

Creative Commissions 2019 'Variations on Mobility' - Ideas Contest

Art. 1 - Contracting authorities

University of Padova - Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World (DiSSGeA), located in 35141 Padova (PD), Via del Vescovado, 30, Tel.: +39 049/827 8501, Fax: +39 049/827 8502, E-mail: dip.dissgea@unipd.it, P.E.C. dipartimento.dissgea@pec.unipd.it, legally represented by its Director Prof. Gianluigi Baldo

And

Royal Holloway University of London Centre for the GeoHumanities represented by the co-directors, Professor Harriet Hawkins and Professor Veronica Della Dora, and the Head of the RHUL Geography Department, Professor Phil Crang.

Art. 2 – Purpose of the Competition

Mobilities help us understand contemporary spatial configurations in the light of their historical depth and possible future projections. In the last decade, the field of 'mobility studies' has emerged initially from the social sciences as a holistic and inclusive field of research. Thanks to its intrinsic transversality, mobilities research offers a prolific space to activate unpredictable connections and contaminations between diverse styles of knowing and communicating at the borders between different disciplinary domains. Mobilities research thus stimulates and enables new mobile theories and versatile methods of research.

Virtual, physical, potential and corporeal fluxes; networks, routes, circulation and stasis of human and non-human entities: *Mobilities* have become a frame through which we sense spatial practices and relations at multiple scales and levels (local, urban, national, transnational, global; intimate, intersubjective, interobjective, social, collective).

This joint edition of Creative Commissions calls for creative collaborations that explore the relationship between *mobilities and the humanities* by experimenting with the potential of diverse creative practices (from visual art, to performance, creative writing, new media and sculpture) in the study, imagination and expression of mobility issues. This call especially welcomes proposals addressing mobilities' spatialities, practicalities, and temporalities. In particular, applicants are invited to consider creative practices as a frame through which to explore the historical implications of mobility, as well as the constitution of mobile phenomena through their motion in both space and time (from antiquity to contemporary history, from present times to possible futures).

We invite collaborations between artists and mobilities scholars to explore one or more of four themes:

1. The movement of **People/Individuals/Groups** (rhythms of daily movement; movement of bodies; movement of persons through borders of different kinds; mobility of specific groups of people).
2. The movement of **Objects/Goods** (mobilities and materialities; objects circulation in time; physical contingencies and values —symbolic, economic, political, religious, scientific— of traveling objects; circulation of collections; the mobile life of non-human beings).
3. The movement of **Texts/Books** (movement of/in texts; representations of movement; movement of words and images; movement of manuscripts and printed books; books as vectors and mobile containers of texts).
4. The movement of **Ideas/Knowledge** (affirmation, reproduction and appropriation of ideas through time and space; mobility of ideologies; ideas between crystallization and change; synchronic/diachronic movement of knowledge and information).

In this round, one Creative Commission will be awarded from each of the above 4 areas of focus.

The Commissions

These Commissions are intended to evolve new and existing collaborations between creative practitioners and mobilities scholars interested in exploring mobilities in experimental and speculative ways. We intend to fund one commission in each of the four thematic areas detailed above. Whilst we will ask the commissions to produce documentation of their work in progress and contribute a 'mobile' two-dimensional printable graphic work to an exhibition, we don't require the creation of 'finished' pieces of work.

Since they are funded through the Department DiSSGeA 'Mobility and the Humanities' project (www.dissgea.unipd.it/en/) in collaboration with the RHUL Centre for the GeoHumanities (www.royalholloway.ac.uk/geohumanities & www.geohumanitiesforum.org), these Commissions are part of the wider programmes of the project and the centre, and those who accept a commission commit to:

- Attendance at one group discussion event or 'crit' in Padova on the 9th of October 2019 to discuss their collaborations;
- Virtual meetings with project and CGH / DiSSGeA researchers on a regular basis;
- Contribution of at least one 'mobile' two-dimensional printable graphic work for an exhibition towards the end of the creative commissions process;
- 3 progress reports. These may take the form of audio-visual recordings of work in progress (short photo-essay; video-essay; or other format).

Art. 3 – Terms of Participation in the Competition

This Competition is only open to shortlisted applicants who submitted their expressions of interest by 28/4/2019 and were notified of their progression to the second stage of the application process.

The commissioning programme is open to collaborations between creative practitioner(s) and early career researchers. Early career is understood here as within 8 years of award of their PhD. In recognition of the difficulties acknowledged in establishing career stage, any reasonable argument made for early career status will be considered.

The application must be made jointly by at least one creative practitioner and one early stage researcher. The collaborations may include more than two people. Applicants must be based in Europe.

These commissions are designed to support and develop interdisciplinary collaborations, so it is expected that the collaborative team will include a range of skills and knowledge. These will encompass creative skills as well as knowledge about mobilities, whether science, social science and arts and humanities.

These Commissions are aimed at early career individuals or those seeking to develop a new direction in their work. We define 'early career' to mean anyone within 8 years of their PhD (allowances made for time out for maternity, paternity, sick leave or non-academic employment and academic roles with little provision for research activities). For artists and creative practitioners, 'early career' is less strictly measured, but the artist's past exhibitions and/or residencies will be taken into account. It is not expected that both parties would be early career, although this would be looked upon favourably by the commissioning panel.

Art. 4 – Required Documents

The application should include the following elements:

- The cover sheet (further details below)
- A two side case for support (further details below)
- A detailed budget and time-table (1 A4 side total) [please detail costings carefully]
- A CV for each collaborator - max 2 A4 sides/ collaborator, including a statement regarding early career status if relevant and detail of any previous collaborations
- Record of creative work -- up to two web-links or two PDFs of work (up to five pages each)

Mobility Variations commissions cover sheet

1) Title of project:

2) Collaborators [repeat details for further collaborators if needed]:

a)

Name

Institution [if appropriate]

E-Mail Address

b)

Name

Institution [if appropriate]

E-Mail Address

3) Abstract [250 words max summary for general audience]

4) Proposed outcomes [100 word summary]

6) Short summary of how this collaboration will evolve your research/practice [250 words max/ collaborator]

The case for support

Your case for support should consist of 2 sides of A4 which you can use any way you wish to provide us with some/ all of the following information:

- The aim (s) of your collaboration
- The **1-2 key mobilities issues** that your collaboration will engage (making reference to the 4 key thematic foci outlined above – **PEOPLE, OBJECTS, TEXTS, IDEAS**)
- The practice based contexts/ problems your proposed work will explore
- The collaborative processes you envisage carrying out
- Outline ideas/ concept sketches for the form or content of the work or the development of experiments in this area
- Details of outputs you are envisaging (n.b. these do not need to be 'finished' pieces of work)
- Any plans for ensuring the legacy/ sustainability of the collaboration

Art. 5 – Official Languages

The language admitted for the application of participation and the project descriptions is English.

Art. 6 – Delivery deadline

Applications must be emailed to mobilityvariations@gmail.com no later than **July 5th, 2019, at 5 pm GMT**. Please include documents as attachments where possible, or if material is too large for emails please use an appropriate file transfer service.

Art. 7 - Copyright

Only original and unpublished ideas and works are admitted to the competition.
The authors will maintain the ownership of the presented works.

Art. 8 – Requests for clarifications

Any questions for clarifications or technical assistance can only be sent via MAIL to the address: mobilityvariations@gmail.com

Art. 9 – Selection Committee

The evaluation of the projects will be carried out in a private session, by a commission appointed by both the University of Padua and Royal Holloway University of London - Centre for the GeoHumanities. The decision will be agreed by absolute majority. The judgment of the commission is final.

Art. 10 - Assessment process and criteria

The Selection Committee will employ a point system (on the scale of 100) to evaluate the candidates and their proposals, and they shall be awarded for:

- Quality and originality of the idea (max. 25 points)
- Experience and appropriateness of collaborators and plans for collaboration (max. 25 points)
- Practicalities of the project and its realisation (max. 25 points)
- Potential of the project for capacity building in the field of 'Mobility and the Humanities' (max. 25 points)

The outcomes will be announced early August, with the Commissions to begin in early September.

If suitable and deserving proposals are not identified, the prizes will not be awarded.

Art. 11 – Prizes

Each of the four Creative Commissions selected is worth 2,000 Euros.
No further economic rights will be recognized to the authors of the awarded works.

The results of the competition will be officially published on the following websites:

<https://www.dissgea.unipd.it/> under "bandi"

www.royalholloway.ac.uk/geohumanities

www.geohumanitiesforum.org

The four Creative Commissions selected will run from 1/10/2019 to 1/7/2020.

Art. 12 - Handling Personal Data

Treatment of personal data complies with the general elements of EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR, 27.04.2016 no. 679)

Personal data provided by candidates in print or electronic format is processed for the purposes of this announcement and the entering into and managing of the relationship with the Universities, strictly for the period relevant to administration of the prizes.