

Winter School ‘Spectra of Transformation’

The Winter School for Research in Aesthetic, Arts and Cultural Education took place at the Academy for School Theater and Performative Education in Nuremberg, Germany between 20-24 February, 2017. The meeting brought together young scholars (PhD students and postdocs) and academics from all over Europe. Everybody was invited to contribute to the different sessions; their perspectives, analyses and results of their research about the transformation dynamics in the pedagogical field, the fields of aesthetic and arts education.

The session about Migration, Postmigrant Society, Post- and De-Colonialism, was coordinated by Prof. Dr. Erol Yıldız from Innsbruck, who offered a vision of post-colonialism centered on the people. This was a radical rupture with the basic premise of the customary discourse on migration and its categorical division between migrant and non-migrant, migration and sedentariness. The participants in this session provided different perspectives on their social realities in Russia, Spain, Germany, Finland and Austria.

Dr. Teunis IJdens coordinated the session about Policy & Governance, where he tackled the reality of public policies, and policy research in arts education and how public policy may shape or at least influence arts education’s infrastructure and practice by allocating budgets, setting goals and offering or imposing rules of conduct and performance criteria for publicly funded institutions.

In the session about Methodology, Dr. Juliane Engel centered on the new rules of sociological method, documentary method and methodological aspects of interpretive audiovisual analysis in social research, that was of a great help to the PhD students.

During all the working sessions, the participants were able to present their own research papers, that generated interesting debates and important feedback that enriched each of the sessions, providing new approaches and perspectives. These investigations were centered on the fields of aesthetic, arts and cultural education (AACE) and how they have been confronted with various transformational dynamics in recent decades, evaluating changes and new approaches in artistic disciplines such as music and contemporary dance, cultural institutions such as museums (educational services) or schools.

The winter school, organized by the Friedrich-Alexander-University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and ENO, and supported by the UNESCO Chair at this university, has been a focal point for young researchers who shared their experiences and contributed their different perspectives on the complex process of transformation in globalization, governance, transculturation, and digitalization and its effects in the fields in practice. It also has served as an important impulse to develop their own research projects.

Esther Ropón