Key Theories 4: Politics of Participation
PGVC1013

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

ECTS credits[1]	5	Programme	MFA / MA Art in the Contemporary World Professional Certificate in Key Theories: Politics of Participation (CFA) MRes PhD
NQF level	9	School	School of Visual Culture
Stage	1	Module Co-ordinator	Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long,
Trimester	2	Module Team	Dr Francis Halsall, Dr Declan Long, Dr Sarah Pierce and other members of NCAD staff as appropriate
Contact	Neasa Travers, School Secretary: visualculture@staff.ncad.ie		
Responsibility	The NCAD Academic Council and the School of Visual Culture Board have responsibility for this module.		

1. Introduction

This module focuses on key accounts of the politics of participatory and collaborative practices. Students will explore particular theories and key examples. Participatory practices are widely understood as a shift away from the static object-based notion of art practice toward an exploration of art as the indeterminate organisation of spatial relations between the artist and the public. Questioning the conventional divide between the artist and the audience, these practices also challenges assumptions about the role of the museum, the curator, and the critic.

The aims of this module are to:

- Explore some key theoretical paradigms and practices that are most relevant to participatory and collaborative practices in Contemporary Art.

- Critically analyse the relationships between students' own thought and practice and the strategies, apparatuses and theories of effective participation and collaboration.

- Support students in developing a good knowledge of the practices, vocabularies, theories and figures that inform and influence contemporary participatory and collaborative practices.

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[1] European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, where 60 ECTS credits equate to the workload of a full-time academic year

2. What will I learn?

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

1. RESEARCH: Demonstrate a working knowledge of the relevant paradigms and practices that are most relevant to participatory and collaborative practices in Contemporary Art.

2. ANALYZE: Apply critical perspectives on the relationships between their theory and practice and the strategies, apparatuses and theories of effective participation and collaboration.

3. COMMUNICATE: Successfully articulate and present (in various forms) a good knowledge of the practices, vocabularies, theories and figures that inform and influence contemporary participatory and collaborative practices.

Module content

To reflect the changing nature of contemporary theories, practices and debates relating participatory and collaborative practices the specific module content changes according to the themes that are deemed to be most relevant to the learning cohort at the time of delivery. At all times there will be careful consideration of the place and relevance of creative practices in the contemporary world.

In the past discussions have considered examples from early performance-based and conceptual art along with Artist Collectives and online works rooted in the multi-user dynamics of Web 2.0 platforms. The course will explore concepts such as: Participation and the 'other', Relational Aesthetics, Socially Engaged Practice, The Dialogical, Informal Pedagogical Practices and Utopian Politics.

3. How will I learn?

The classes are student centred discussions, group work and problem-based activities based on close analysis and critical reflection of key theoretical texts, positions and practices.

Learning tool	Hours
Tutor-led tutorials and classes	12
Specified Learning Activities	36
Autonomous Student Learning	52
Total Workload	**100**

4. What learning supports are provided?

Bibliographic references, sample texts for discussion.

This module is supported by a dedicated VLE (Canvas or Google Classroom) in which bibliographic material, set readings, assignments and other supporting material is shared. Key materials in the NCAD library have been identified to support learning on this module. Support for technical training in key skills such as sound recording and editing is provided through LinkedIn Learning online tutorials.

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5.   Am I eligible to take this module?

Module Requisites and Incompatibles

Pre-requisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Incompatibles	None
Prior learning	Where a student can demonstrate that they have achieved at least 80% of the learning outcomes of this module, by academic certified achievement, or through quantifiable and documented experience, they can apply to the School for that prior learning to be recognised. Applications must be received prior to the commencement of delivery of the module.
Recommended	None

6.   How will I be assessed?

Assessment tool	% of final grade	Timing
Project work. The outcome of the seminar will be designed and agreed by the group in collaboration with the course leader. This might be a written publication or other text piece (sound, performance) or other relevant participatory activity.	100%	End of the trimester
Total	**100%**	

Assessment tool	Learning outcomes assessed
Project work as above	All three learning outcomes

7.   Feedback, results and grading

Grading

Students' assessments will be graded using the NCAD Grade Descriptors.

Feedback is given by written assessment sheets and face to face discussion.

8.   What happens if I fail?

Opportunities will be provided during or at the end of the trimester to students who do not complete all assessments.

9.   When and where is this module offered?

Trimester 2 at various sites on the NCAD campus.

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10. How will I have the chance to evaluate the module?

It is important to NCAD that students inform the development of teaching and learning at NCAD. We encourage all students to communicate their concerns and their observations about their study to members of staff so that any changes can be made in a timely manner.

About two-thirds of the way through the year, a student forum will be convened to gather students' comments about their study and the delivery of the programme. In addition, at the end of Trimester 2, students have the opportunity to complete an online evaluation of their study and experience at NCAD. Students are also encouraged to complete the Irish Student Survey of Engagement. These evaluation events are important to current and future students, to ensure we can enhance the delivery of programmes at NCAD.

In addition, students are invited to discuss their experience on the module with their lecturers at any point during the year. Students can also relay your comments to the class student representative who will communicate their comments to the staff.

**For further details on the content of your module and teaching arrangements,
consult your Programme or Module Handbook**

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