

Call for Papers

European Studies and Europe: Twenty Years of Euroculture

Event: conference

Where: Krakow, Jagiellonian University (organized by University of Groningen, MA European Studies: Euroculture)

When: 28 June 2018

Contact: euroculture2018@gmail.com

Conference background

When the Master's programme Euroculture started in 1998, its aim was to offer, amid the many existing programmes that focused on European institutional developments, a European studies curriculum that put the interplay of culture, society and politics in Europe at the heart of the matter. What did Europe and European integration mean to European citizens?

In hindsight, what is perhaps most remarkable is the optimism with which the programme was conceived, and which reflected the spirit of the time. The end of the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall, the downfall of communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe, all triggered hope and expectation that European collaboration would intensify in politics, economics, social and cultural matters. This was reflected in developments in the Higher Education sphere and as a part of the more broader re-orientation of the European project towards the citizen. The Bologna Declaration of 19 June 1999 that kick-started the so-called Bologna process, explicitly mentions European citizenship and the competences that were seen as necessary to create such a citizen:

A Europe of Knowledge is now widely recognised as an irreplaceable factor for social and human growth and as an indispensable component to consolidate and enrich the European citizenship, capable of giving its citizens the necessary competences to face the challenges of the new millennium, together with an awareness of shared values and belonging to a common social and cultural space.¹

Euroculture fitted and continues to fit very well in the aims that were expressed in this document with regard to curricular development, mobility and integrated programmes of study, training and research

¹ http://www.magna-charta.org/resources/files/BOLOGNA_DECLARATION.pdf

But over the last two decades, much has changed. The number of consortium partners - in both the academic and non-academic field - grew, as did the length of the programme, from 60 to 90 to 120 ECTS. The topics dealt with in teaching and research have developed into fields that explicitly address current problems and challenges, especially those that are related to understanding the complexity of the current social divisions. Contemporary Europe faces issues such as migration, growing political and economic inequalities on local regional and national level, the role of a globalised, neoliberal market. 'The shared values and belonging to a common social and cultural space' that the Bologna Declaration referred to, has come under pressure. Safeguarding democracy and civic values has become even more important. Furthermore the political sphere informing European integration, and the ideas to where Europe and the European Union is heading have developed. But one element has stayed the same: Euroculture's focus on the interplay between culture, society and politics.

From the outset, Euroculture has asked different **questions** from traditional/mainstream European Studies approaches. This was directly related to its focus on what Europe and European integration means for citizens. It has also developed different **analytical lenses** (because of the nexus of politics, culture and society) through which to look at these processes of societal transformation. From the start its aim was to bring different disciplinary perspectives together as a powerful tool to create new ways of looking at the existing situation and thereby come to new knowledge of the situation. Euroculture's **own understanding** of these analytical lenses/dimensions has matured, enabling its staff and students to better grasp and explain the emerging challenges and changes of and to Europe.

This conference offers us the opportunity to take stock of the above-mentioned changes and developments, both in terms of the processes and objects we study, and in the ways and means through which we - in Euroculture specifically and European Studies generally - study the processes and objects. We are delighted that prof. Ian Manners, research director of the Centre for European Politics at the University of Copenhagen, has agreed to deliver the keynote: "Trans-Europe Express: Europe's 21st century journey".

Call for papers

This conference encourages papers that address the following issues:

- a. **WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?** Historicizing developments in Euroculture/European Studies (or certain aspects thereof), aim of European Studies (what were they thinking?) and reflecting upon the unexpected developments both within the field (how the discipline reacted) and in terms of the studied object (the developments/changes within Europe)
- b. **Research:** Which concepts, analytical perspectives and methodologies have emerged through interdisciplinary dialogues in Euroculture/European Studies
- c. **How to teach Euroculture/European Studies?**

- d. Visions for Euroculture/European Studies: which lenses/perspectives are necessary to deal with sticky problems such as i) migration and integration; ii) citizenship and democracy; iii) heritage and collective memory; iv) diversity and inequality.

Please send your paper abstract (300 words max. + paper title + 5 keywords + a short bio) electronically in pdf format to euroculture2018@gmail.com no later than 1 February, 2018 23:59 CET time.

A selection of papers will be published as a peer-reviewed, edited volume in the series *Studies in Euroculture*, Goettingen University Press.

Important dates:

- 1 February 2018: closing of submission phase for paper abstracts (send to euroculture2018@gmail.com)
- 15 February 2018: notification of acceptance of proposals
- 1 March 2018: registration for conference, no registration fee required