



18th International Seminars' Week

1st – 3rd December 2025

Programme

Reflections and learning on the civic role of the arts, cultural democracy and governance, and culture for climate action

Louisa Hrabowy

Independent Consultant - formerly Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

[LM-49]

Abstract:

Over three lectures we will explore: The civic role of the arts in the UK - examining how arts organisations engage with the public and communities; looking at case studies of community-led cultural programmes and socially engaged arts in the UK; key principles of best practice and key trends and challenges.

UK cultural democracy and governance – examining issues of power, representation and decision-making; case studies of citizen-led models of participation; the current UK arts funding and political landscape and the push for devolution and local decision-making.

The role of the artist in climate action; place-based citizen climate action and activism; culture and climate policy on the world stage (culture and COP30); and the case for a sustainable development goal for culture.

Date(s): Monday 1st December, 11 am – 1 pm, Tuesday 2nd December 2-4 pm, Tuesday 2nd December, 5-7 pm.

Room: Sala del Consiglio

Buddy: Mara Cerquetti

Evaluation: Students will be invited to provide feedback (either paper form or googledoc) at the end of each session to understand what theories and insights they found most useful, what could have helped make the seminar more impactful for them, and any other feedback they would like to share.

A defying itinerary through the Spanish Middle Ages: confronting challenges and controversies in its historic musealisation and public dissemination**Helena Lahoz Kopiske**

State Museum Curator, Spain.

[LM-49; LM-89; L-1&L-15]

Abstract

When dealing with historical heritage, both, institutions and the public are confronted with uncomfortable realities. In this seminar we will explore them from a theoretical-practical perspective. We will go through the uncomfortable origins of the museum, its expansion and development; the critical moments of collecting and their consequences; we will address the challenges presented by museological discourses and the organisation of exhibition spaces. We will do so through the medieval legacy in Spain, whose diversity and dynamics have fascinated national and international audiences. It is a legacy that has been stereotyped and still keeps questioning and challenging us.

Date(s): Monday 1st December, 2-5 pm, Tuesday 2nd December, 10 am-1pm**Room:** Sala del Consiglio**Buddy:** Giuseppe Capriotti**Evaluation:** three open questions.

Stories, Voices and Perspectives. The role of participatory storytelling to magnify people's sense of place**Antonia Liguori**

Professor at Teesside University (UK)

[LM-49]

Abstract:

Storytelling helps us unfold the 'bricolage of the here' and explore the 'mess' of human interactions (Wilson 2014) in a specific place. Stories emerge from individual memories and build shared knowledges. As they convey values and emotions, they are very effective in revealing the differences and similarities between people's experiences (East, Leah et al. 2010). When those experiences are linked to a particular context, stories become a magnifier of people's sense of place.

This interactive workshop aims at introducing the concept of place-based participatory storytelling and at exploring how to adapt the 5-step Digital Storytelling model to co-create alternative narratives prompted by the places experienced in our everyday life. It will also introduce the work of Mike McGrother - a musicking 'Community Engineer' based in Teesside, North East of England - via a short documentary film which explores his practice and suggests that McGrother's work exemplifies a form of 'embodied listening' (Giomi 2019) and the transition from the personal to collective within the telling-listening loop (Liguori 2023).

The activity will last 6 hours and will include:

- An exploration of various theories and practices within participatory storytelling



- A screening of a short documentary exploring the notion of 'Community Engineering', co-developed and co-produced by Antonia Liguori with folk musician Mike McGrother and Sally Blackburn-Daniels.
- A collaborative storyboarding activity
- A collective reflection on the use of storytelling techniques to magnify people's sense of place.

Date(s): Wednesday 3rd December, 10 am – 1 pm, 4-7 pm.

Room: Sala del Consiglio

Buddy: Pierluigi Feliciati

Evaluation: collaborative storyboard (active participation)

Important: How to obtain the credits corresponding to each seminar?

Students must attend the full 6 hours of the seminar, sign the attendance sheet, and complete the assessment tasks. The recording of the credits will be handled by the buddy professor and will take place at the first available exams session.

Schedule

h	Monday 01.12	Tuesday 02.12	Wednesday 03.12
9-10			
10-11			
11-12	Louisa Hrabowy <i>Reflections and learning on the civic role of the arts</i>	Helena Lahoz Kopiske <i>A defying itinerary through the Spanish Middle Ages</i>	Antonia Liguori <i>Stories, Voices and Perspectives.</i>
12-13			
13-14			
14-15	Helena Lahoz Kopiske <i>A defying itinerary through the Spanish Middle Ages</i>	Louisa Hrabowy <i>Reflections and learning on the civic role of the arts</i>	
15-16			
16-17			
17-18		Louisa Hrabowy <i>Reflections and learning on the civic role of the arts</i>	Antonia Liguori <i>Stories, Voices and Perspectives.</i>
18-19			