

CREATIVE WORK: POSSIBLE FUTURES AFTER COVID-19

International Workshop

The Faculty of Education of University of Bolzen in collaboration with the Department of Culture, Media and Creative Industries (King's College London) and the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, University of Dundee invite you to take part in an online Workshop and Call for Papers on the theme: Creative Work Futures. The workshop aims to generate exchange and dialogue from which to develop a special issue dedicated to the topic to be submitted in 2022.

The workshop is open to researchers and practitioners and participation will be based on selection of submitted abstracts. The authors of selected abstracts will be invited to present and discuss their proposed paper at an online workshop and will be supported towards the development of the full paper.

Deadline to submit extended abstracts: 1st July 2021

Workshop organisers:

Dr Federica Viganò, Faculty of Education, Libera Università di Bolzano

Dr Roberta Comunian, Department of Culture, Media and Creative Industries, King's College London

Dr Lauren England, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, University of Dundee

Background and Call for Papers

The Covid-19 pandemic has re-shaped the way we live and work. However, for some, like creative and cultural workers, it has exposed issues of precarity (Comunian and England, 2020), heightened the need to rethink working practices and business models (Banks, 2020) and created an opportunity for structural intervention. While a range of research from policy and academia has presented immediate evidence of the impact of Covid-19 on culture and the city (Anheier et al., 2021), a year on from the first lock-down across many nations, we argue for the need to share and discuss current and recent work to map future directions and scenarios for creative and cultural work (Eikhof, 2020; Joffe, 2020). In this workshop (and future special issue) we would like to present research that builds on data collected in the past 12 months, considering a range of challenges and changes that might have taken place and re-thinking practices and business models.

In particular, we are looking for papers that might consider some of the issues address below:

- The experiences of creative and cultural workers during the pandemic, key challenges faced and the opportunities arising both during lockdown and in the recovery period.
- How the work, professional conditions and organisation/business models of creatives have changed during the pandemic, including new business models and future scenarios for creative work/ models of resilience
- Changing relationships with digital/technology, future opportunities and challenges for creative work relating to the digital
- Inequalities in creative work in relation to the pandemic and impacts of the pandemic on inclusivity and accessibility of creative work
- Financial support systems and creative workers' access to financial support (i.e. national schemes, sector funding)
- Changes in institutional arrangements and new forms of dialogue between creative and cultural institutions and precarious workers during the pandemic
- Creatives, activism and Covid-19 (Creative workers' responses to the pandemic, collectivisation, activism, informal or formal workers' groups)
- Changing/new relationships with local communities and local cultural organisations
- Creative work in rural areas
- How Covid-19 might have changed the future of creative work and new scenarios being considered
- How Covid might have changed relationships with the public and cultural consumers (new ways to reach out the public and sustain dialogue)
- Changes in policy or employment frameworks (including contractual arrangement or legal frameworks) in relation to creative work.

Planned activities and timescale

This Call for Papers invites anyone with relevant research and data to submit an extended abstract for consideration by the 1st of July 2021.

The extended abstract can be submitted via email to federica.vigano@unibz.it

It should include:

- Paper Title
- Author(s) name and affiliations
- An introduction of (200 words)
- A brief literature review to contextualise the work (300 words)
- A detailed description of the data and methodology used in the paper (500 words)
- A summary of key findings (300 words)
- A short conclusion highlighting how the paper adds to existing knowledge (200 words)

We will select the authors of the strongest and most relevant papers to present their work in an online discussion (Microsoft Teams platform) on the 4th and 5th of November 2021. For the first week of October, selected authors will be asked to prepare a presentation and a working paper (max 3,000 words including bibliography) to share with other presenters.

Following the event, a selection of authors will be invited to develop a full paper for a potential special issue.

Activity	Time
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT EXTENDED ABSTRACT	1st ST July 2021
Selection of the strongest & most relevant papers (12 total)	21st July 2021
Submission of 3,000 words working paper	1st October 2020
Online Workshop 15 minute presentations	4-5th of November 2021, two mornings sessions
Feedback towards Special issue submission	1 st of December 2021
Special issue submission	Spring 2022

References:

- Anheier HK, Merkel J and Winkler K (2021) Culture, the Arts and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Five Cultural Capitals in Search of Solutions.
- Banks M (2020) The work of culture and C-19. *European journal of cultural studies* 23(4): 648-654.
- Comunian R and England L (2020) Creative and cultural work without filters: Covid-19 and exposed precarity in the creative economy. *Cultural Trends* 29(2): 112-128.
- Eikhof DR (2020) COVID-19, inclusion and workforce diversity in the cultural economy: what now, what next? *Cultural Trends* 29(3): 234-250.
- Joffe A (2020) Covid-19 and the African cultural economy: an opportunity to reimagine and reinvigorate? *Cultural Trends*. 1-12.