



UNIVERSITY OF MALTA  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
*Department of Sociology*



# CREATIVE LOCATIONS

ARTS,  
CULTURE  
& THE CITY

10<sup>th</sup> Midterm Conference  
of the European Research Networks  
Sociology of Arts & Sociology of Culture, 2018

4-7 SEPTEMBER 2018  
Aula Magna, University of Malta  
Valletta, MALTA

[www.um.edu.mt/events/10midconf2018](http://www.um.edu.mt/events/10midconf2018)

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### 10<sup>th</sup> Midterm Conference of the RN - Sociology of Arts & RN - Sociology of Culture

## Creative Locations: Art, Culture and the City

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4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018,

Malta

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**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:** November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**COORDINATORS:** Chairs of Sociology of the Arts (RN2) & Sociology of Culture (RN7) Research Networks, ESA

**SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:** Anna-Mari Almila, Dagmara Beitnere-Le Galla, Predrag Cveticanin, Constance DeVereaux, David Inglis, Mark Jacobs, Sacha Kagan, Sari Karttunen, Siobhan Kattago, Carmen Leccardi, Joost van Loon, Dafne Muntanyola Saura, Aleksandra Nenko, Michaela Pfadenhauer, Anna Lisa Tota, Valerie Visanich.

**VENUE:** University of Malta, Valletta Campus, St Paul Street, Valletta, Malta

**ORGANISERS:** Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, University of Malta & European Sociological Association, RN2 & RN 7

**LOCAL CONVENERS:** Mark-Anthony Falzon & Valerie Visanich, Department of Sociology, University of Malta

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:** **Richard Sennett, Nina Wakeford, Martina Löw**

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In recent years, the arts have gained increasing importance as part of strategies designed for culture-led urban regeneration. The general topic for the 10<sup>th</sup> Midterm Conference is the connection between the arts, the city and the processes that link them, to examine the intricate interweave of aesthetic, social, cultural and economic dynamics in cities.

Primarily, the conference in Malta intends to offer a terrain for debates on the theoretical development of sociology of culture and of the arts, in particular the role of arts and aesthetics in city life. Specific attention is paid to theoretical paradigms on the arts and cultural regeneration and their implications for sociologists, anthropologists, cultural policy makers and

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planning practitioners. The conference aims to stimulate debates on the relationship and/or conflict between the 'creative class' who look at creativity as a tool for pursuing socio-economic goals, those who treat creativity either as an end in itself or as a partaking in wider cultural, social and ecological transformations, those who activate creativity in relation to solidarities and urban cultures, and the meanings of everyday creativity for local communities. Researchers on the European Capitals of Culture are invited to contribute to the discussion on the impact of strategic involvements and investments in artistic projects in cities, whether from approaches stipulating a need to invest in the 'creative economy' (or critiques of the neoliberalization process involved therein), from approaches aiming to reorient urban development according to goals of e.g. 'cultural planning' and/or 'cultural democracy', or from transdisciplinary approaches aiming for sustainable urban development.

Moreover, on a more micro level, this conference aims to present discussions on the reflexive, transversal and/or autonomous characters of culture as well as the role of artists and cultural audiences in urban change, their shared experiences of contested meanings of artworks and their engagement in cultural participation.

This conference brings together academics and researchers from areas of sociology of the arts, cultural anthropology, urban planning, cultural sociology, cultural studies, cultural policy and related fields.

The ESA Research Networks conferences are traditionally open to other issues beyond those related directly to the main conference theme. This plasticity is highly valued since the Research Networks aim to bring together researchers and support interchange and mutual learning. For this reason, the program will be thematically broad and open for presentations to all core areas of sociology of the arts and sociology of culture.

The ESA Research networks **Sociology of the Arts** and **Sociology of Culture** hereby announce the 2018 midterm conference from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at the **University of Malta, Faculty of Arts, Malta**. The conference is held in Valletta, the European Capital of Culture for 2018.

### PRESENTATIONS CAN BE RELATED TO FOLLOWING AREAS:

**01RN02 - Developments in Particular Domains in Arts:** Architecture, urban planning, applied arts, arts within the domain of popular culture as well as traditional 'High' arts.

**02RN02 - The Process of Production, Distribution, Promotion and Commercialisation of works of Art:** 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.

**03RN02 - The Process of Presentation and Mediation of Arts:** Art criticism and publicity in all domains of the arts, museums, theatres, concerts, audience studies, attitudes towards the audience, educational programs,

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04RN02 – **Professional Development:** Amateurs and semi-amateurs, vocational education, art schools, professional differentiation, artistic income, artistic reputation.

05RN02 - **Arts Organisation:** Investigation of historical development, power relations, effects, managerial processes, program selection, processes within the organisation such as gate-keeping, leadership.

06RN02 - **Arts Policy** (especially the sociological aspects thereof): 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:** 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 Macro-Sociological Perspective:** (De-) institutionalisation, economisation, globalisation vs. localism, digitalisation, media morphosis, arts and social cohesion, arts and ethics, arts and hegemony and arts and power.

09RN02 - **Theoretical Development in Arts Sociology:** The production of culture approach, (post-) structuralism, field theory, system theory, praxeology as well as methodological issues.

10RN02 – **Arts and Everyday Life:** Relations between art worlds and day-to-day worlds, the experiential and the sensory, embodied and mediated elements of practice and places, the social and cultural significance of the senses, the aesthetics of everyday life, and sociological or interdisciplinary approached to the everyday and to daily and organizational life.

11RN02 – **Sociology of the Arts** (open): papers that do not fit into one of the suggested sessions above should be submitted to this open session.

01RN07 – **Sociology of Culture:** General session with an emphasis on theoretical contributions.

02RN07 – **Making and Taking Place:** Cultural Practices of Social Spatialization.

03RN07 – **Urban Mobilities:** The Movement of People, Artefacts, Symbols and ideas.

04RN07 – **Rights to the City:** Spatial Practices of Inclusion and Exclusion.

05RN07 – **(De)Territorialization:** Boundaries, Enclosures and Transgressions.

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06RN07 – **Out of Place:** Obsoleteness, Waste and Dirt

07RN07 – **Rhythms of the City:** Noise, Tempo, Repetition and Interruption..

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08RN07 – **Sensing the Urban Landscape:** Seeing, Hearing, Smelling, Feeling and Tasting Places.

09RN07 – **Gendering Place/Placing Gender:** All About Making a Difference

10RN07 – **Arts, Culture and Public Memory**

11RN07 – **Open Session:** Papers that do not fit into any of the suggested sessions above should be submitted to this open session

The conference will feature keynote lectures, parallel sessions with contributed papers (each paper session will have the duration of 90 minutes, including 4 papers), distributed papers, and round-table or workshops (minimum 45 to 90 minutes) with particular research topics or approaches proposed by submitting authors. The language of the conference is English.

### INVITED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

**Richard Sennett** is the Centennial Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics and University Professor of the Humanities at New York University.

**Nina Wakeford** is a Reader in Sociology and ESRC Research Fellow, Goldsmiths, University of London. Her specialisation is within the field of Visual Sociology.

**Martina Löw**, is a sociologist and author of Sociology of Space at the Technical University of Berlin. (to be confirmed).

### NOTES FOR AUTHORS

The abstract of approximately 300-400 words must be written in English. Please submit your abstract and full contact details as an electronic file (word.doc) not later than February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The information requested during abstract submission include:

- 1) the name(s) of the author(s), the institutional affiliation (both university and department), mailing address and email(s);

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- 2) title of proposed presentation or round-table/workshop;
- 3) area of presentation;
- 4) up to 3-5 keywords. Each author cannot submit more than two abstracts (as first author).

Send the abstract by email to the Conference email address. More details on the conference website [www.um.edu.mt/events/10midconf2018](http://www.um.edu.mt/events/10midconf2018)

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### CALENDAR:

The deadline for abstract submission is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

The acceptance of abstracts will be notified by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

Registration opening: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Early Bird: Till April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Registration deadline: Monday 27th August.

Further information and guidelines will be on the conference website.

Cancellation policy: 75% until 15 May, 50% until 31 August, no refund after this date.

### REGISTRATION FEES:

Full fee: €200 (early bird) for all participants (non-ESA members, from countries category band 1)<sup>1</sup>; €225 (late fee)

Reduced fee: €150 (early bird) for all participants who are members of the European Sociological Association (ESA); €175 (late fee)

€150 for all participants from countries with a low gross national income (countries not in band 1).

€125 for all free-lance artists

€125 for all students

<sup>1</sup> **Band 1:** Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Chile, Croatia, Curaçao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Greenland, Guam, Hong Kong SAR/China, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Rep., Kuwait, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao SAR/China, Malta, Monaco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sint Maarten (Dutch part), Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Martin (French part), Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Virgin Islands (U.S.).

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**Registration fees includes:** Conference pack, 2 light lunches, 6 coffee breaks, WiFi access, Maltese buffet dinner during opening night.

### SOCIAL PROGRAMME:

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#### **Tuesday 4 September 2018: Maltese Buffet Dinner**

Included in the registration fee for participants.

#### **Wednesday 5 September 2018: Optional Evening Tour to Birgu and Dinner**

*Price: EUR 55 per person.*

Dinner in Birgu including ferry crossing from Valletta and transport.

#### **Thursday 6 September 2018: Optional Evening Tour to Mdina and Dinner**

*Price: EUR 50 per person.*

Cancellations may be made by sending an [email](#) (conferences @um.edu.mt) and 75% will be refunded up to **15 May 2018**. 50% will be refunded up to **31 August 2018**. After that date, no further refunds will be possible.

Participants of the ESA Midterm conference in Malta may benefit from the pre-arranged reduced accommodation rates during the conference days. See the Conference Website for details and booking: [www.um.edu.mt/events/10midconf2018/accommodation](http://www.um.edu.mt/events/10midconf2018/accommodation)