



ESA-Conference
28-31 August 2013, Turin, Italy

CALL FOR PAPERS
Research Network 02 – “Sociology of the Arts”

The European Sociological Association will hold its next general conference from 28 to 31 August 2013 in Torino Italy. The general theme of the conference will be “**Crisis, Critique and Change**”. With these keywords one may associate the questions “What crisis?”, “Whose critique?” and “What changes?”. Art’s position within society and politics has always been complex and ambivalent. Artists may raise a critical voice or offer ideological legitimation for a dominant, hegemonic image of society. They may display a strong commitment or keep a distance from others’ fate. The **attitude of the arts towards contemporary issues** such as the ecological crisis, the debt crisis, violence against minorities and opponents, economic exploitation, and deprivation of people’s rights has never lost any relevance. Therefore, we would like to create special sessions and invite papers on this topic with the expectation that they may include a broad nexus of sub-issues around the relation and commitment of arts in society.

The ESA-conference has always been open to other themes that are not related to the main theme. This openness to all areas of the sociology of the arts is highly valued since the Research Network aims to bring together researchers and supporting interchange and mutual learning. For this reason, we invite experienced and young scholars from various disciplines sensitive to **social inquiries into the arts** to submit papers with a different thematic focus, such as:

01RN02 - Developments in particular domains in arts, including architecture, urban planning, applied arts, arts within the domain of popular culture (e.g. film, television, and popular music) as well as traditional 'high' arts (e.g. music, visual arts, literature, theatre, etc.).

02RN02 - The process of production, distribution, promotion and commercialisation of works of art, including artistic practices, the impact of technology, new means of production, forms of collaboration, the formation of art theory, the development of arts markets, the process of valuation, etc.

03RN02 - The process of presentation and mediation of arts, including art criticism and publicity in all domains of the arts, museums, theatres, concerts, audience studies, attitudes towards the audience, educational programs, etc.

04RN02 - Professional development, including amateurs and semi-amateurs, vocational education, art schools, professional differentiation, artistic income, artistic reputation, the relation to arts management, etc.

05RN02 - Arts organisations (not only museums and theatres, but also festivals and artists’ unions), investigation of historical development, power relations, effects, program selection, processes within the organisations such as gate-keeping, leadership, etc.

06RN02 - Arts policy (especially the sociological aspects thereof), including legal issues, public and private funding, public discourse and debates (e.g. classification of art, arts and religious symbols,

arts and sexuality, arts and racism), censorship, analysis of the impact of arts, sustainability, lobbying associations, cultural ministries or other government bodies.

07RN02 - Social and cognitive effects of the arts, including arts and identity formation, arts and bodies, aesthetic experience, arts and ethics, coding and decoding, gender related practices, ethnographic aspects, art for social transformation, arts in communities, and arts as a part of urban culture.

08RN02 - Arts from a macrosociological perspective, including (de-)institutionalisation, economisation, globalisation vs. localism, digitalisation, mediamorphosis, arts and social cohesion, arts and ethics, arts and hegemony and arts and power.

09RN02 - Theoretical development in arts sociology such as the production of culture approach, (post-)structuralism, field theory, system theory, praxeology as well as methodological issues.

10RN02 – any other particular topics of the sociology of arts

Additionally, we will organize in cooperation with the „Sociology of Culture“-Research Network a joint **session on creative practice**. The concept of creativity has long been neglected by sociologists. However the sociological perspective has added a very important dimension to its study: creativity is no longer conceived as a merely individual property, disposition or capacity but rather as one that is embedded in discursive, interactional, communal and institutional practices. In this session we invite papers on the social dimensions of creative practice in all artistic fields – including popular, amateur, and outsider art.

Notes for authors

Abstracts should not exceed 1750 characters (incl. spaces, appr. 250 words). Each paper session will have the duration of 1.5 hours, that is to say normally sessions will include 4 papers.

Abstracts **can only be submitted online** no later than **1st of February 2013** to the submission platform at: <http://www.esa11thconference.eu>. Abstracts sent by email cannot be accepted.

The information requested during abstract submission include:

- 1) name(s), affiliation(s) and email of all the author(s);
- 2) contact details of presenting author (postal address, telephone and email);
- 3) title of proposed presentation;
- 4) up to 4 keywords (optional).

Submitting authors will receive an email of acknowledgement of successful submission receipt. Abstracts will be reviewed and selected for presentation by the relevant Research Network or Research Stream; the letter of notification will be sent by the conference software system in early April 2013. Each author cannot submit more than two abstracts (as first author).

For further information on the conference and the submission procedure please visit: <http://www.europeansociology.org/>