

Studying the Arts in Society

New Developments in Research and Training

a workshop organized by the Netherlands Institute in Turkey and the Arts, Culture and Media department of the University of Groningen

April 14, 2011, Netherlands Institute in Turkey

Over the past decades, it has become common practice among scholars in the arts studies (visual arts, literature, film, theatre, music, new media, etc.) to give central attention to the arts within their social context. The developments of analytical approaches such as New Historicism, sociologies of the arts and Cultural Studies testifies of the fact that the (aesthetic) autonomy of the arts has become itself an object of research rather than a point of departure for academic studies. Whether the methods used are (critical) hermeneutics, sociological or cognitive, among a vast majority of studies today the arts are seen as specific cultural practices that are embedded within broader cultural networks that together form what we call society.

This conference investigates the consequences of these developments and the opportunities they provide. It has three main aims: (1) To explore a variety of approaches, in research and teaching, of the functioning of the arts in society today; (2) to provide a platform for cross-pollination between the department of Arts, Culture and Media at the University of Groningen and participating departments of Istanbul universities regarding both research and education and (3) thus, to explore the basis for structural cooperation between our universities in research, education, staff exchange and student exchange.

Program

The conference will consist of two sessions. The first session starts with an opening speech about the state of the field and its current problems.

During the rest of the day there will be presentations that deal with the development of new and promising approaches within distinct fields of interest, namely (1) Art policy and management, (2) Art education, among others from a cognitive perspective, and (3) Ethical and ideological issues in both artworks and art criticism.. During each workshop, three to four scholars will present what they consider a relevant, possibly innovative, approach, illustrated with case studies, if necessary. The presentations will be around 20 minutes, leaving around 15 minutes per presentation for discussion.

Morning session (9.30-12.00)

Chair: Fokke Gerritsen

Opening speech

Fokke Gerritsen
(NIT)

Introductory speech

Murat Belge
(Istanbul Bilgi University)

1. "Between Theory and Practice"

Melis Behlil
(Kadir Has University)

2. "Culture in the Mirror"

Barend van Heusden
(Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

3. "Diversity in Contemporary Performing Arts Education"

Aylin Kalem
(Istanbul Bilgi University)

Lunch (12.00-13.30)**Afternoon Session 1 (13.30-15.15)**

Chair: Sjoerd-Jeroen Moenandar

1. "Perception and Reflexion in the Arts"

Liesbeth Korthals Altes
(Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

2. "Technological Perspectives in Art Theory"

Selen Ansen
(Istanbul Bilgi University)

3. "Devising Media Curriculum:
The Adventures of an Anthropologist"

Levent Soysal
(Kadir Has University)

Tea break (15.15-15.45)**Afternoon Session 2 (15.45-17.45)**

Chair: Sjoerd-Jeroen Moenandar

1. TBA

Deniz Bayrakdar
(Kadir Has University)

2. TBA

Deniz Unsal
(Istanbul Bilgi University)

3. "The Organization of Art in Society"

Quirijn Lennert van Hoogen
(Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

Concluding Remarks

Drinks (17.45-)