

Participatory Practices, Art and Democracy

ART*IS Conference in Oxford
1 November – 2 November 2024

**Thursday,
31 October 2024**

6.30 – 8 pm

Guided Tour through the Pembroke Art Gallery, followed by a response*able drawing workshop at Pembroke.

We meet at the porter's lodge at Pembroke College (St. Aldates, Oxford OX1 1DW).

**Friday,
1 November 2024**

Participatory art practice and community engagement has featured centrally in art practice and theory since the 1990s. While many have argued that participatory practices contribute to fostering democratic citizenship, critics have questioned whether participants experience themselves as instrumentalised by participatory practices. This conference forms part of the ARTIS Horizon 2020 consortium grant investigating into the transformative potential of the arts. In order to do so, we invite scholars from a broad range of discipline, such as the arts, political science, sociology and cultural studies, to present papers which fall into one of the following sections:

Session 1

Political Theory: The role of participation

Which role does (civic) participation play in political theory and theories of democracy? How do approaches differ within different regions?

12.30 – 1 pm

Introduction and getting to know each other through **response*able positionality drawings**

1 – 2 pm

Keynote **Felix Heidenreich** (Stuttgart): Recruiting Citizens for Democracy

Session 2

Community Histories and the museum: Participation and democracy

Community engagement and local histories play an increasing role in curatorial practices. Which curatorial strategies can be endorsed to engage communities?

2.10 – 2.50 pm

Holly Broughton and **Sara Lowes** (Oxford): Valuing Difference: how can alternative public spaces, like Modern Art Oxford, learn and engage with communities through place-based approaches to programming

2.50 – 3.30 pm

Priya Atwal (Oxford): Working with communities: History in the making

3.30 – 5 pm

Sophie Hope: Response*able break with coffee and cake This forms part of Sophie Hope's workshop 'Who Cares? Compassion-fatigue and exhaustion in participatory arts'

Venue

**Main Project Space
Ruskin School of Art
128 Bullingdon Rd
Oxford OX4 1QP**

5 – 5.40 pm

Sophie Hope (London) and **Henry Mulhall** (London): What lies behind and beyond participation?

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Saturday, 2 November 2024

Session 3

Decolonising democracy:

In many regions of the Global South, democracy is conceived of as a political order imposed by former colonising countries. Given the colonial atrocities, which were legitimised by democracies, has democracy lost its credibility? Which ways are there to bring democratic concepts together with Indigenous forms of political order?

Session 4

Image Politics

How does politics feature in the arts of global contemporaneity? Which aesthetic strategies are used to convey political messages or to question democratic concepts?

Venue

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5.40 – 6.20 pm

Jeremy Spafford (Oxford): Meaningful Measurement – why it matters

6.20 – 7 pm

Victoria Lomasko (Berlin): Transformation of the political artist's language and role (Film Screening and Presentation)

7 pm

Conference Dinner

8.30 – 9 am

Christian Nyampeta (online contribution)

9 – 9.40 am

Florentine Muhry (Hildesheim): Paths into the institution: Rasheed Araeen's *The Other Story* and *The Whole Story*.

9.40 – 10.20 am

Çağla Bulut and **Marc Hill** (Innsbruck): Way of Looking - Experiments in the field of postmigration

10.20 – 10.30 am **Break**

10.30 – 11.10 am

Vid Simoniti (Liverpool): Worldmaking in capitalist democracies

11.10 – 11.50 am

Margareta von Oswald (Berlin): Curating as participatory research. On resonance in a Berlin museum

11.50 am – 12 pm **Break**

12 – 12.40 pm

Anisha Gupta Müller (Berlin): Art & Politics: In Conversation with Laura Lulika and Hang Linton

12.40 – 1.20 pm

Joerg Fingerhut (Berlin): Art in Museums and Urban Public Settings. A Review of the ART*IS Data Collection

1.20 – 2 pm Concluding the conference with a

response*able drawing session