'Urban Cultural Intermediaries: pedagogy, creativity and the City'

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Centre for Cultural Policy Studies
Sky Blues City: Imagining a Sustainable Future for Coventry
26th April, 2017
On the occasion of an official visit to Warwick University’s Centre for Cultural Policy Studies by the Shandong Academy of Social Sciences

A Symposium

A Sustainable Future through Development Policies for the Creative Industries?

TUESDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 10AM-5PM: SEMINAR ROOM G50, MILLBURN HOUSE, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

This symposium will feature a range of expert views on the past, present and future of the UK’s creative industries policies. The UK has arguably been the principal global pioneer (and major exporter) of creative industries policies; and today, our creative industries policies are increasingly used around the world as explicit instruments of development. But development frameworks are changing – since the UNESCO Hangzhou Declaration of 2013 (‘Culture: Key to Sustainable Development’ – supported by the government of China) the UN has devised the new SDGs framework (Sustainable Development Goals). Added to other sustainability frameworks, this presents our cultural and creative industries policies with an ongoing challenge: how do we, or can we, use sustainability as a major policy framework for the development of the creative industries? And how can the creative industries become part of the broader sustainable development of our cities and regions? Our speakers will respond to one or more of these three questions:

- What are the UK’s central policies for the creative industries – and how have they succeeded (and failed) as development policies?
- How are UK creative industries policies currently playing a role in the development of specific places – Coventry is a principal focus.
- What is required to make the creative industries sustainable – or, further, to play a role in the broader sustainable development of a particular place?

SPEAKERS:
- Dr Haili Ma, Director, The China Centre, University of Chester (symposium translator)
- Jonathan Vickery, Director, MA Arts, Enterprise and Development, Centre for Cultural Policy Studies, University of Warwick.
- Nick Chen, Lecturer and PhD scholar, Centre for Cultural Policy Studies, University of Warwick.
- Andrew Enskine, Senior Associate, Tom Fleming Creative Consultancy (TFCC), London
- Cathryn Goodwin, Project Manager, Creative Enterprise, Coventry.
- Michael Kho Lim, Lecturer and PhD scholar, Warwick-Monash Alliance.
- Andrea Pulford, Director of Planning and Operations, Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick.

AFTERNOON
- Emilia Moniszko – (Kaleidoskop East-West) – will be hosting an afternoon excursion to Coventry City
‘Kalejdoskop’, The Pod, June 2015
- Students in the city – consumers not producers
- Leicester/ Nottingham? Coventry does not retain a critical mass of its graduates
- The city’s ‘creative economy’ – does it exist?...not fuelled by student/graduate start ups
- Warwick outside the city; CU ‘territorialising’ the city?
- Huge international population; international corporations; where is the international culture, exchanges, residencies, institutes.... ?
The last decade

- EU policy (2009 Year of Creativity and Innovation; 2010 Regional policy ‘Connecting Universities to Regional Growth’; etc.


- Public Engagement (SU, NCCPE, etc.)

- Exeter/QAA/HEA (‘Students as Change Agents’), 2010.

- Research collaborations: e.g. Shanghai City Lab, 2013-

- Culturae Mundi; City Initiative (Coventry)
On the relation between the university, students and the city, three major policy discourses have emerged:

1: creative economy/industries.
2: Public engagement/social benefit
3: Cultural value (inc. social capital, participation, impact and so on).

But – arguably there is no single framework of public expectation on the role of a university in the city.
Preliminary consultations

- Students are a ‘legally’ diverse body – (rights and access issues).
- Pathways to civic ‘participation’ not defined outside the usual volunteering/field work/placement/internships.
- Warwick ‘cozy campus’ problem.
- The city is opaque to Warwick students – ‘territorially’ owned by Coventry University.
- Apathy, not hostility or negativity, is the main problem.
interviewees

- Universities and students – few stable, consistent, actors in the city, but not visibly involved in city policymaking in relation to creative economy
- Lack of space for ad hoc, project based, collaborative and open cultural-creative activity
- No real incentives in the city for medium size creative business – no critical mass of small businesses to take on students or interns
- No real public debate on the cultural-creative economy.
- City Council; universities – not necessarily the best actors…. too powerful?
IATL pedagogy – the framework

- Interdisciplinarity
- Inclusiveness, Internationalisation, Diversity
- Student Leadership
- Open space Learning –
- Student as Researcher
- **Interdisciplinarity** – develop methods of participatory urban research (mapping, photo-urbanism, urban curating) and create a ‘research exhibition’ about the city.

- **Inclusiveness, Internationalisation, Diversity** – devise a socially inclusive module format – a ‘civic pedagogy’.

- **Open space Learning** – promote the city as cognitive space – and where knowledge of the city is framed as policy intervention on what the city needs (students and civic public sphere).
Events in May/June – all welcome

Is open Public debate in Coventry – possible?
1: ‘Students and the city’
2: ‘City policies and creative economy’
3: ‘The Right to the City’

Research exhibition – (as part of the Positive Images Festival), called ‘Mobile Creativity Coventry’, City Arcadia Gallery, 21-23 June
Thank you