

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Arts Management Studies Research

Organizers:

Constance DeVereaux, Colorado State University

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Are you interested in taking part in a Research Café?

The Arts Management Studies Research Stream introduces the Research Café for the Sociology of the Arts Conference in Malta, September 4-7, 2018.

How does it work?

A Research Café is a less formal means of engaging with colleagues around topic clusters relating to arts management research than presenting research papers. Each café is staffed with 3 scholars in the field who have used particular methodologies or epistemological frameworks or have done research leading in a particular direction of interest. Attendees group together to discuss research questions, processes, methodologies, ask questions, and brainstorm around issues.

Key to success of the research café is how well the scholars leading a session are able to focus the topic and lead participants in fruitful and rich discussion.

If you would like to be considered for leading a Research Café, please submit an abstract addressing one of the topics below and how you would organize a 90-minute session that includes significant participation from attendees. You can submit your abstract individually, or prepare your own 3 scholar committee. Individuals who are selected will be partnered with other selected scholars.

How to apply:

Select one of the two Research Cafés below and submit the required materials to the conference website at: <https://www.um.edu.mt/events/10midconf2018>

In your abstract, please state the Research Café you are applying to. Send a follow up email with your abstract to:

Constance DeVereaux at constance.devereaux@colostate.edu.

Research Cafés are open to all registered attendees of the Sociology of the Arts meetings.

Research Café choices:

AMSRS Research Café 1: Arts Management in a Post-Management Era

The possibility that we are entering a post-management era may have important implications for arts and cultural management, which seems to have resided uneasily in the designation of “management” from the early days of the field. It’s no secret that publics, worldwide, have lost faith with conventional business principles that emphasize shareholder profit—often at the expense of the public good. The 2014 Edelman Trust Barometer found, across 27 countries, that overall trust in corporate CEOs and government officials was significantly low. They were largely seen as “trust consumers” rather than “trust generators (*Academy of Management Journal* 2014).” Public distrust has also resulted in record fines and other sanctions imposed on businesses worldwide for illegal practices. One response is the current trend in the for-profit sector to become purpose driven organizations, appealing to principles that many non-profit, public, and creative enterprises already adhere to. This brings new perspective to the often-heard directive that arts organizations should act more like businesses.

Is post-management a possibility for arts/cultural management, or is the field so deeply entrenched in management ethos that a break away is impossible? Or, is post-management a natural progression for the field, and a way to dispense with the negative connotations that the designation as a management science might bring? What would post-management look like? What would it entail for practice or research? Alternately, is arts/cultural management, itself, already a case of post-management?

Noting that conventional business is out-come based (a consequentialist focus) compared to the practice of art creation and dissemination, which is process focused (a non-consequentialist approach) this research café investigates the possibilities for post-management in arts management research studies. Abstracts can address these questions or others that the notion of post-management in the arts suggests.

AMSRS Research Café 2: Meta-Research in Arts and Cultural Management

Research methods and processes in common use in the arts/cultural management field appear unsuited for what many would like to prove—that the arts have a concrete, discernable, identifiable value to those who engage in them in some way. Some recent studies are casting doubt—not on the benefits of the arts (which remain open to debate) but on the methods used for research to support empirical knowledge, a deeper understanding of management practices, and other purposes. Abstracts submitted for this Research Café should reflect on the field of research in arts/cultural management and consider what constitutes ‘good’ research in this field. Of interest are the limitations and

challenges for conducting “good” research, including ethical issues that arise and how these might be resolved. With salient questions welcomed on whether or not there are research methods and procedures that are inherently unsuited for arts/cultural management. Given that many arts/cultural management researchers and scholars are actively involved in practice, i.e. working for cultural managers in one form or another, are there unavoidable biases that must be addressed? Is research in our field driven by a desire to find particular results? What non-traditional research methods and procedures hold potential for arts/cultural management?

This Research Café focuses on research studies in the field of arts/cultural management- the methods used, the processes involved, how studies are completed- and considers where obvious gaps arise and where improvements can be made. Abstracts can address these questions, or others, that the notion of meta-research in arts/cultural management suggests.

Questions?

Please address your questions about the Research Cafés or the Arts Management Studies Research Stream to:

Constance DeVereaux at constance.devereaux@colostate.edu