Biennial Report of Research Network Sociology of the Arts (RN02), 2019–2021

Outgoing coordinators and board members, 2019–2021

Coordinators:
• Coordinator: Sari Karttunen, University of the Arts Helsinki & Center for Cultural Policy Research CUPORE, Finland, sari.karttunen@cupore.fi
• Vice-Coordinator: Christopher Mathieu, Lund University, Sweden, christopher.mathieu@soc.lu.se

Board:
• Constance DeVereaux, Colorado State University, USA, edevux@gmail.com
• Olga Kolokytha, University of Vienna, Austria, olga.kolokytha@univie.ac.at
• 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
• Anna Lisa Tota, University of Rome 3, Italy, annalisa.tota@uniroma3.it
• Valerie Visanich (in the position of former coordinator), University of Malta, valerie.visanich@um.edu.mt

Advisory Board:
• Victoria Alexander, Goldsmiths, University of London, United Kingdom
• Volker Kirchberg, Leuphana University Lueneburg, Germany
• Dan-Eugen Ratiu, Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania
• Graciela Trajtenberg, Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo, Israel
• Tasos Zembylas, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria

Incoming coordinators and board members, 2021–2023

Coordinators:
• Coordinator: Christopher Mathieu, Lund University, Sweden, christopher.mathieu@soc.lu.se
• Vice-Coordinator: Dafne Muntanyola Saura, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain, dafne.muntanyola@uab.cat

Board Members:
• Francesca Maria Fiorella, University of Salento, Italy, francescamaria.fiorella@unisalento.it
• Henrik Fürst, University of Uppsala, Sweden, henrik.furst@soc.uu.se
• Paula Guerra, University of Porto, Portugal, mariadeguerre@gmail.com
• Olga Kolokytha, University of Vienna, Austria olga.kolokytha@univie.ac.at
RN activities 2019–2021

ESA-Arts-2021

The 11th mid-term conference of RN02 was held between March 9 and 12, 2021. The conference was planned to take place in Helsinki in September 2020 but due to Covid-19 it was first postponed until March 2021 and then shifted into an online format. The conference was organized in co-operation with the local host, the University of the Arts Helsinki (“Uniarts”). The chosen theme was The Social Effects of Art: Activism, Advocacy and Beyond. The conference build upon the six-year research initiative ArtsEqual: The Arts as Public Service: Strategic Steps towards Equality that Uniarts coordinated between 2015 and 2021, funded by the Strategic Research Council of the Academy of Finland.

Four keynote speakers were invited to talk around the theme The Social Effects of Art: Stephen Duncombe and Steve Lambert from the Center for Artistic Activism, New York, Eduardo de la Fuente from the School of Humanities and Social Inquiry at the University of Wollongong, Australia, and Laura Beloff from Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture, Finland. The keynote speeches are publicly available via Youtube.

ESA-Arts-2021 featured 111 paper presentations or workshops with more than 160 speakers or workshop facilitators representing 35 nationalities from Europe and Asia, North America, South America, and Oceania. The total number of participants was close on 200.

Activities at ESA-2021

Sociology of the Arts received nearly one hundred submissions for an oral presentation (including some papers that were transferred for our evaluation from other research networks or the ESA PhD Summer School). In the final ESA-2021 programme RN02 had 82 papers presented in 22 different sessions.

RN02 organized in collaboration with RN09 Economic Sociology a Semi-Plenary session entitled Artmaking and Economy in Time of Crises (SP14). The networks also arranged a related joint session Economy of the Arts – Alternative Forms of Coping with Economic Pressure and Crises (JS_RN02_RN09_T03).

Newsletter

The membership was informed by means of a newsletter-type of email sent every 1–2 months through the ESA website. In addition to RN02 and other ESA activities, the newsletters have
contained information about publications, conferences, summer schools, job and funding opportunities.

**Engagement of PhD students and early career researchers**

*ESA-Arts 2021 pre-conference workshop*

In connection to the midterm conference, a half-day online seminar *From Research to Advice and Advocacy* was organised in collaboration with the Uniarts Center for Educational Research and Academic Development in the Art (CERADA), and the research initiative ArtsEqual running under its wings. The participants were introduced to the concepts of evidence-based policy making and science communication and were given instructions on the ways to communicate arts-related (including artistic research) research to policymakers and other stakeholders. The event was attended by some 35 PhD students and recently graduated PhDs.

**PhD Student Research Award**

The board announced the call for fifth biennial *PhD Student Research Award in the Sociology of the Arts* at the mid-term conference in March 2021. The regulations were modified so that not only PhD students but also fresh PhDs were eligible and the submission need not be unpublished but may also be a recently published article or other research paper of similar length.

Six high-quality papers were submitted to the contest. The jury, consisting of RN02 board and advisory board members, chose the paper *Power dynamics in the art world: Navigating alternative systems* as the winner. The paper is written by Jonathan Adeyemi who defended his doctoral thesis in early 2021 at the Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Dr Adeyemi received a 500 € prize at the Business Meeting of RN02 during ESA-2021.

**PhD student representation on the RN board**

For the first time we are aware, a PhD student, Francesca Maria Fiorella, was elected to the board for the RN. We are very pleased with this permanent representation of PhD students in our decision-making body.

**Economic and geographic spread of membership**

As the Helsinki midterm conference was held online, the fee was even lower than usually, with a significant discount for PhD students and freelance artists, as well as with discounts for all ESA-members and for participants from lower wage countries. Due to the low cost and the chosen theme, the conference attracted several participants from far away developing countries.

The RN02 membership base continues to be international. In 2019–2021 we had close on 100 members coming from all over the world including South America and the Asia-Pacific region. One of the board members was based in the United States.

**Collaboration with other RNs**

RN02 continues its long-term collaboration with RN07 Sociology of Culture with whom we have organized joint conferences and exchange information on a regular basis. In the last few years, we have also cooperated with RN03 Biographical Perspectives on European Societies, RN23 Sexuality, and RN09 Economic Sociology. As mentioned above, at the ESA 2021 conference we organized a joint session and joint semi-plenary session with RN09.

**Book series**

The first book, a volume entitled Accomplishing Cultural Policy, edited by Chris Mathieu and Valerie Visanich, and featuring chapters by several RN members will be published in Spring 2022.

**Future plans**

The 12th mid-term conference of RN02 will be held in September 2022 in Lund, with Chris Mathieu as the local convener. The University of Lund will be hosting and co-organizing the conference.

**Rapporteur:**

Dr Sari Karttunen  
Center for Cultural Policy Research CUPORE  
RN02 Coordinator, 2019–2021