CALL FOR PAPERS

Creative Bodies—Creative Minds

The second international, interdisciplinary conference
27th – 29th May 2021
virtually

Organized by:

Sociology of Gender section, Department of Sociology, University of Graz, Austria;
Centre for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz;
FH JOANNEUM– University of Applied Sciences Graz.

Theoretical discussions around creativity in the last two decades have turned around addressing existing dichotomies in its conceptualisation, such as professional/everyday and public/private. Cultural studies have been critical of creativity being approached in terms of the individual talent and elite (“creative class”[1]), in economic terms (“creative industries”[2]) or in terms of exclusive locations (“creative city”[3]). Gender scholars, in the meantime, have levelled criticism at the gendered definition of creativity, too often conceived as a property of a lone male genius, and at the gender bias of research on creativity that had tended to overlook activities in which women typically engaged [4].

Raymond Williams’ “common culture” [5] and Michel de Certeau's “practice of everyday life” [6] show scholarly interest in creative practices beyond the economic or artistic context and emphasise community-based aspects of creativity, its cultural specificity and quotidian locations (“vernacular creativity”[7]). The interest in the communicative and social dimensions of creativity has been fuelled also by technological advances and the blurring of the boundaries between producers and consumers of the new media (“convergence culture”[8]). The abruptness of biopolitical state policies, such as lockdown or physical distancing, during the current Corona pandemic fostered improvisations to overcome the disruptions to professional, community, family and leisure activities. New media enabled sharing of creative responses to the constraints, including expressions of solidarity with others or maintaining relationships of care and connection with family members, friends and communities.

The second Creative Bodies—Creative Minds conference aims to bring diverse strands of inquiry on creativity together with a special emphasis on the interrogation of gender and to enrich the map of creative practice with new areas and reconfigurations of meaning-making.

The areas of interest for conference presentations include, but are certainly not limited to:

- Gender in everyday, artisan, artistic and professional creative activities;
- Embodied creativity; the intersections of the sensory, the affective and the verbal;
- Material, processual and relational aspects of creative practices;
• Gendering of non-traditional sites of creativity;
• DIY, Maker Movement: from knitting, through home-making to Open Source;
• Gender in the new media and the creative industries;
• Creative embodiment of gender and challenging gender boundaries;
• Art and creativity in protests, social mobilizations and everyday activism;
• Gendering the economy and politics of creativity;
• The place of creative methodologies in teaching and scholarly research, art-based research;
• The gender of creativity in social and cultural theory;
• The professional/amateur and also the economic/non-economic gain divides;
• The concepts of connecting either with the self or with a community;
• Improvisation forced by circumstances (e.g. related to the Corona lockdown);
• The crafting of identity as a creative practice.

We are inviting proposals for presentations from scholars, practitioners and postgraduate students from a wide range of disciplines including, but not limited to: sociology, cultural studies, anthropology, art, performance, history, literary studies, social studies of science and technology and environmental studies.

Please send a 250-word abstract and a 150-word bio note before 31st January 2021 to Creative.Bodies@uni-graz.at

Registration fee for presenters: 30 EUR

There is no registration fee for conference attendance without a presentation, but these places are limited and priority will be given to students.

Information on registration and updates on the programme will be available on the conference website:
creative-bodies.uni-graz.at

Graz, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site and Cultural Capital of Europe for 2003, is the capital of the Austrian province of Styria and the home of Austria’s second largest university.

The conference organizers took inspiration from the Talking Bodies conference held every two years since 2013 at the University of Chester and are proud to make the Creative Bodies—Creative Minds its sister conference.

Conference organizers:
Libora Oates-Indruchová, Professor of Sociology of Gender, University of Graz
Florian Bieber, Director of the Centre for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz
Wolfgang Kühnelt, Senior Lecturer in Journalism and Public Relations, FH JOANNEUM
Gudrun Reimerth, Lecturer in Journalism and Public Relations, FH JOANNEUM
Valentin Meneau, University Assistant in the Sociology of Gender, University of Graz
Jana Mikats, Lecturer in the Sociology of Gender, University of Graz
Zorica Siročić, Post-doctoral Fellow, Austrian Academy of Sciences
Important dates:
Submission of abstracts: 31st January 2021
Informing about abstract acceptance: 14th February 2021
Conference registration opens: 15th February 2021
Conference registration for presenters ends: 15th March 2021
Conference registration for attendance without a presentation: 15th May 2021

References: