

Arts of Scholaring on a Damaged Planet

*A step towards building the academy we want
in the Anthropocene*

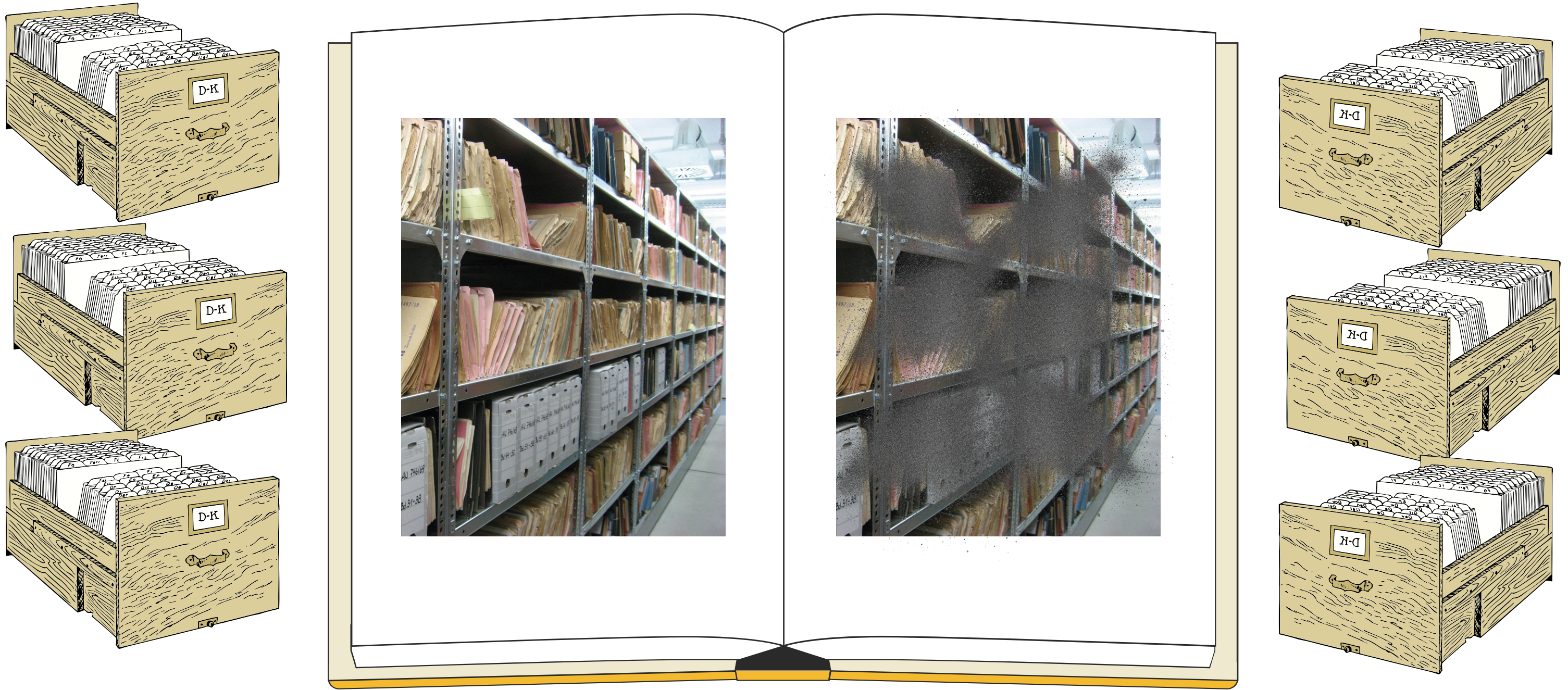
This story was co-created in the workshop ‘Arts of Scholaring on a Damaged Planet’, which took place on November 12 of 2024 at Solidaritetshuset (Södermalm, Stockholm).

We were aiming to share our concerns regarding the roles of academia in the current historical epoch – the Anthropocene – and to co-create some material artifacts which could help us move forward towards the horizons we are demanded to achieve as part of our wider struggles. If you want to read more, see the full comment on the Anthropocene History Centre website [here](#).

You can access the rest of the stories and share them in order to spread initiatives and networks for another possible academia.

All photos and graphic elements are open-access from [canva.com](https://www.canva.com)

I guess I'll start by saying our story is based on a tradition where you have, in an education system, the first three years of your education, you just have books with pictures and you narrate from the pictures. So there's not a kind of work, this is a very image heavy scene you're entering into.



And so you're here. You've opened the first page of this book, and you're looking at something like filing cabinets extending every direction as far as you can see. Maybe you're in an archive. Maybe it's a seed bank. You're not really sure, but it's kind of endlessly filing out in front of you. Then, in one of the small files, you notice there's something really minuscule. And you're not really sure what you're looking at, but it's like shoved down into one of those files. And it's something that maybe you would want to take out of the file, but you're not sure what it is. And so there's different things that we discussed when we were reading our book that we were creating together. Maybe it's a seed that needs to be taken out, or maybe it's a different kind of life category. We talked about these type of sci-fi scenario where you have a two-dimensional body that folds flat, and you have to take it out. So maybe you're trying to save this body that has fallen into this file and protect it from the harsh paper that it's rubbing against. We're not really sure what it is, but maybe you're trying to get it out.

But then you turn the page, and there's new kind of actors that have entered this, all these files going up. And there's something that's settling onto the files. Maybe it's pollen, maybe it's dust, but it's something that is getting into all these nooks and crannies. There's potentially a crisis, there's potentially an emergency, but you're trying to locate and decide how you're going to interact with this thing, that very small inside one of these files.



And then you turn the page, and there's some kind of technician, because now you've noticed that there's these vents on the top of all the files. And there's these vents, and the air is blowing in and out. So there's a technician that's trying to change the vent control, and maybe they're going to ensure that... whatever that is, dust, pollen... something flowing in is going to stop. And you're not sure whether that technician should keep doing that or not.

[To the rest of the tellers]: Is that our last page? Are there other pages that we want to turn to?

[The rest of the tellers]: No, I think you described it well [laughs].

PARTICIPANT: There's a real cliffhanger [laughs]

TELLERS: For us as well [laughs], but somebody stopped us, so... [more laughs].