Cultural Policy in Europe

Instructor: Dr Caroline Lehni
Module entirely taught in English

Course Description

This module examines cultural policy in Europe by laying specific emphasis on the ways in which it has been redefined since the early 1980s. We will explore shifts in terms of policy objectives assigned to culture, away from the traditional emphasis on civic education or support for high art.

After defining the type of public action that can be referred to as "cultural policy" and identifying the various actors involved (at EU level, national level but also regional and urban level), the course will thus focus on a number of case studies in order to analyse how cultural policy intersects with other policy areas (economic policy, city marketing, urban planning, social cohesion, etc.). Our main case study will be Glasgow, which was nominated European City of Culture in 1990 and European City of Architecture and Design in 1999. Glasgow indeed placed cultural policy at the very heart of a strategy aimed at transforming a city marked by unemployment and depression into a revitalised post-industrial city. Many other cities in Europe (Liverpool, Marseilles or Bilbao for example) have built a strategy based on the impact of cultural policy on the economy, social cohesion and/or city marketing.

In other cases, cultural policy is used as a way of achieving social cohesion, by alleviating social divisions, bringing together estranged areas within a city, by reconciling divided communities. Belfast is one of those: various government agencies, assisted by EU funds, have become involved in transforming the visual landscapes of certain areas that still bear the mark of the Troubles.

A special focus will also be given to Strasbourg, through a focus on attempts at promoting the democratization of access to its museums and on the policy and political aspects of Strasbourg's candidacy to UNESCO for the election of the Neustadt as a World Heritage Site.

Other European cities will be mentioned in class discussions, like Barcelona, Berlin, Ferrara and Turku, etc., so as to provide a comparative and critical perspective on the uses of cultural policy in Europe and the effects of such policies on the areas concerned.

Most two-hour classes will be divided into one hour of lecture and one hour of seminar discussions based on students' presentations and readings.

Select bibliography (more references to be given at the beginning of term)

Bianchini, Franco and Parkinson, M. *Cultural Policy and Urban Regeneration: The West European Experience.* Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1993.

Bianchini, Franco and Albano, Roberto. "The Regenerative Impacts of European City/Capital of Culture Events". In Michael E. Leary and John McCarthy (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Urban Regeneration.* New York: Routledge, 2013, pp. 515-525.

Dubois, Vincent. "Cultural Policy Regimes in Western Europe." *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences* (2nd ed.), 2015, pp. 460-5.

Garcia, Beatriz. "Deconstructing the City of Culture: The Long-term Cultural Legacies of Glasgow 1990". *Urban Studies*, vol. 42, no. 5-6, May 2005, pp.841-868.

Gibson, Lisanne and Stevenson Deborah (eds.). *Urban Spaces and the Uses of Culture.* Special issue of the International Journal of Cultural Policy, vol. 10, no.1, 2004.

Grodach, Carl and Silver, Daniel (eds). *The Politics of Urban Cultural Policy: Global Perspectives*. Abingdon, New York: Routledge, 2013.

Immler, Nicole L. "(Re)Programming Europe: European Capitals of Culture: rethinking the role of culture". *Journal of European Studies*, vol. 44 no. 1, March 2014, pp.3-29.

Littoz-Monnet, Annabelle. *The European Union and Culture: Between Economic Regulation and European Cultural Policy.* Manchester, New York: Manchester University Press, 2007.

McGuigan, Jim. *Rethinking Cultural Policy.* Maidenhead: Open University Press, 2004.

Miller, Toby and Yudice, George. *Cultural Policy.* London: Sage, 2002.

Assessment
- Oral participation in class discussions (20%)
- Oral presentation (40%)
- In-class final written test (40%)