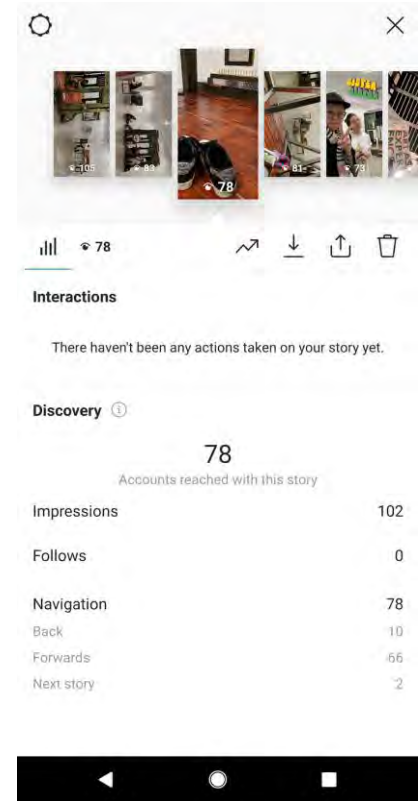
Institutional KPIs

Institution as
“collaborator”

Sunday: 4 pax average 2 hours
Monday: closed
Tuesday: 2 pax average 3 hours
Wednesday: 2 pax average 3 hours
Thursday: 4 pax, average 2.5 hours
Friday: 4 pax, average 2.5 hours
Saturday: 4 pax, average 2 hours

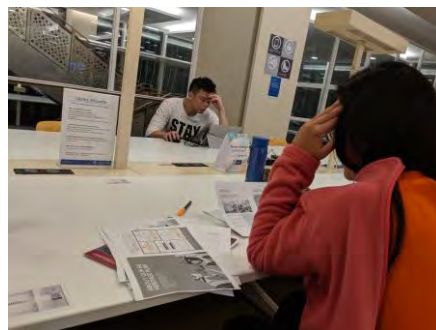
Estimate Minimum time spent by anyone from IS group: 1hr
Estimate Maximum time spent by anyone from IS group: 18 hrs.

17:14 ✓✓



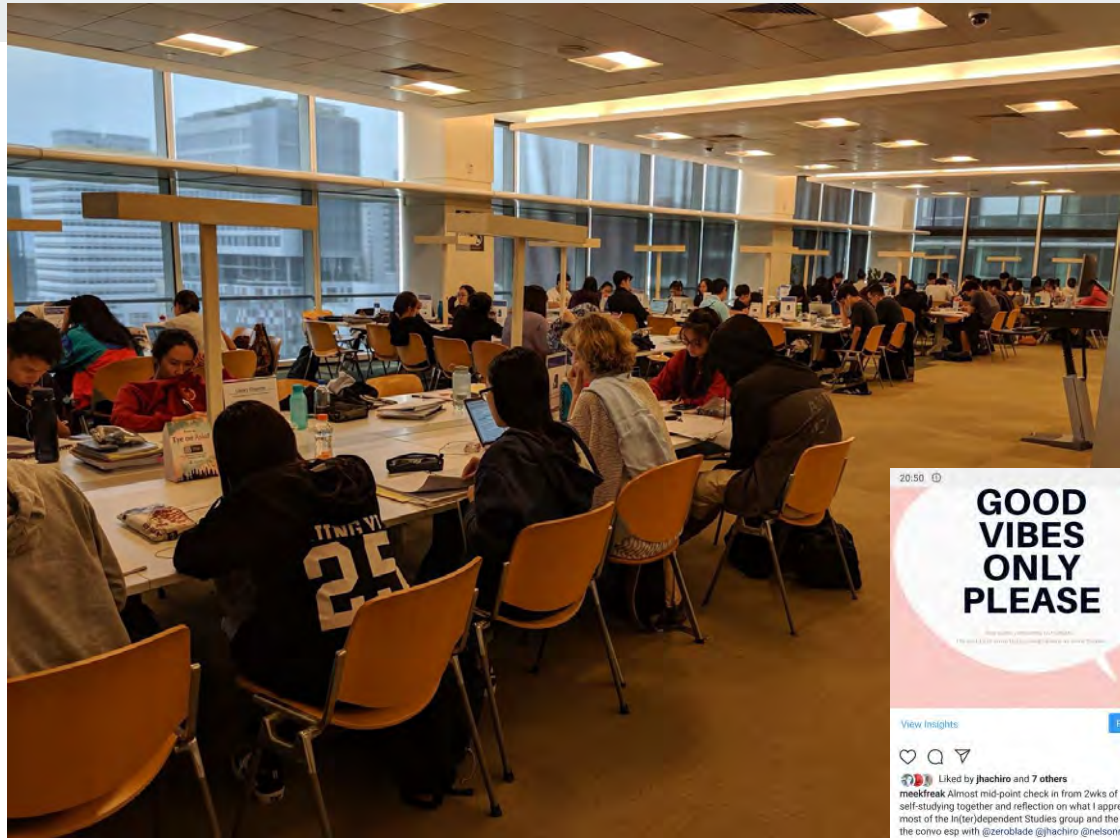
Week 3 15-21 Sep @ NLB Lvl 8

New joiners: 3
Total Pax: 20



Week 3
15-21 Sep
@ NLB Lvl 8

New joiners: 4
Total Pax: 21

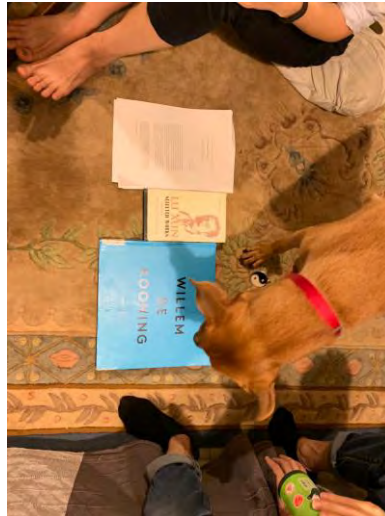
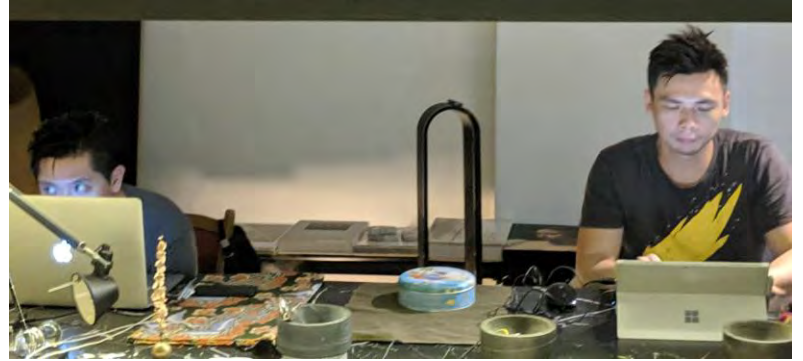


Week 4

22-28 Sep

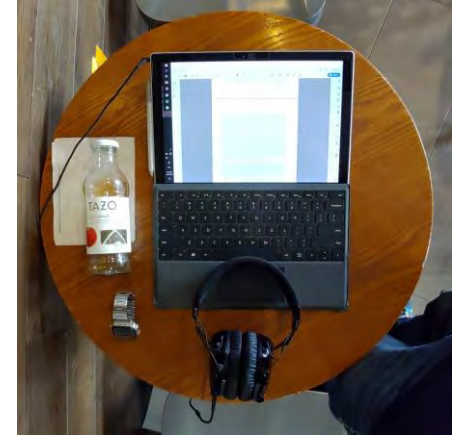
@ Private spaces: Don's place and the "sick bay"

New joiners: 1
Total: 22





Week 4: of “flatlays”



Week 5

29 Sep to 6 Oct

@ NLB & SAC

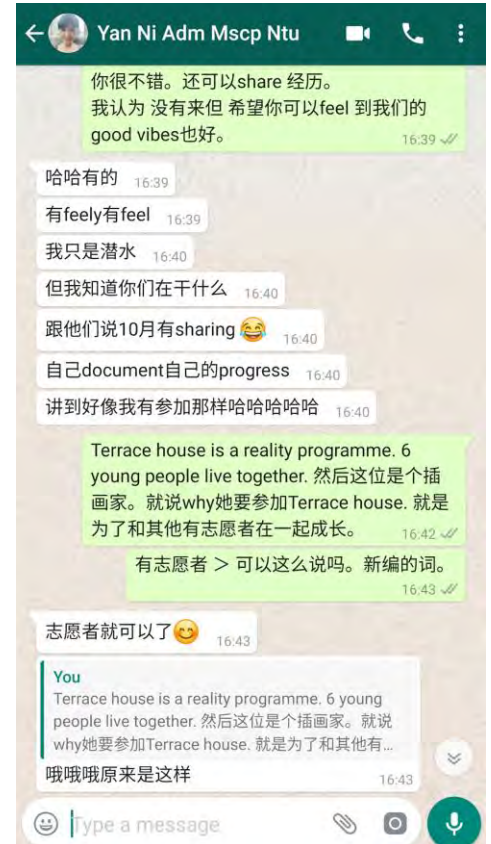
New joiners: 3
Total: 25




Social media connections

Good feels through
whatsapp chat

Her book is here!



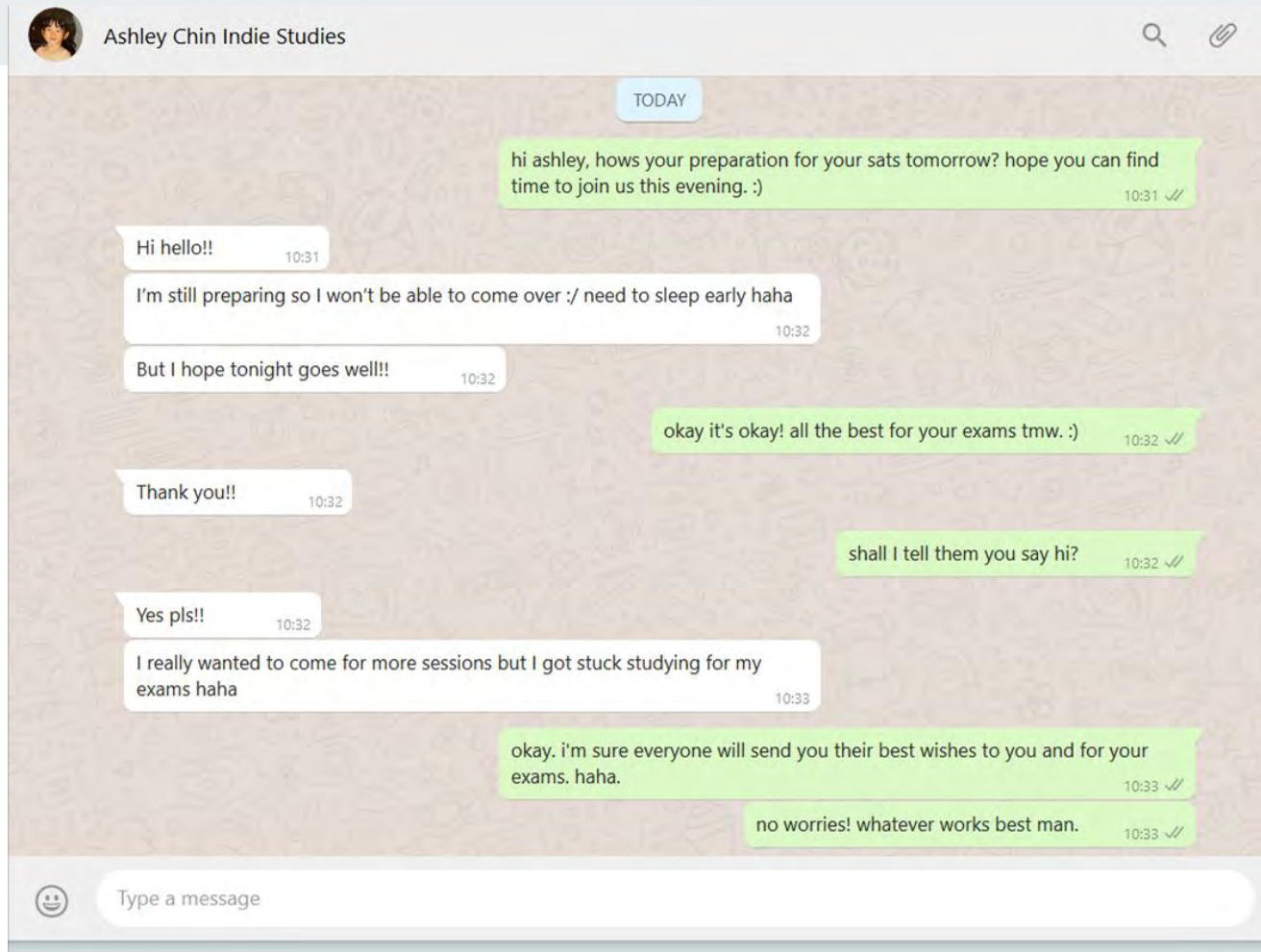


I hope it is okay that I'm signing up fairly late; I already do a lot of studying in my own time but have felt very isolated in the process, and I'd love to find some solidarity/connection

Celeste Teng,
*Independent student,
Artist, writer, creative person*



Ashley





4 presenters
3 other “presences”

Take questions at the end



Sharing by Kozue

[Please see the separate slides that Kozue prepared.]



Sharing by Jessie





Embodiment
- understanding of the physical body and its relation to oneself.

- "The self and its 'objects'"

Distinct from
wholly above,
the stream of
its experiences.

'inner object'

→ one's own sensations
(of which one is
inherently aware)

* Self is in time
and persists
through time,
or its outside
time altogether.

→ one's traits of
character
(of which one
might become
aware).

It is its time, and it is that
which gives structure to its time.

いちばん難解がちなのは、「伝えたつもり」になることです。
つもりになっている人は、本気度が足りないのです。
正解に書いて、ほくほく、ものが売れない商売がありました。
ぼくはただ「伝えたつもり」になっていたんです。そこから何度も、
10回でも、20回でも、伝え方を覚えていきました。それがぼくの30年の経験です。
—— 高田明さんが「伝える仕事」の中で

Embodiment
- understanding of the physical body and its relation to oneself.

- "The self and its 'objects'"

Distinct from
wholly above,
the stream of
its experiences.

'inner object'

→ one's own sensations
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→ one's traits of
character
(of which one
might become
aware).

It is its time, and it is that
which gives structure to its time.

[Elaboration on her works [supplied afterwards]



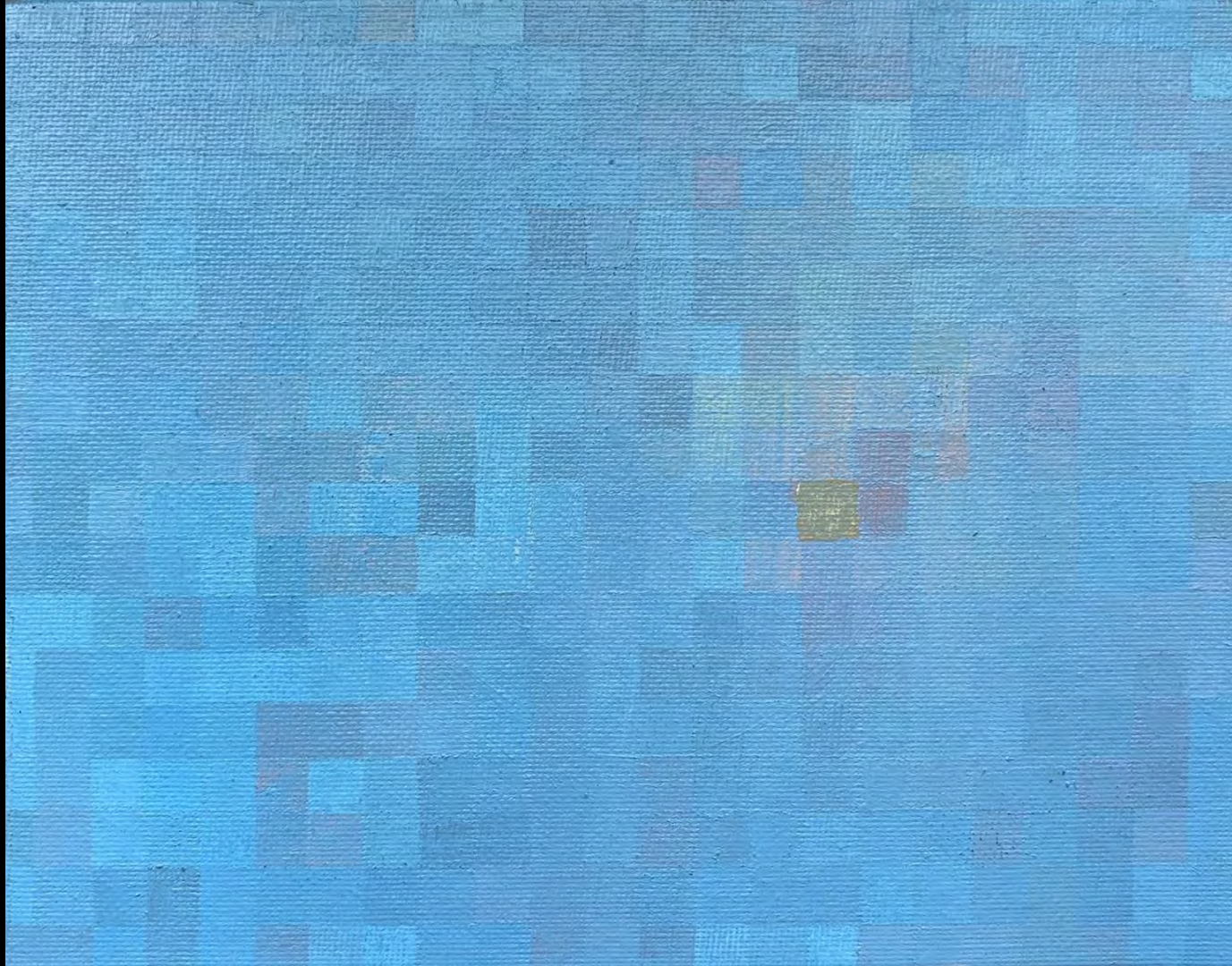
Sharing by Jun Wee

During this period of time, i'm looking into silence/silenced. And one thing i found interesting about silence is that it is not that much of a silence. In this world of non-silence, somehow silence is louder than non-silence. (Metaphorically and literally)



Sharing by Jun Wee

[During the presentation we switched off the lights and look at the following image in silence for 3 minutes – timed.]





Sharing by Dea

[Dea was based in Indonesia throughout the study period. Please listen to her audio recording, to which we listened in the dark.]



Sharing by Lynx

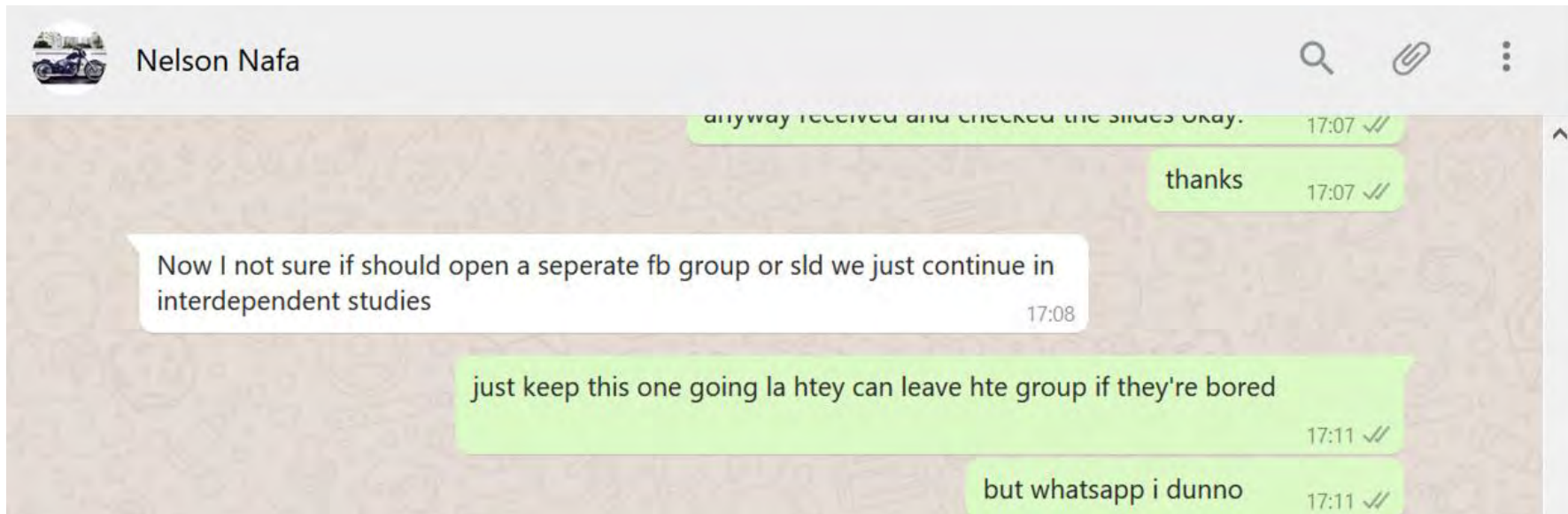
[Please see the pdf of the self-published book that Lynx put together. He also shared on his reflections and the experience of the study.]



Sharing by Nelson

[See the separate slides and his transcript where he shares his reflections and proposes for the self-study group to go on.]

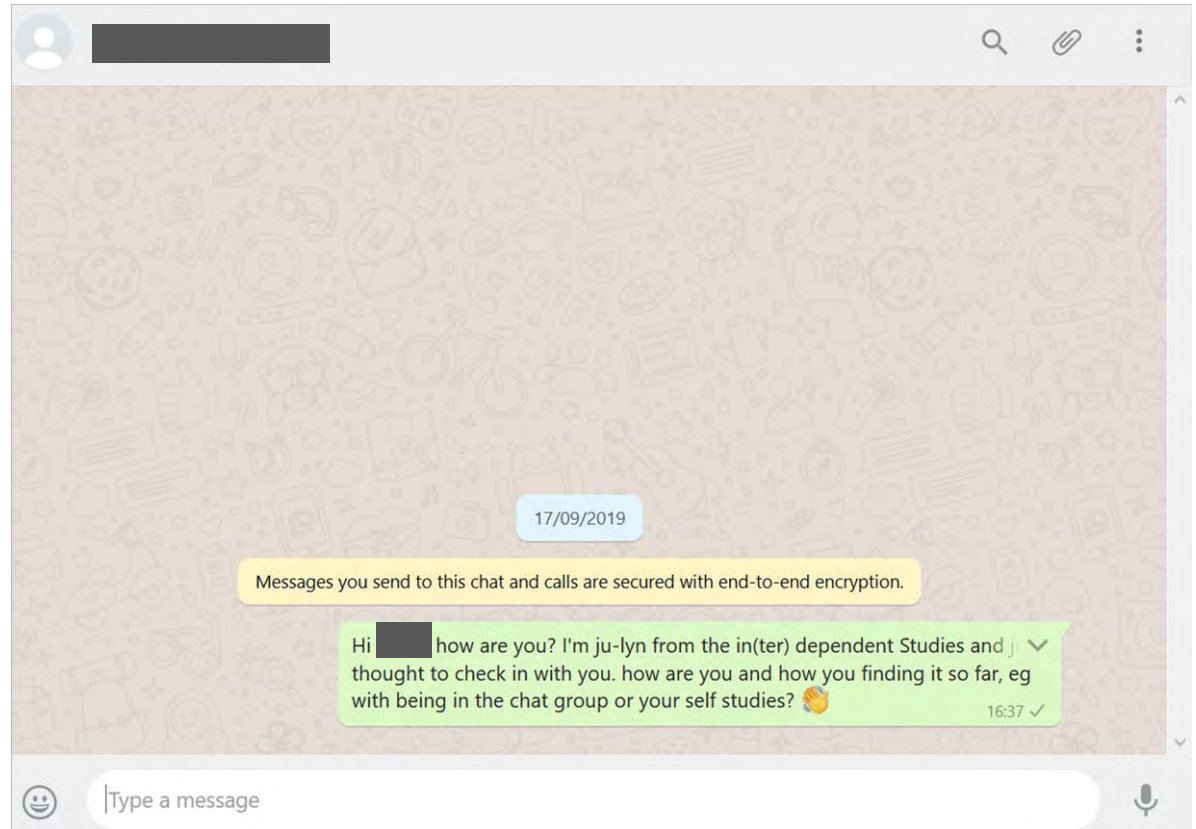
Should I stay or should I go?



Hello, observer

Maybe he is studying us!

[this registrant had never responded in private message or in the group chat]





What is studying or in(ter)dependence to me?

Week	Original idea	Evolved idea
1	Something	Different
2	Something	More different
3	Something	Even more different
4	Something	A bit different
5	Something	Quite different

My idea of what constitutes “studying” has changed. And moreover, it is different for everyone.



What is studying? In(ter)dependence?

The questions I asked... vs I “should have” asked?

- Who are you?
- What do you study?
- What are your research areas?
- Why do you study?
- Why do you want to join?



What is studying or in(ter)dependence to you?

Week	Original idea	Evolved idea
1	Something	How different?
2	Something	How different?
3	Something	How different?
4	Something	How different?
5	Something	How different?



What is studying? In(ter)dependence?

The questions I asked vs I “should have” asked?

- Who are you?
- What do you study?
- What are your research areas?
- Why do you study?
- Why do you want to join?

But I wouldn't know what questions to ask if I hadn't asked the wrong questions.

Who still wants to self-study together?

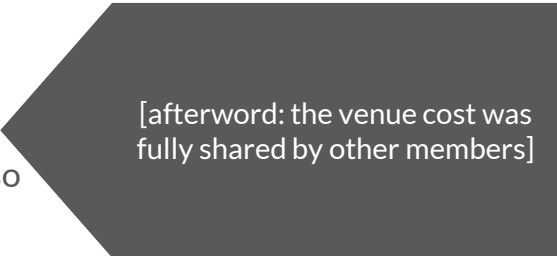


Why? What do we have in common?

- Dea: Not really knowledge

- Resources?
 - Thanks to venue sponsors:
Jess, Ratna, Nelson, Hyesu, Lynx,
and others who contributed today
 - Network, including social media also

- Vibes?



[afterword: the venue cost was
fully shared by other members]



NAFA: White Space Project

- Alumni + Students
- Collaborative project
- \$\$



Singapore Federation of Art Societies

[They contacted us, if we have ideas to activate their space for our activities.]



New premises at 9@Tagore Lane (nearest MRT Yio Chu kang MRT)



Double storey warehouse unit



Downstairs hall rectangular, with white walls

- Discussion/ events
- Collaborative workspace (clear up by the day)
- Exhibition space?



Upstairs space
(Art society offices on right - Singapore art society, SOCA, Modern art Society, Miaohua Art Society)



Great greenish view!



What do we have in common and can offer:

- Dea: Not really knowledge

- Resources?

- Vibes!

What do we have in common and can offer:

- Dea: Not really knowledge

- Resources?

- Vibes!



bad + good = balance?



Why Stamford Arts Centre (SAC)?

- NAC “announcement” on 6 Sept

[afterword: performativity x self-funding is important for autonomous self-initiatives x SAC used to be a school.]

- Just like how we used *In(ter)dependence Studies* as an exercise to find our own footing...
- There are other existing structures and institutions we can tap on and/or come up with
- To continue to do what we want to do

☰ THE STRAITSTIMES

SINGAPORE > Courts & Crime Education Housing



Arts freelancers get resource website and soon, dedicated working spaces too

Ahdini's reflections




Future Study Plan vs Actualisation

Week	Original plan		Actualisation	
	Location	Timing	Location	Timing
?	Anywhere	Anytime	Anywhere	Anytime
?	Anywhere	Anytime	Anywhere	Anytime
?	Anywhere	Anytime	Anywhere	Anytime
?	Anywhere	Anytime	Anywhere	Anytime
?	Anywhere	Anytime	Anywhere	Anytime



What is (whatever you're looking for) to you?

Week	Original idea	Evolved idea
?	Something	?
?	Something	?
?	Something	?
?	Something	?
?	Something	?




Thank you for
contributing to the
experience!

INTER DEPENDENT STUDIES

TO SELF-STUDY TOGETHER

SHARING SESSION
4 Oct 2019, Friday, 7.30-8.30pm
Stamford Arts Centre (#01-05)
at Waterloo Street

A COLLABORATIVE EXPERIMENT



Do you want to
continue with
this self-study
group?

INTER DEPENDENT STUDIES

TO SELF-STUDY TOGETHER

SHARING SESSION
4 Oct 2019, Friday, 7.30-8.30pm
Stamford Arts Centre (#01-05)
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A COLLABORATIVE EXPERIMENT



Sharing by Ahdini

[Ahdini was also based in Indonesia since week 2 of the studies period. See Ahdini's slides.]



End