

New Policy Concepts for Art and Culture

ACTIVISTS PERSPECTIVES FROM AUSTRALIA, AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE



Re-Imagining Cultural Policy A Workshop from a Global Perspective in Berlin

Wednesday, 14th September 2022, 1pm-5pm

German Centre of International Theatre Institute (ITI)
Art Center Kunstquartier Bethanien
Mariannenplatz 2
D-10997 Berlin
<https://www.iti-germany.de/en/home>

Recording of the Workshop by ITI (later accessible via youtube channel of ITI)

Organisers:

- Cornelia Dümcke, European Expert Network on Culture (EENC; www.eenc.eu), CULTURE CONCEPTS, Germany, www.cultureconcepts.de
- Justin O'Connor, University of South Australia; [Reset](#)
- Avril Joffe, UNESCO expert, Witwaterstrand University, South Africa

Background:

A half-day workshop in Berlin on 14th September 2022 is part of a series of events in Berlin, Brussels and Antwerp between the proposal partners. All events are based on personal invitation. Over the course of September 2022 we plan to organise a series of seminars to address current challenges and to rethink culture's current position in sustainable development, and in public policy per se. It stands particularly in the context of preparations for **Mondiacult/Mexico end of September 2022**, and along with the ongoing discussions around the **EU's new Workplan for Culture, 2023-27**.

All planned events build on a series of discussions between the proposal partners, including an online/ F2F international seminar 27th April 2002 in Australia, organised by the [Reset collective](#) with a panel involving the editors of the [2021 Voices of Culture document on the Cultural Goal](#).

The Berlin workshop will specifically relate to these events:

First, the *World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development - Mondiacult 2022* taking place in Mexico City 29/30 September 2022. We are organising an official Mondiacult (on-line) side-event aimed at the UNESCO Expert Facility on a Cultural Goal in the SDGs 24th August,

and participants will also be involved in the *Mondiacult* launch of the *Goal for Culture* report September 27th (Mexico and online).

Second, the 12th International Conference on Cultural Policy Research (ICCPR): *Cultural policy in Times of Disruption or Interruption* takes place 18/22 September 2022 in Antwerp. We see the Berlin Workshop and the Brussels International symposium as a contributor to this conference, where a panel will be organised to feedback the results of both events.

Third, and more generally, the preparation phase of the EU *New Agenda for Culture* by the European Commission, DG EAC.

The **Berlin workshop outcomes on Wednesday 14th September 2022** will be reported during the **Brussels International Symposium on Friday 16th September 2022** as well as in the **Antwerp panel during ICCPR**.

FOCUS of the Berlin Workshop

Re-Imagining Cultural Policy A Workshop from a Global Perspective

The world faces a convergence of crises – in a decade with enormous consequences for the future of humanity. The choices we make now about climate change, inequality, and other intersecting challenges such as the Pandemic, will determine the future for generations to come. Yet whilst many cultural practitioners and activists know these challenges, current cultural policies are being set by priorities taken from an older era.

There is a need to identify clearly these new challenges and develop accelerated change strategies and interventions so that we can begin to make real transformations. This is one of the overarching paradigms for the Berlin Workshop.

The **Berlin Workshop will focus on global issues** and is not conceived as an internal German specific debate.

Invited participants to the Berlin Workshop represent international and national experts from a variety of fields and scientific as well as artistic disciplines, such as live performance, literature, music, museums, and visual art.

The overall aim of the Berlin Workshop is to reflect on the current state of cultural policy from multiple perspectives, to understand its impact and social significance and to re-imagine cultural policy concepts for the future.

Participants of the Berlin Workshop

- Cornelia Dümcke, European Expert Network on Culture (EENC), CULTURE CONCEPTS, Germany, www.cultureconcepts.de
- Justin O'Connor, University of South Australia
- Avril Joffe, UNESCO expert, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- Tully Barnett, Flinders University, Australia
- Satu Teppo, Advisor to State Arts Office, South Australia; University of South Australia
- Emma Webb, Arts Industry Association South Australia; Vitalstatistix
- Sebastian Olma, Professor of Cultural and Creative Industries, Avans Hogeschool, Breda, Netherland
- Thomas Engel, Director, German Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI)
- Julius Heinicke, UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy for the Arts in Development, University of Hildesheim, Germany
- Silja Fischer, Secretary General, International Music Council (IMC), Paris
- Marion Aberle, German UNESCO Commission, Director Culture and Communication
- Ulrike Blumenreich, Deputy Director, Kulturpolitische Gesellschaft Germany e.V. and CIRCLE,
- Thomas Irmer, Theatre of Time, Germany, Author & Publisher of this monthly Theatre Journal
- Sebastian Körber, ifa - Institute for International Relations, Deputy Secretary General and Head of the Media Department
- Heidi Whiley, Director, European Theatre Convention (ETC), German member of Culture Action Europe
- Thomas Weis, Director, International Society of Fine Arts (IGBK), German member of Culture Action Europe
- Elizabeth Wilde, Responsible for European Affairs, Network of European Museums (NEMO), European Affairs, German member of Culture Action Europe

Central questions under focus for the debate in the Berlin Workshop

The Berlin workshop will explore (beside others) the following related questions:

First, how to frame culture's cross-cutting themes (culture as vector) and its more specific needs and contribution as a sector, within a single goal for culture, rather than as a transversal theme. We address a perceived weakness of culture as 'too broad' by building on scholarly and advocacy work on how such a goal might be operationalised in practice.

Second, how to address more confidently culture's marginalisation by dominant economic and social policy discourses, exploring contribution to the new challenges, such as solidarity ('not leaving any behind'), climate change, growing inequality and distrust, and to new ways of imagining the future, as outlined in the UN's recent *Our Common Agenda*.

Third, to critically examine the prominence of economic justifications within UNESCO and other lead cultural agencies, especially around the cultural and creative industries, and how we might move these towards a more explicit and coherent account of culture as a 'global public good'.

Fourth, what new imaginaries, public policy discourses and practical policy proposals might we frame around a cultural goal and how might this connect to new global civil society voices coming from the next generations who must face these new challenges.

Procedure of the Berlin Workshop

Moderator: Cornelia Dümcke

- 13:00 – 13:05 Welcome
by Thomas Engel, Director, German Centre of International Theatre Institute (ITI)
- 13:05 – 13:10 Background, Context & Objectives of the Berlin Workshop
by Moderator
- 13:10 – 13:20 Introduction of Participants
by Moderator
- 13:20 – 13:50 *Re-imagining Cultural Policy concepts – Why now and how?*
Justin O'Connor, University of South Australia
- 13:50 – 14:50 Questions & Answers – Open Debate
- 14:50 – 15:10 *Coffee Break*
- 15:10 – 15:40 *Culture in development cooperation – a critical reflection*
Julius Heinicke, UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy for the Arts in Development,
University of Hildesheim, Germany
- 15:40 – 16:30 Questions & Answers – Open Debate
- 16:30 – 17:00 Summary of results by Observer: Avril Joffe

Background information for the Berlin Workshop are provided in two enclosed documents.

Re-Imagining Cultural Policy Now
A Workshop from a Global Perspective
Prof. Justin O'Connor (2022)
University of South Australia

From a German & European perspective
Dr. Cornelia Dümcke (2021)
Five Months under Covid-19 in the Cultural Sector: A German Perspective.
Published in Cultural Trends.
Special Edition. Taylor and Francis. London.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09548963.2020.1854036>