REVISITING BORDERS
28 - 30 January 2021
OPEN CALL
REVISITING BORDERS

THE 2021 ARTS & CULTURAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE (ACMC) IS TAKING A CRITICAL LOOK AT ITS FORMAT AND THEMATIC SCOPE FROM PREVIOUS YEARS BY DELVING DEEPER INTO VIRTUAL REALMS & EXPANDING THE BORDERS OF THE EVENT’S AUDIENCE REACH, TOPICS AND CONVERSATIONS.

ACMC provides an accessible platform for disseminating research & projects while fostering an open, interactive, & mindful exchange. A three-day series of online events will engage emerging researchers, professionals, academics, & artists in insightful conversations about the arts & cultural sector.

The concept of borders can visualize cultural differences, while at the same time, can reinforce stereotypes & advance marginalization of both individuals & groups that we as arts & cultural practitioners must navigate. In light of the coronavirus outbreak, climate change, & anti-racist protests, a new series of challenges and opportunities have emerged, changing the dynamics of policy-making, management and engagement, particularly surrounding how we live & create while together & apart in evolving contexts.

While these current crises have highlighted concerns within the discipline, the complexity of “borders” as a concept (i.e. digital, real, imagined, economic, political, nature-culture divides, etc.) has long marked the arts & cultural fields.

- What new practices & questions are emerging as the discourse around borders continues to change & evolve?
- What are some ways the arts, culture & natural heritage sectors are working to transcend notions of boundaries, both as a matter of course & as a reaction to the coronavirus pandemic & global antiracism protests?

With Revisiting Borders—and subthemes of REsilience, REimagine & REinterpret—we recognize that innovative thinking & challenges to the status quo are necessary for cultural institutions to not only survive but be inclusive, antiracist & environmentally sustainable in their practice.
Building an understanding of the ongoing transformations in the arts & cultural sectors will allow us to better advocate for its contributions to society & also self-reflect on how to best serve our communities while navigating uncertainty & change. We hope to explore the theme of *REvisiting Borders* within the following sub-themes & beyond:

**REsilience**
What are the current gaps of research and work prospects in the arts & cultural/natural heritage management sector? What key skills need to be developed to respond to current demands & boost employability?

How can we maintain & cultivate solidarity amongst artists & cultural practitioners in a way that brings us closer together? How can we encourage active & democratic participation of non-professional creative individuals & groups? How do emerging researchers & practitioners balance collaborative practice vs. individual initiative in the context of physical restrictions & isolation?

How can we amplify marginalized voices within the sector? How can we celebrate & acknowledge those who have pioneered & created space for the forgotten & ignored?

**REimagine**
How can digital & sustainable technologies, as well as new media, be deployed to serve various initiatives in the sector? What ethical implications need to be considered when innovating (through technology or other means) or making structural changes to a system (educational/social/cultural/civic)?

How can art & culture systems & spaces be reimagined to be more inclusive? How can research be rethought to serve not only the researcher? Who can be the next voices of the sector? How can arts & culture be anti-racist in its practices?

**REinterpret**
What are the implicit frames through which we analyze concepts, cultural practices & phenomena? What is the impact of language & specific vocabularies to how we perceive & interact with the world around us?

How are we reconsidering the ways in which we interpret, share, & curate arts, culture, & heritage—especially in a hyper-connected & globalized world? How can we re-examine the uncomfortable histories & elements of our institutions & interpretations to include all elements, not just those of the powerful & the majority?
SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

FORMAT
We welcome a variety of online presentation formats, which may include but are not limited to the following:

- Presentations with Q&A (15 - 45 min)—we welcome non-traditional formats!
- Panel sessions—3-5 researchers & practitioners can discuss topics relevant to the conference themes (up to 45 min)
- Interactive sessions—workshop or seminar (up to 45 min)
- Artistic presentations or performances (20 min, including performance & facilitation time)
- Online poster presentation—visual representation of research with short write up
- We also will take suggestions in the form of a 250-word proposal for online networking activities to help break the ice between sessions, facilitate connections, & add a social dimension to the online event.

AUTHOR / COORDINATOR
We actively encourage proposals from: students & educators; researchers & academics; artists; (emerging) professionals & practitioners working in arts & culture.

IMPORTANT DATES
- Submissions open: Tuesday 18 August 2020
- Submissions close: Sunday 4 October 2020
- Applicants will be notified about the status of their submission by Friday 30 October 2020

SUBMISSION & CONTACT DETAILS
Please submit the following for consideration: Your research abstract, summary, or event proposal (no more than 300 words) with a few key references; Please clearly indicate your presentation format & any relevant information on your plan to present/facilitate; Short biography (100 words or less) with your background & interests. All presentation ideas can be submitted via the submission form.

CRITERIA
Students & emerging professionals in arts & cultural management-related fields from Europe and beyond are invited to submit their proposals. Due to the availability of presentation slots, only a limited number of presenters will be selected. Presenters will be chosen based on the relevancy of their research to the conference themes, the originality/creativity of their proposals, & the feasibility of their suggested presentation format. Short-listed submissions will be considered for pre-conference participation on ACMC’s blog & social media channels (between 15 November - 15 January).
INTRODUCING: LOCALIZED CONFERENCE HUBS

Following the previous editions of this conference in Hamburg, DE (2018), Vienna, AT (2019) & Groningen, NL (2020), we are now focusing on international cooperation more than ever via localized hubs. Each hub or place-based group of students & emerging professionals are invited to propose & run activities to complement the #ACMC21 three-day virtual agenda. Each hub will have a coordinator that will work directly with the ACMC planning group.

Hubs are invited to foster pre-conference discussions surrounding the 2021 theme of REvisiting Borders & generate local & regional interest for #ACMC21. The supporting hub events can be online or in-person, depending on situations surrounding Covid-19. There is no set format. Hubs are encouraged to be creative & innovative in their design & how they meaningfully engage with their community. Collaboration between hubs is also highly encouraged.

**Localized hub =**

1 organization/university; 1 coordinator; & 1 conference session (minimum)

**Sample ideas:** poster presentations by those completing or finished with thesis research; round/digital table discussion surrounding a question(s) related to the theme & relevant to the area/organization/program; pre-event reading group that recommends & discussions readings relevant to the themes; a session held in a language other than English, local artistic event, & other brilliant ideas proposed by you!

Those interested in forming their own localized hub can join the @ACMCnetwork Slack channel. Check [here](#) for more details on how to help organize. Please get in touch with any questions at hello@acmconference.com or social media (#ACMC21, #ACMCnetwork).

Reference List

ARTS CULTURAL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
for students + emerging professionals

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ENCATC The European network on cultural management and policy