

PROPOSITIONS

pertaining to the dissertation

‘Self-healing strain-hardening cementitious composite as concrete cover zone’

by

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1. Although humans possess inherent self-healing abilities, appropriate protection is always necessary to mitigate potential safety risks. Similarly, for reinforced concrete structures, effective damage management is crucial to ensure proper healing. (This proposition pertains to this dissertation.)
2. For composite materials, a bit of lubrication at the interface between distinct components enhances performance. Perhaps the same applies to relationships. (This proposition pertains to this dissertation.)
3. To mitigate the unhealthy competition in academia surrounding publication quantity, top-tier universities such as TU Delft should consider implementing a publication cap for PhD candidates. I advocate for a maximum limit of four publications.
4. To enjoy academia, one must find their own taste. Before asking what society needs, we must first think what we like to create. After all, society needs a lot of things.
5. What we see of an object is not (entirely) the object itself, but the limits of our vision - a lesson learned from practicing microscopy for microstructural characterization.
6. Communication skills are important. This holds true even when talking with ChatGPT.
7. Using a photography analogy, a research paper should resemble a portrait, not a landscape. Before pressing the shutter button, a clear decision must be made about where the focus should lie.
8. Just as in mechanical tests, the outcomes of life are influenced by boundary conditions. Recognizing these constraints is important, even if they cannot be changed.

These propositions are considered opposable and defensible and have been approved as such by the promotor Prof. dr. ir. E. Schlangen and Prof. dr. H. M. Jonkers, and co-promotor Dr. M. Luković.