



**Centro Internazionale di Studi e Documentazione per la Cultura Giovanile
International Study and Documentation Centre for Youth Culture**

Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, Androna Campo Marzio 10, 34123 Trieste

Training Course

Young people, culture and institutions: 2[^] edition

Trieste 9 – 11 December 2015

“Young people, culture and institutions” is a training opportunity for young people from Italy, Europe and elsewhere who aim to develop professional, managerial and organisational skills at a high level in the sectors of culture, communications, business, public administration and research.

The course will be organised as follows:

1. Brief presentations by participants on theory or on case studies (concrete examples of best practices, successes or failures, problems, work in progress). The sessions will be organised in a number of panels.
2. A wide-ranging discussion on the topics proposed also in the light of inputs from the discussants and coordinators of the panels.

The invitation to participate as a speaker is made to students of 1st or 2nd cycle degree courses, doctoral students, post-doctoral researchers but also to young professionals who are no older than 35.

The aim is to enable meetings between students and professionals in different fields of specialisation offering them a high level transdisciplinary qualification which can integrate and strengthen their specialist and technical capacities.

Appropriate tools for analysis taken from the world of research and/or suggested by young speakers and discussed in debate together with the acquisition of scientific methodologies and interdisciplinary skills can promote exchanges which will emerge during the presentations and the discussions which can prepare young people to cope with the processes of economic, cultural and intercultural transformation.

SPECIAL TOPIC OF THE COURSE

(invitation to participate as speaker/Call for Papers)

“INFORMATION”

Communicating the Public Sphere

Theoretical and cultural-historical premises

In 1991, the writer and journalist John Brockman, literary agent of some of the best-known authors of scientific literature, published a book entitled “The Three Cultures”, echoing the title of the famous and much-debated book “The Two Cultures” of the physicist and novelist Charles Percy Snow (the debate in the newspapers dates from 1959, the book was published in 1961).

Brockman’s life was lived on the frontiers of knowledge. In 2004 he set up “The Edge Foundation” bringing together fine minds with the aim of promoting a discussion on the important cultural themes, not so much in terms of individual scientific results but their wider implications.

In 2014, in one of the Edge Conversations dedicated to “Information”, Brockman said: “Information is the foundation of our universe - and life itself.” The reference to DNA as an information code was evident. There is a DNA of life and the world, there are information codes which generate processes and changes. To possess them and use them as tools for understanding means entering into the space and time of creativity.

The power of information is not tied to the spreading of knowledge. It emphasizes instead in a major way the generation of what is shared as a vital space, recognized as “public” and communicated in an open and dialogic manner.

A brief look at the history of the relation between the “sciences” and “culture” shows us today the central epistemological role of “Information”, of that DNA which is the form of things and which contains the codes of their transformation in nature as also in social life and thus in history.

The papers and discussion panels

This theoretical historical-cultural starting point gives rise to questions regarding practice which should be central to the papers proposed by the young speakers and in the discussion which will follow.

The challenge will be to test and apply the theoretical and historical-cultural insights, looking at the strong and weak points, from the point of view of concrete experiences or case studies.

How is the public sphere constituted? What are its interactions with cultural practices and their forms of expression?

These are the questions at the heart of the current debate on “information”, on “communication” on their history and their future, from the wide range of different forms of expression to the most specialist representations and codifications in which languages acts and interact, from forms of communication to institutional forms of recognition and the relation between them.

To reflect on the forms and content of Information in this perspective means to touch a particular nerve which sees culture as a space of where the now more or less obsolete opposition between public and private with all its complex implications in the spheres of law and politics can be re-elaborated.

The public sphere is much more than what is usually imagined. It is the product and place of communication (played out through language – natural, technical-scientific, symbolic), and thus of recognition and of “publicity” (which historically is the opposite of secrecy).

The following topic areas are proposed for the presentation of papers (although others can be proposed which relate to the general topic of the course).

- 1) Public opinion? Rethinking the “public” (different connotations and different uses of this category, its implications in knowledge paradigms and in the representation/organization of orders and relations;
- 2) The debate on public services in the area of information;
- 3) Languages: ways of public interaction;
- 4) History and its “forms”;
- 5) Content: communicating what/communicating how (audience and “public”);
- 6) “Places” and “forms”: forums as spaces of public interaction particularly in the area of “youth culture” and its more institutionalized forms;
- 7) Freedom of speech and its mutilations (in private and in public): the social and anthropological value of “paresis” (and its popular equivalents). What does it mean to say what you think?

Types of participation

- *Individual papers.* These will be grouped into panels. Each speaker will have 15 minutes available for their presentation. After the presentations in the individual panels debate will follow in each group and then in a plenary session.
- Candidates may propose the constitution of new panels which can be managed autonomously, always leaving time for general debate amongst all the participants.

Papers and panels can have a theoretical and historical-cultural focus (with the awareness that each theoretical move made is in reality the fruit of a particular history and cultural practice), or can exemplify important results in practical or research terms, with important impacts on social, cultural and economic challenges.

- *Participation in debates.* The presence of participants without specific papers is admitted, with interventions in the discussions. In this case participation is open also to those over the age of 35. The participation of teachers, social workers, cultural mediators or professionals in the fields listed above is particularly welcome. An interest in participating must be communicated before 30 November.

Application procedure

An abstract for the paper proposed should be sent by 22 November (max 500 words, 1000 if a bibliography is included). The proposal should indicate if multimedial support (video, power point, internet link) is required.

Proposals should be made by e-mail to centrostudicultgiov@gmail.com. A commission will select the papers. The abstract should indicate, as well as the title of the paper, also name, surname and institution (if any). A brief CV should be attached indicating education, specialisations and interests (max 300 words).

The course is free, with no fee. An attendance certificate will be provided.

Selection

20 candidates will be selected. The communication of acceptance or rejection will be sent on 24 November to the e-mail address of the candidate. The text of the paper must be sent by 4 December.

No travel fees will be reimbursed. Accommodation will be provided.

Taking into account the proposals made, there may be the possibility of awarding a grant to external candidates.

Information: Prof. Gabriella Valera

centrostudicultgiov@gmail.com

Cell.: 331 4604536