In November, 2016 I received a faculty development grant in support of traveling to the Alternative Art School Fair at Pioneerworks in Brooklyn, NY.

In recent years I have been working on a project called the Southland Institute (for critical, durational, and typographic post-studio practices) that is an exploration of possibilities for alternative models in higher (design and art) education. The Southland Institute has a number of interconnected parts; it is an unaccredited postgraduate workshop as well as an evolving public online repository of educational resources, archives, and other alternative schools of the recent and more distant past.

At the Alternative Art School Fair, the Southland Institute was invited to participate in a panel called “Hybrid Practice,” with Archeworks, the School for Poetic Computation, and Zz School of Print Media, exploring the question of how new combinations of traditionally distinct disciplines can come together in alternative models of arts education. The conversation included different ideas about what different shapes a ‘hybrid practice’ could take, and how the notion of hybridity can be applied in various pedagogical contexts. We also talked about approaching tools and métiers (typography, coding, print-making, and architecture) less as self-contained disciplines and more as points of contact between subjects, disciplines, and approaches.

For this trip to the fair, I designed and printed a newsprint prospectus for the Southland Institute outlining some of the goals and concerns that the Institute aims to address, which also included a reading list of 52 books, which functioned as an index of the Southland Institute’s DNA, and also as a rigorous self-directed course of study looking at 100 years of typographic, architectural, language, and image-based practices.

In addition, I will also be attending a 2 week long German immersion course this summer at the Goethe Institut in Vienna as part of another research project I am doing, studying an affordable model of building co-operative housing called ‘baugruppen’ that is becoming increasingly prominent in Germany, Belgium, Austria, and the Netherlands.