

Biennial Report of Research Network 02–Sociology of the Arts, 2015-2017

1. Names and email addresses of the Board of RN-02 (2015-2017)

- Coordinator: Sacha Kagan (Leuphana Universität Lüneburg, Germany), sachakagan2@gmail.com
- Vice-Coordinator: Anna Lisa Tota (University of Rome 3, Italy) annalisa.tota@uniroma3.it

Board Members:

- Dan-Eugen Ratiu as former coordinator (Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania), daneugen.ratiu@gmail.com
- Tasos Zembylas as Decano (*until September 2016*) (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria), zembylas@mdw.ac.at
- Dagmar Danko (2015-2016: Freiburg & Berlin, Germany; 2017: ESA, Paris, France) dagmardanko@yahoo.de
- Sari Karttunen (The Finnish Foundation for Cultural Policy Research -Cupore, Finland) sari.karttunen@cupore.fi
- Christopher Mathieu (University of Lund, Sweden) christopher.mathieu@soc.lu.se
- Valerie Visanich (University of Malta) valerie.visanich@um.edu.mt

2. New board members (starting September 1st, 2017, for 2017-2019)

- Coordinator: Valerie Visanich (University of Malta) valerie.visanich@um.edu.mt
- Vice-Coordinator: Sari Karttunen (The Finnish Foundation for Cultural Policy Research - Cupore, Finland) sari.karttunen@cupore.fi

Board Members:

- Sacha Kagan as former coordinator (Leuphana Universität Lüneburg, Germany), sachakagan2@gmail.com
- Anna Lisa Tota (University of Rome 3, Italy) annalisa.tota@uniroma3.it
- Christopher Mathieu (University of Lund, Sweden) christopher.mathieu@soc.lu.se
- Constance DeVereaux (Colorado State University, USA) cdevux@gmail.com
- Aleksandra Nenko (Centre for German and European Studies, University of St. Petersburg, Russian Federation) al.nenko@gmail.com
- Dafne Muntanyola Saura (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain) dafne.muntanyola@uab.cat

3. Names of the Advisory Board members (2016-2018)

- Victoria Alexander (Goldsmiths, University of London, United Kingdom)
- Volker Kirchberg (Leuphana University Lueneburg, Germany)
- Graciela Trajtenberg (Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo, Israel)
- Tasos Zembylas (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria)

Note: As of September 2016 (Business Meeting of RN02 at the Midterm Conference in Porto), RN02 has an Advisory Board. See section 4.5 below and the Minutes of the September 2016 Business Meeting & the new Bylaws of RN02 voted in September 2016 (separate documents).

4. Activities

4.1. Midterm Conference 2016

The 9th Midterm Conference of the ESA Research Network “Sociology of the Arts” took place at the University of Porto, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Portugal, from 8 to 10 September 2016, organized by Paula Guerra and Sacha Kagan. Under the general topic *Arts and Creativity: Working on Identity and Difference*, we also wanted to emphasize the reflection on the sociological approach to art in its inter-disciplinary exchanges relations with other approaches to creativity research and arts-based research. The aim was to facilitate awareness of research issues, methodology and results, and their cross-fertilization through inter- and trans-disciplinary dialogues. Two renowned scholars, a cultural economist & sociologist and a transdisciplinary researcher of creativity, educator & musician, participated in this dialogue and in our conference as keynote speakers: Michael Hutter, Professor Emeritus at Berlin Social Science Center (WZB) and senior faculty member in the Graduate School “Innovations Society Today” of the Institute of Sociology at Technische Universität Berlin (Germany), and Alfonso Montuori, Professor in the Transformative Inquiry Department at California Institute of Integral Studies (USA). ESA RN02’s 9th Mid-Term Conference innovated in its formats with, next to the accustomed papers sessions (we had 41 papers sessions), the above-mentioned 2 keynote speakers’ plenary sessions, 3 book-launch events, 9 roundtables, 2 exhibitions, and a series of parallel extended workshop-sessions by the “Arts Management Studies Research Stream” (AMSRS), the introduction of the following two new formats: 5 sessions in “creative workshop” format and 5 specific “musical jam” sessions formats. Overall, the conference provided about 70 (parallel and plenary) sessions, with a total of 229 contributions. The conference was attended by 235 participants from 40 different countries + 2 keynote speakers (from Germany and the USA) and a couple of guests from Portugal and Brazil. We were supported by 27 volunteers. The grand-total number of participants including all volunteers and guests was 272. Participants included established researchers as well as PhD students and artists.

For more details, please consult the Midterm Conference Report. See also the detailed Programme and the Book of abstracts on the conference website: <https://esa-arts2016.eventqualia.net/en/2016/home/>. Please find at the following link some photos of the conference: <http://recreatestudio.pixieset.com/esa/>

4.2. Summer School 2016

Just before the ESA RN02 Midterm conference in Porto, was held a Summer school on 'Artistic and other Creative Practices as Drivers for Urban Resilience', at the Municipal Museum of Espinho, a coastal town in the vicinity of Porto, from 5 to 7 September 2016. This Summer School was organized by the Centre for Social Studies (CES) at the University of Coimbra, in collaboration with ESA RN02, and linked to the 9th Midterm Conference (with a creative workshop that was held at the Porto conference in connection to the summer school’s theme).

The summer school, coordinated by Sacha Kagan and Nancy Duxbury, welcomed 25 selected participants from Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and the Americas, and was led by an interdisciplinary team of five colleagues who are social scientists, geographers, cultural scientists and artists (Nathalie Blanc, Nancy Duxbury, David Haley, Verena Holz and Sacha Kagan). For more details, please consult the summer school website at http://www.ces.uc.pt/cessummerschool/?id=13412&id_lingua=2

4.3. 13th ESA-Conference 2017 in Athens

The RN-02 Sociology of the Arts received 181 submissions for an oral presentation, out of which 121 accepted papers were presented in 32 different sessions (31 RN02 sessions + 1 joint-session with RN-23 Sexuality) during the conference in Athens from August 29th to September 1st 2017. At this conference, 2 of the RN02 sessions were part of a panel on "Arts Management Studies" (hosting papers otherwise hosted by an "Arts Management Studies Research Stream" at past ESA Conferences), and 3 sessions were part of a panel on the "Lusophone Sociology of the Arts" (following-up on the strong link with Lusophone colleagues, especially from Brazil, established at the Porto conference of RN02 in September 2016).

4.4. PhD-Student Research Award 2017

In 2017, the Research Network for the Sociology of the Arts launched the third edition of its biennial PhD Student Research Award. PhD Students from Europe and Asia responded to the Call for Papers and submitted an unpublished research paper. The jury, consisting of board members of the RN Sociology of the Arts, evaluated the papers in a blind review, considering the conception, methods, references, sociological relevance and readability of the submitted papers. The jury reached a unanimous agreement on the choice of the winning paper. The winner of the PhD Student Research Award 2017 is Ms. Svetlana Kharchenkova, Universiteit van Amsterdam (Netherlands), whose paper is titled *The art market upside down: valuation practices and the function of auctions in the emerging Chinese market.* The prize (500 €) was awarded formally at the 13th Conference of the European Sociological Association in Athens, during the Business Meeting of the Research Network Sociology of the Arts on Thursday August 31st 2017.

4.5. New Bylaws and creation of an Advisory Board

In September 2016, at the Business Meeting during the Midterm Conference in Porto, the members of RN02 voted on new Bylaws for RN02, and created an Advisory Board, the initial members of which were elected for two years (2016-2018). See the Minutes of the September 2016 Business Meeting and the new Bylaws of RN02 voted in September 2016 (separate documents) for more details.

In August 2017, the RN02 Coordinator, on behalf of the RN02 Board, requested the RN02 Advisory Board to prepare a Vision Paper about the future of RN02, to be presented at the upcoming Business Meeting of RN02 at the September 2018 Midterm Conference in Malta.

4.6. Action taken to improve participation of PhD students and early career researchers, and to expand membership

The registration fee for the midterm conference was deliberately kept low, with a significant discount for PhD students and free-lance artists (50%), as well as with discounts for all ESA-members (25%) and for participants from lower wage countries (25%). This decision was taken to encourage wide participation. Delegates were encouraged to join formally ESA and the Research Network, if they were not already members.

4.7. Number and nationality of RN02 Members

RN02, during the period 2015-2017, reached its 100th member, and as of August 2017 RN02 has 101 paying members. Over one quarter of our members comes from 12 extra-European

countries: Turkey (7), Israel (4), Canada (2), USA (2), Japan (2), Brazil (2), Colombia (2), Egypt (1), Lebanon (1), China (1), Taiwan (1), and Sri Lanka (1).

Compared to previous years, we thus see a small but significant and steady increase both in RN02's total number of members and in the internationalization of RN02's membership base, confirming two trends observable over the past decade.

4.8. Collaboration within ESA with other RNs

RN02 continues its long-term collaboration with RN07 Sociology of Culture, most especially with the preparation of the Joint Midterm Conference in Malta in 2018, 10 years after the first Joint Midterm Conference of RN02 and RN07.

For the Athens Conference in 2017, RN02 also initiated collaboration with RN23 Sexuality, with the organization of a Joint Session on "Artful Sexualities and Sexualities of Art".

4.9. Communication service to our members ('Sociology of the Arts News' Mailings)

Members of RN02 were kept regularly informed by the RN02 Coordinator, by means of a newsletter-like mailing-format (by email) sent irregularly according to the needs, disseminating own news of RN02 activities as well as news on behalf of our members, for other ESA activities, or about activities by other scientific and academic organizations (conferences, summer schools, job opportunities, publications, etc.). Over this period (2015-2017), 37 such mailings were sent to RN02 members (which makes up an average of one mailing sent every 3 weeks).

4.10. Midterm Conferences 2018 and 2020

The 10th Midterm conference of RN02, which will be also the 2nd Joint Midterm Conference with RN07, will be held at the University of Malta on September 4-th to 7th 2018, under the title *Creative Locations: Art, Culture and the City*. Already confirmed Keynote Speakers are Richard Sennett and Nina Wakeford, and to-be-confirmed Keynote Speaker is Martina Löw. The conference organization is being coordinated by Local Convener Valerie Visanich, who forms the conference coordinating committee together with Sacha Kagan and Anna Lisa Tota for RN02, and Joost van Loon (and in 2015 and 2016 together with Trever Hagen) for RN07. The conference scientific committee is constituted of the members of the boards of RN02 and RN07. This academic event will coincide with other artistic and cultural events in the capital city of Malta, Valletta, which will be the European Capital of Culture for 2018.

For the 11th Midterm Conference of RN02 in year 2020, one option is currently under consideration: The probable host city for the 2020 Midterm is expected to be Helsinki (Finland) with Sari Karttunen as Local Convener.

Dr. Sacha Kagan
Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany

Coordinator of the Board of RN02 Sociology of the Arts (2015-2017)