

Call for Papers

International Research Seminar

Cultural and creative quarters and clusters: developing a global perspective.

8- 9th June 2015

GRANEM, University of Angers, France

Deadline to submit your abstract: 27th February 2015

Please send to: lucile.leclaire.valeurs@univ-nantes.fr

For information about the aims and objectives of the seminar, please contact Prof Dominique Sagot-Duvaurox at Dominique.sagot-duvaurox@univ-angers.fr or Dr Caroline Chapain at: c.a.chapain@bham.ac.uk

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International
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THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM
FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
POLICY AND RESEARCH

International Research Seminar - Call for Papers

This event co-organised by the University of Angers and the Creative Regions Network aims to foster international comparisons on cultural and creative industries quarters and cluster experiences from both academic and practitioner perspectives to deepen the debate on this topic and support a more global understanding and theorising of its manifestation.

There has been a growing literature on cultural and creative quarters and clusters in Europe (Mommas, 2004, 2009; Cooke and Lazaretti, 2008; Evans 2009; Chapain et al., 2010; Namyslak, 2012; Boix et al. 2013), in North America (Coe, 2001; Vang and Chaminade, 2007; Chapple, Shannon and Martin, 2010; Zukin and Braslow, 2011) and more recently in Asia (Keane, 2009; Kong, 2012; O'Connor and Gu, 2014; Zheng and Chan, 2014) since 2000s. However, these contributions span various academic disciplines (economic geography, planning...) and there is a lack of consensus in terms of definitions, approaches and typologies (Evans, 2009; Chesnel et al., 2013). In addition, despite the recognition of various clustering phenomena, some with little public sector involvement and other initiated by the public sector (Mommas, 2009, Evans, 2009), few researchers undertake systematic comparisons of these different experiences. There is also a need to better understand how clusters evolve in different national contexts and over time – notably how public initiatives take into account local and national idiosyncrasies (Comunian, Chapain and Clifton, 2014). Finally, part of the literature highlights the need to unveil both the local, national and international networks upon which these clusters function (Nachum and Keeble, 2003; Vang and Chaminade, 2007; van Heur 2007). The issue of international linkages is particularly important, especially in developing countries where emerging literature highlights the strong influence of western creative industries products compared to local production even though cultural and creative industries exports from these countries are growing (Barrowclough and Kozul Wright, 2008; Todd, 2010). As such, linked to the emerging literature on the development of cultural and creative industries in developing countries, there is also a need to better understand how local cultural and creative industries in these countries find a place in global markets and how this is supported by territorial dynamics, notably in terms of cultural and creative clusters. However, apart from experiences in Asia, English-speaking literature on cultural and creative clusters in developing countries is scarce.

Taken this into account these various gaps and issues and the increasing interest in cultural and creative clusters from policy makers in Europe (ECIA, 2013; 2014) and worldwide (UN, 2010; 2013), the objective of this two-day seminar is to bring together both academics and practitioners to exchange and debate about cultural and creative cluster experiences across the Globe to develop a more global and comparative understanding on how various experiences either coming from public initiatives or being generated organically have evolved over time and how their objectives and governance may be changing in different local, regional and national contexts. While many contributions in the literature tend to focus on one or a couple of case studies at one point in time, the seminar will foster cross-case comparison and longitudinal analysis. On the academic side, contributions are sought from economic, geographic, cultural and planning points of view to ensure a multi-disciplinary perspective necessary to have a more complete understanding of these phenomena as highlighted in existing literature.

As such, the international seminar in Angers has the following objectives:

- To bring together early career and established academics and practitioners contributions on cultural and creative quarters and clusters from across the Globe, fostering comparisons between developed countries and developing countries ;
- To compare and contrast existing disciplinary typologies and understandings (which definition of cluster, which objectives, public, private or public-private initiative, what sectors do they cover) and the various disciplinary views on this topic and highlight to what extent they talk to each other;
- To support the development of a better understanding on how cultural, territorial/planning and economic objectives are or can be reconciled in cluster initiatives and if/how/why these objectives may change over time;
- To analyse the type of governance put in place to support these clusters with their potential changes depending on clusters' direction and objectives;
- To better apprehend the linkages between local and global markets that these clusters support;
- To develop a better understanding of similarities and differences of cluster initiatives across different continents and between developed and developing countries;
- To explore in more depth the role of cluster policies in supporting cultural and creative industries locally, regionally and nationally.



The seminar will take place over the course of two days, 8-9th June 2015, at the University of Angers. It is envisaged to dedicate part of the first day to a Ph.D. and Young researcher workshop. In addition, the seminar will be a starting point to foster further collaboration between participants in the form of networking and academic publications i.e. journal special issues to capture the new insights that the seminar will generate.

Contributions from academic and practitioners from across the globe addressing some of the issues highlighted above are welcome. The range of papers should cover both theoretical and methodological perspectives and practical examples of the issues and challenges faced by researchers in trying to understand cultural and creative clusters in a global perspective.

Submitting an Abstract

All interested scholars, PhD students and practitioners are invited to submit, by email, a paper proposal (abstract) of around 1,000 words by **no later than 27th February 2015** to the Research Network's organisers at: lucile.leclair.valeurs@univ-nantes.fr

Abstracts must include full contact details. You should also specify if you are submitting to present at the PhD and Young Researchers Workshop or at the seminar. Applicants will be contacted by 20th March 2015 about their submission.

We are looking forward to your submissions and to hearing from your inspiring research in Angers.

Participation costs

Participation to the Research Network Seminar over the two days (8-9th June 2015) is subject to a small fee of 40.00 euros with reduced fees of 35 euros for RSA members and 20.00 euros for students to cover administration and catering expenses, including the seminar dinner on the evening of June 8th, 2015.

Bursaries

Four bursaries sponsored by the Regional Studies Association are available to assist with travel and accommodation expenses of RSA members parts of countries in bands B, D or C. Financial support must be requested at the time of the abstract's submission. The award of bursaries will be made on the basis of the expected benefits deriving from the participation to the seminar by the applicant. If you are interested in applying for a bursary please send a short biographical profile and a 200 words paragraph explaining how you think attending or presenting at the seminar would benefit you. Details of the bursaries available are presented below:

- 2 bursaries of £150 for RSA member from Central and Eastern Europe (countries part of bands B, C and D);
- 2 bursaries of £350 for RSA members from Africa/Latin America/Middle East/ Asia (countries part of bands B, D and D)

For more information about countries in bands B, D or C, please go to:
http://www.regionalstudies.org/uploads/documents/Country_Bands.pdf

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Sponsors of the seminar

This international seminar is sponsored by the Project Valeurs (funded by the Région Pays de la Loire and MSH Ange-Guépin), the University of Angers and by the Regional Studies Association event support scheme.

