

Call for Papers

Annual Conference of the Association for Cultural Management 2023:

Cultural participation – current status and future prospects

The annual conference of the Association for Cultural Management 2023 will be held from 20 to 22 September at various locations in Berlin. It is being organised by the Institute for Research on Cultural Participation (IKTf) in cooperation with the Macromedia University of Applied Sciences and the University of Applied Sciences for Technology and Economics (HTW).

Cultural participation has been a central topic in cultural policy discourse as well as in the theory and practice of cultural management for over 50 years. There are many different opinions on the questions of: What do we mean by cultural participation? Who can achieve this and how? How can we measure whether the goal of cultural participation has been achieved? Gaining traction is the popular 1970s claim of “culture for everyone”. It has (once again) picked up momentum in recent years due to the distribution of power, structural exclusion and the creation of new or different means of access. Catchwords here are diversity, accessibility (barrier-free), inclusion and participation, for example.

One thing can be said for sure: The cultural sector has understood that its central responsibilities must also include efforts towards more or broader cultural participation. When regarded from the outside at least, specific measures often seem to lack a conceptual basis or a grounding in research findings, however. Rarely does the impression arise that this is about efforts that involve a real change of mindset or restructuring in terms of staff, programme and audience. At the same time, reality seems to have long overtaken the cultural sector and, thus, cultural management research. In the face of current international crises, significantly more radical strategic and operational decisions for the redesign of the cultural sector should have been adopted by now. Even a forced pause in activities during the COVID-19 pandemic rarely led to any real new direction. Depending on the definition of the terms “culture” and “participation”, cultural participation has always (also) taken place outside of cultural institutions. Now these institutions may face a legitimisation crisis possibly compounded by simultaneous cultural budget cuts in the future, since the public will not attend cultural offerings at many places after the pandemic either.

It is high time we ask ourselves the following questions: What is the current status of cultural participation? What old and especially new approaches are there to change it? Where can we find successful examples of lived participation in the cultural sector? The conference aims to bring together the current state of knowledge on cultural participation and to discuss the consequences and perspectives for cultural management and practices in the cultural sector.

Invited contributors and guests will include practitioners and theorists, students and researchers in cultural management research and related disciplines.

Contributions may relate to the following topics, but are not limited to these:

- Current status of cultural participation, from active individual artistic and creative activities to cultural visits, involvement in participatory offerings and co-creation

- Current status of cultural participation in “high culture institutions”, the independent scene, as well as popular or mass culture – from the city to the countryside
- Prerequisites for cultural participation from socialisation to access barriers
- Content and methodological gaps in data on cultural participation
- Strategic and operational instruments for changing cultural participation – from cultural mediation to community building
- Showing exclusion principles, creating new and different means of access in the context of diversity and anti-discrimination
- Role and relevance of culture, cultural participation, cultural and educational actors
- Shaping change from concept-based cultural policy to change management in cultural offerings
- Sustainability and cultural participation

Contributions may have the following formats, but are not limited to these:

- Plenary lectures (20-30 min + questions/discussion)
- Short contributions for panels (15-20 min + questions/discussion)
- Leading entire panels (90 min)
- Interventions (15 min)
- Workshops (90 min)
- Fishbowl (90 min)
- Barcamp (90 min)
- World/Theme café (90 min)
- Poster presentation
- Contributions to the doctoral colloquium (about 30 min, option ONLY for PhD students)

Submissions can be in German or English (max. 1 page) and should include the following information, but are not limited to:

- Title
- Contributors (names, institution or similar, e-mail addresses)
- 5 key terms (e.g., accessibility, co-design, etc.)
- Max. 500 words (goal/context of the contribution, theoretical framework/approach, methodological approach, summary of the most important or expected content/results and conclusions)
- Main references/literature (if available)

The deadline for submissions is 17 April 2023. They should be sent by email to: event@iktf.berlin. A decision on acceptance of the contributions will be made by the middle of May.

The abstracts will be judged in a review process conducted by the academic management board, consisting of Dr Vera Allmanritter (Institute for Research on Cultural Participation | IKTF Berlin), Prof Dr Martin Lücke (Macromedia University of Applied Sciences in Berlin), and Prof Dr Tobias Nettke (University of Applied Sciences for Technology and Economics | HTW Berlin), as well as the board of the Cultural Management Association (Prof Dr Hellen Gross, Coburg University, Dr Ringo Rösener, University of Leipzig, Dipl-Heil Päd Katharina Pfennigstorf, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna).

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General conference information:

Conference fee

Please remember that conference fees will be charged. Information will follow.

Travel grant

Do you want to present your (research) work at our conference and need a travel grant? Please start by checking whether other sources of funding can support you. For example, many universities offer travel grants for students and staff to attend conferences. If this is not an option for you, we will be glad to consider covering at least part of your travel expenses. Please contact us if you would like to know more about the application options.

Accessibility

Sign language interpretation is guaranteed, if needed. The project team is available for further needs regarding accessibility at the event and if there are questions. You also have the opportunity to give us a reminder about this when signing up.

Your contact person:

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