

Call for Papers
12th UNECC Conference

Culture: Invented or Inherited?

7-9 November 2018

University of Malta, Valletta Campus

Culture is 'the way-of-life in an ecosystem characteristic of a particular people' (Keesing 1981:68). This is only one of the countless definitions given to this term which is 'surprisingly' and 'notoriously' difficult to define due to its dynamic nature (Smith and Riley 2011). Underlying dimensions characterising early and modern Europe, such as the economic situation of specific countries and humanitarian crises may be determining factors by which its collectivist culture has been constantly in flux, particularly in its production and consumption. One would question the affects which these factors may have on the transmission of traditional and popular European cultures and if their core components are, in fact, inherited or invented.

The main objective of this conference is to develop critical arguments based on two concepts which can be non-homogenous and overlapping at the same time, namely (i) Culture inheritance and (ii) Cultural invention. Key questions relevant to this conference are: (i) 'how does the concept of European Capitals of Culture consider the invention and inheritance of cultures?'; (ii) 'What avenues are being taken by ECoC programmers to strike a balance in the promotion of cultural components which are 'invented' and those based on grass-root identities?'; and (iii) 'What are the core arguments surrounding the questions of whether a culture is invented or inherited?'. Established academics, early career scholars and research student are invited to submit proposals based on the following research questions:

(i) Cultural Invention

i.1 How does the awarding of an ECOC title affect the behaviour of the different communities in the city?

i.2 How does the impact of the ECOC process affect one or more of the following categories where cultural invention can take place:

- Languages
- Mythology

- Legal systems
- Political systems
- Scientific method
- Sports and entertainment
- Social institutions
- Social and Belief systems
- Relationship with the others (neighbours, tourists, new residents,
- Other

i.3 What are the implications generated by the ECOCs for the dilemma of cultural authenticity?

i.4 Would it be possible to detect specific ideas and patterns in the ECOCs history that became an evident cultural reality?

i.5 What is the relationship between cultural invention and cultural innovation in the ECOC context?

(ii) Cultural Inheritance

ii.1 Is the ECOC only a cultural invention which has been imposed with a political decision in 1983 or is it the result of an inevitable process of cultural inheritance and its dynamics?

ii.2 Could the ECOC be represented as a model of storage and transmission of information intra- and inter-generation?

ii.3 What are the possible implications for the following categories of storage and transmission of information that can be affected mostly by a process like ECOC?

- Communication
- Imitation
- Teaching
- Learning

ii.4 Is the European dimension, as one of the most relevant ECOC values, an inherited or learned concept?

Timeline

Call for Papers	16 March 2018
Call for Papers closes*	20 April 2018
Registration opens	29 June 2018
Submission of conference documents**	5 October 2018
Registration closes	26 October 2018
Conference	7-9 November 2018

**Call for papers may be extended or a second call may be issued at the discretion of UNEeCC and the University of Malta*

***Full papers and presentations as applicable*

Call for Papers

The conference will take place over two days, 7-9 November 2018, at the University of Malta Valletta Campus in Valletta, Malta. The conference will include plenary sessions, various networking sessions and a number of parallel sessions.

The range of papers may cover theoretical and methodological perspectives and practical examples of the themes listed above.

Interested applicants are requested to submit a paper proposal (abstract) of not more than 250 words via the conference website *abstract submission form* (<https://www.um.edu.mt/events/uneecc2018/abstractform>) by **not later than 20 April 2018** to .

A 20-minute slot will be allotted to each selected presenter, followed by a discussion session with participants.

To submit a proposal, send a document containing the following:

- Project title;
- Five keywords;
- Abstract not exceeding 250 words;
- List of the conference themes the abstract addresses;
- Full details of primary author, including name, surname, title, institution, email, phone number;
- Name(s) of other authors (if applicable);
- A short bio not exceeding 250 words.

Late proposals will only be considered if space is available. Applicants will be notified of the acceptance of their proposal by **29 June 2017**. Registration will open in June 2018.

Conference Costs

Regular participants	EUR 190.00
Regular participants from UNeECC member institutions	EUR 160.00
Presenters from UNeECC member institutions	EUR 130.00
Presenters from other institutions	EUR 160.00
PHD students from UNeECC member institutions	EUR 80.00
PHD students from other universities	EUR 1000.00
Local Ph.D. students	EUR 60.00

All participants will be required to register for the conference through the Valletta 2018 Foundation website.

Further costs with regards to parallel events as part of the conference cultural and social programme will be announced upon registration launch.

Other Details

Full conference details, including programme and fees may be obtained from the University of Malta website <https://www.um.edu.mt/events/uneecc2018> .

The conference main language shall be English.

Proceedings

The UNEeCC will be publishing the conference proceedings, in collaboration with the University of Malta.

Contact details

For further details please contact the UNEeCC Secreteriat at rebecca.raulea@ulbsibiu.ro.

References

Keessing, R.M., 1981. *Cultural anthropology: A contemporary perspective*. Austin, Texas: Holt, Rinehart & Winston.

Smith, P. and Riley, A., 2009. *Cultural theory: An introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.