

Call for Papers *Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai Sociologia*

Proposals by April 15, 2019 & Final Drafts by July 25, 2019

Subject of great political and theoretical support following the Russian Revolution in the 1920s and widely developed in the Western world ever since the Second World War, socially-conscious and socially-engaged arts (also known as social practice) have made their ways behind the former Iron Curtain under either new or rediscovered forms during the last 30 years.

While these artistic practices are known under a variety of names (participatory, collaborative, community-based, public art, etc.), encompassing a variety of media, focus points and aesthetics, what all of them share is an interest in (collaborative) processes instead of products, in communitarian approaches, or in the reevaluation of the artist-spectator dynamics, and the use of a large and diverse set of sociological, anthropological and/or ethnographical tools.

At the same time, artists working in social practice share a common believe in arts as instruments of social and political change, constantly negotiating between the aesthetical tradition and the utilitarian value of art as enabling actual social change.

One of the countries in the region where the 'social turn' (a term coined by art historian Claire Bishop in 2006) has been the most visible, especially in performing arts, is Romania, where, for instance, the umbrella term 'documentary theatre' is used for a wide range of approaches dealing with contemporary events, local communities, ethnic groups, etc., in forms of critical approach which emphasize exclusively the connection with the real-time.

This special issue intends to focus on the present and recent history of socially-conscious or socially-engaged arts in Romania and, largely, in the context of former European communist states in (but not exclusively) visual arts/arts in public space and performing arts. While the editors are generally interested in the terminological debate going on internationally around these forms of art, the special issue itself intends to focus on the intersection and cross-pollination between artistic and sociological practices, from a practice-based or interdisciplinary perspective.

Possible topics could address (in the form of essays, studies, interviews, etc.) but are not limited to the following topics:

- use of sociological research methods and techniques (interviews - including life history interviews -, social surveys, experiments, participant observation, etc.) within the field of arts, from a theoretical and practical perspective;
- forms of collaboration and/or exchanges between social sciences researchers and artists, development of specific tools and approaches;
- genealogies of socially-conscious and socially-engaged arts in post-1989 Central and Eastern Europe (Western influences, local historical roots, etc.);
- relationships and tensions between aesthetics, ethics and utilitarian value in the work of (socially-conscious or socially-engaged) art;

- community-based practices and gentrification;
- impact of socially-engaged art on empowering disenfranchised social groups;
- social practice and the emergence of queer identity;
- analysis of specific social practices in Central and Eastern Europe.

Please send inquiries and proposals (300 words) to Iulia Popovici (iuliapopovici@gmail.com) and Miki Braniște (miki@colectiva.ro) **until the 15th of April, 2019.**

One of the leading academic journals in Romania, fully published in English since 2008, *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai Sociologia* welcomes multidisciplinary and comparative approaches which address social issues from Central and Eastern Europe from a global perspective.

* Contributions should be 8000 words long and are due **July 25, 2019.**

* The accepted articles will be published in *Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai Sociologia*, Volume 64, Issue 2 (December).

* For information on *Studia UBB Sociologia*, see:

http://studia.ubbcluj.ro/serii/sociologia/index_en.html
<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/subbs>

* For indications to authors and note to contributors, see:

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