

Everyday Revolutions in Southern and Eastern Europe

Call for expressions of interest / early call for papers

The University of Manchester and Whitworth Art Gallery (2015 Museum of the Year), Manchester

Proposed dates: May 18 and 19, 2017

To mark the centenary of the 1917 Revolution we are holding an interdisciplinary conference on the theme of Everyday Revolutions in Southern and Eastern Europe. Rather than treating revolution as a one off or irreversible political change, the event will investigate the revolutionary potential of often-overlooked mobilisations, movements, acts, actions, and practices. Moving beyond ideas of popular protest and social movement activism, it will focus on phenomena which could be dubbed 'everyday revolutions', including but not limited to:

- 'slow protest'
- small-scale resistance
- counter-culture
- liberation movements
- individual acts and actions.

The regional focus on Southern and Eastern Europe will highlight areas on the periphery of the European project which face many of the same challenges. The conference will shed new light on the responses to these challenges. This perspective on social, economic, political, and cultural problems will allow better understanding of everyday ways of coping with, and reacting against, new political-economic situations on the 'edges of Europe', both inside and outside the EU. It will help reflect not just on the areas in question, but more broadly on contemporary meanings of Europe and its borders.

We welcome contributions from across disciplines relating to any area of 'everyday revolutions'. Examples might include responses to austerity, civil society and NGOs, informal organisations and collectives, parallel organisations (including currencies), trans-border activist co-operations, activism, digital and sexual revolutions, and post-capitalism. Proposals are encouraged for conventional papers/panels but also interactive workshops (musical, visual and other), workshops open to the public, workshops for children, films, slide-shows and other visual installations. As the event will be held at the Whitworth Art Gallery, proposals are especially welcomed for talks or workshops which engage with particular pieces – fine art, sculptures, textiles, wallpapers, etc. – from the Whitworth's collection (which can be consulted here: <http://gallerysearch.ds.man.ac.uk>).

We would like to hear from anyone interested in attending, giving a paper, running a workshop, or presenting in any way. There is no need to send abstracts at this stage – we are simply looking to gauge how many people may be involved, and look into possibilities of developing the event. Please send informal e-mails to everydayrevolutions@manchester.ac.uk stating your interest, possible topic and form of your engagement and whether you would be coming with children (and if so, what age).



the **Whitworth**