Research Opportunities in the UK City of Culture 2017 and Beyond
The crisis of ‘democratic elitism’ in Europe and some of its effects on cities

The increasing power of the elites of the super-rich

Growing popular distrust of political, economic, academic, media and other elites

Crises of trust, hope, morality, truth, language, political ideologies

Rise of the precariat, and of socio-economic polarisation and inequality

The shrinking of the State (including the welfare state)

Crisis of legitimacy of traditional cultural institutions
The rise of right-wing populism: nativism, nationalism and nostalgia; flag, faith and family

Misogyny and anti-feminism

Divisive ethno-nationalism and the attack on immigrants

Divisions between ‘old’ and ‘new’ immigrants

Islamophobia as an integral part of the populist project

The rejection of complexity

The attack on artists and intellectuals: the arts, universities, public service broadcasters
Urban cultural policies in the context of the economic downturn

Decline of community facilities

Impacts of reductions in availability of benefits and of increases in University fees

Less money for culture-led regeneration projects

Lower priority to artistic and creative practices in schools: new focus on science, maths, coding, digital skills
Lower cost of premises for cultural activities

More opportunities for experimental artistic interventions

Less bureaucracy and red tape

Possible new funding partnerships and strategies (e.g. NHS, Police, arts-sports collaborations)

Digital forms of participation and expressiveness

Growing cultural hybridity
Some issues in urban cultural policy today

An uneasy coexistence of policy rationales from different historical periods

1) the intrinsic and civilising value of access to culture (1940s-1950s)
2) the transformative potential of ‘cultural democracy’ and active participation (1970s)
3) culture as a tool for economic development and place marketing (1980s-1990s)
4) cultural actions to change the behaviours of individuals and communities (late 1990s-2010s)
Challenges

Public expenditure cuts are reducing the already insufficient budgets for economic, social and environmental innovation.

But innovation is more and more required: European cities are stuck for solutions to their economic, environmental and social problems.
The value of cultural participation

- Audience development
- Accountability and public value
- Civic engagement
- Personal development
- Health and well being
- Social capital
- Artistic innovation
Urban cultural policies and participation

The problems generated by focusing funding on consumption activities, flagship buildings and city centres

Displacement of local communities in some cities

Multiple deprivation in many other inner urban and peripheral areas

Problems of immobility and social isolation in some outer housing estates (also in Hull)

Social exclusion: the importance of access policies, ‘soft boundaries’ and public space networks
Urban cultural policies and participation

Strategies for community engagement

‘New commissioning’
Participatory budgeting
Social interaction and intercultural encounter/exchange
not community cohesion

Importance of the ‘porosity’ and permeability
of cultural institutions
Urban cultural policies and participation

Cultural participation is heavily influenced by socio-economic status but direct participation is less socially stratified than attendance.

Research by Leila Jancovich (Leeds University) shows that:

- non-arts audiences may be more open to innovation and risk taking than established arts audiences.
- community education programmes are central to the success of participatory projects.
The concept of ‘interculturalism’ and its role in participatory urban cultural strategies

Neither multiculturalism nor assimilation

Interculturalism and individual experience

Interculturalism and the reshaping of institutions

Interculturalism and economic development
The concept of ‘interculturalism’ and its role in participatory urban cultural strategies

Cultivating ‘cultural literacy’: creating new local glossaries

The marginalisation of intercultural actors in urban cultural policy-making

The Council of Europe’s Intercultural Cities action research project (www.coe.int/interculturalcities)

Stimulating intercultural participation

The strategic siting of cultural infrastructure

Intercultural architecture, public art and urban design

Countering ethnic stigmatisation through neighbourhood-based place marketing

From multicultural to intercultural festivals: examples from Rotterdam, Edinburgh, Berlin and Manchester

Countering fake news about refugees, immigrants and ethnic minorities
Dimensions of cultural citizenship in the Hull 2017 programme

Citizenship as ‘civic identity’

Citizenship as ‘empowerment’

Citizenship as ‘consumership’
• Cultural Programme
• Culture, Place and Policy Institute
• Staff Volunteering
• Student opportunities
• Legacy
• Engagement
HULL UNIVERSITY’S CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Literature: Word is Hull

Music: Once Contemporary, Always Contemporary

Drama:
- HIPI (Hull Independent Producer Initiative)
- New Sound Installation (Dr Rob MacKay)
- Women of Troy by The Roaring Girls

Season Festivals and Cultural Visions

Exhibitions:
- British Museum
- National Portrait Gallery
- Larkin Exhibition
- Terence Cuneo
The refurbished Middleton Hall
Implementing a post-2017 legacy strategy

Training needs

Institutional arrangements for effective partnerships

The need for international cultural strategies: the Lille3000 example
Emerging professional specializations:

The cultural planner

The intercultural mediator

The cartographer of local cultural resources

The specialist in linking culture and social policy/social action
The cultural industries support specialist

The specialist in linking culture and place marketing
The specialist in linking culture and property development/urban renewal

The culturally sensitive urban planner and designer
The evaluator of the impacts of cultural actions and policies

The cultural activist

The specialist in international urban and regional cultural strategies
The Culture, Place and Policy Institute (CPPI) at the University of Hull

Building on the existing strengths of the University

Redistribution of cultural capital

Cultural capital as a force for transforming people’s lives

A creative collaborative interdisciplinary innovation-oriented critical Institute
The Culture, Place and Policy Institute (CPPI) at the University of Hull: personnel and structure

Director

2 Research Fellows

Manager/Administrator

PhD students

Associates

Internal Advisory Board

External Advisory Board
Evaluation of Hull 2017

Collaboration with Hull 2017 colleagues

Commissioning and overseeing evaluation research (baseline data production and impacts/outcomes evaluation)

Five impact areas:
- arts and culture;
- place making;
- economy;
- society and well being;
- partnerships, development and legacy

Quarterly reports on findings – some findings so far

Formative evaluation report (early 2017)

Interim report (June 2017)

Summative report (spring 2018)
Hull 2017 evaluation-related research

Facilitation of Hull 2017-related research by University colleagues

Collaboration with RethinkIMPACTS2017 (University of Aarhus) and other research centres

Research by Peter Andrews and colleagues on changing perceptions of Hull

Collaboration with Hull History Centre’s archiving project (business, participation and creative archives)
Other research: indicative themes

Culture and health

Collaborations with colleagues in Hull York Medical School (HYMS) Arts-sport crossovers and well being (AHRC research network on arts and sport)

The cultural distinctiveness of port cities
Cultural mapping and distinctiveness/exceptionalism/cultural independence
Transgressive traditions
Distinctiveness as a policy asset
Collaboration with Maritime and Marine Institute
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