

Creative Cities & Covid-19: Reimagining creative economies

Call for papers and participation in Colloquium June 23rd-24th 2022, Biella, Italy

As part of the [Urban Studies Foundation European Creative Cities and Covid-19](#) seminar series we are inviting paper submissions – extended abstracts – on the theme of “Creative Cities & Covid-19: Reimagining creative economies” for a Colloquium at Fondazione Pistoletto in Biella, Italy 23rd-24th June 2022.

The main focus of the colloquium will be developing papers for a peer-reviewed special issue journal. Participation in the colloquium is free, with a small number of bursaries available to support transport and accommodation costs for early career researchers. Further details are provided below.

Organisers

Dr Lauren England (King’s College London, UK)

Professor Sami Moisio (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Professor Ugo Rossi (Gran Sasso Science Institute, Italy)

Call for papers

Even before the Covid-19 crisis, scholarship dealing with urban creative economies and policies needed to be readdressed to develop more inclusive and sustainable models for economic and urban development. This need has been heightened by the pandemic in which Creative and Cultural Industries (CCIs) have been among the worst-hit sectors of the economy. The ongoing waves of the viral emergency have not only influenced interaction within and with urban spaces, but also resulted in transformations in creative production and cultural engagement alongside the emergence of more collective approaches to cultural work¹. The pandemic has therefore created an opportunity for reflection and structural intervention², holding open space for hope, new forms of care and political imaginations³.

A range of research from policy and academia has presented immediate evidence of the initial impacts of Covid-19 on culture and the city⁴. In the first stages of the pandemic there was a sudden rush for data and increased pressure on charting and evaluating the impact of Covid⁵. While this captured a range of direct impacts, certain impacts and longer-term implications remain under investigated. Over 18 months on from the first lock-down across many nations, there is a need to gather longer-term reflections on the impacts of the pandemic and to share and discuss current and recent work, to map future directions and scenarios for creative cities and cultural economies.

¹ England, L., Vigano, F., Comunian, R. and Tanghetti, J. forthcoming. Creative Work: Possible Futures after Covid-19. A policy report. University of Bolzano

² Joffe, A., 2021. Covid-19 and the African cultural economy: an opportunity to reimagine and reinvigorate?. *Cultural Trends*, 30(1), pp.28-39.

³ Gross, J., 2021. Hope against hope: COVID-19 and the space for political imagination. *European Journal of Cultural Studies* <https://doi.org/10.1177/13675494211004594>

⁴ Gross, J., Dent, T. and Comunian, R., 2021. Covid-19 and the creative city: lessons from the UK. *Global reflections on Covid-19 and cities: urban inequalities in the age of pandemic*. Policy Press, Bristol, pp.179-188.

⁵ Comunian, R. and England, L., 2020. Creative and cultural work without filters: Covid-19 and exposed precarity in the creative economy. *Cultural Trends*, 29(2), pp.112-128.

At the colloquium and in the associated special issue, we aim to challenge both the discourses and practices of the creative city and encourage a reimagining of creative economies. We aim to include papers from a range of academic disciplines addressing common interests in creative city policies, urban creative economies development and issues associated with the pandemic. We invite papers that relate to international contexts, addressing topics including but not limited to:

- Medium and long-term impacts of Covid-19 had on urban creative economies, including different ways in which the pandemic has hit areas of the creative economy
- Critical discussions on the conceptual framing and rhetoric of the creative city in relation to the crisis
- Injustices/imbbalances and cracks in creative city planning and implementation highlighted and heightened by the pandemic
- The role of public policy and governance practices and processes in sharing recovery strategies, resilience and adaptation to the crisis
- Local opportunities for sustainable and inclusive (re)development and policymaking
- Socially innovative / alternative/ participatory models to support creative workers and organisations during/after the pandemic
- Emerging grassroots economies in the cultural sector led by creative workers and independent organisations
- Alternative forms of creativity and urban interaction emerging during the pandemic
- Alternative futures for creative cities

Submission process

To participate in the colloquium, please send an extended abstract (1,000 words) to eucreativecitiescovid19@gmail.com by **Monday 28th Feb 2022**.

Up to 10 papers will be selected by the organising team and authors will be notified by mid-March 2022.

Selected participants will be asked to confirm their attendance and accommodation with the venue in early April and participants will need to submit full papers (draft) by 3rd June 2022.

This is intended to be an in-person event, subject to Covid restrictions, but we will consider online participation in special circumstances. Please indicate in your submission if you would like us to consider you for online participation.

There will be an emphasis on early career participation, with a small number of bursaries to support accepted early career participants. Please indicate if you would like to be considered for a bursary when responding to the call. Bursaries will be awarded based on the strength of the submissions.

If you have any questions about the colloquium or call for papers, or would like to discuss your submission in advance of the deadline, please contact Dr Lauren England at lauren.2.england@kcl.ac.uk

For more information about the event series please visit our website www.creativecitiescovid.com

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Further details



The colloquium will take place at 23rd and 24th June 2022 at [Cittadellarte – Fondazione Pistoletto](#) in Biella, Italy⁶.

Activities

The main focus of this two-day event will be developing papers for a peer-reviewed special issue journal on “Creative Cities and Covid-19: Challenging discourses and practices of the creative city”. Participants will take part in paired one-to-one feedback and discussion during the colloquium.

The colloquium will also include discussions bringing together themes from three previous Urban Forum events (Dundee, L’Aquila and Helsinki) and two “City Cafés” addressing emerging themes, issues and recommendations for community and policy stakeholders. A workshop on decolonialising urban creative economies research will be delivered by Dr Laura Burocco. There will be whole group networking and social activities, including communal breakfasts, a dinner, a guided tour of Cittadellarte and a walking tour of Biella.

Costs

Participation in all colloquium activities is free and daytime catering and one workshop dinner⁷ will be included. Participants will be required to fund their own travel, accommodation and any additional meals. A small number of bursaries are available to support accepted early career participants. Please indicate if you would like to be considered for a bursary when responding to the call.

Accommodation

Accommodation is available at the venue, Fondazione Pistoletto, and we strongly encourage participants to make use of this. We encourage participants to arrive on the 22nd June for a morning start on the 23rd. We will finish in time for departure on the 24th June, but is the option to extend your visit should you wish to stay and explore the area. Where possible, Fondazione Pistoletto will facilitate group transfers to airports/train stations (Milan/Turin).

Selected participants will be asked to confirm their attendance and accommodation with the venue in April 2022.

⁷ Including breakfast and lunch 23rd and 24th June and dinner on the 23rd