

‘Variations on Mobility’ GeoHumanities Creative Commissions 2019

The Department DiSSGeA of the University of Padova (in the framework of the Department of Excellence Project ‘Mobility and the Humanities’ financed by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research) and the Royal Holloway Centre for the GeoHumanities are pleased to announce the funding of up to four (4) Creative Commissions on the theme of ‘variations on mobility’.

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* experimenting with the potential of art and creative methodologies 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 the arts and humanities as a frame through which to explore the historical implications of mobility, as well as the constitution of mobile phenomena in both space and time (from antiquity to contemporary history, from present times to possible futures).

Each Commission is worth up to 2,000 Euros. The Creative Commissions will run from 1/10/2019 to 1/7/2020. The commissioning programme is open to any collaboration 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.

As detailed further below, application will be through a two-stage process. The closing date for expressions of interest is 12/4/2019. Shortlisted applicants will be requested to submit a full application by 14/6/2019. The outcomes will be announced early August, with the Commissions to begin in early September.

These Commissions constitute a collaboration between the ‘Mobility and the Humanities’ project based at the Department DiSSGeA (www.dissgea.unipd.it/en/) and the RHUL Centre for the GeoHumanities (www.royalholloway.ac.uk/geohumanities & www.geohumanitiesforum.org).



Centre for the
GeoHumanities

The Theme

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.

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 living or dead 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).

Each proposal needs to indicate its area of interest. 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 in collaboration with the Centre for the GeoHumanities, 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 in early October 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).

The People

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 favorably by the commissioning panel.

Given the limited funding available, these Commissions are designed to support the development of collaborations by those researchers and creative practitioners who have existing forms of support (such as links to academic institutions). The Commissions will receive funding for materials, travel and other costs. There is no issue using this funding to contribute to other existing/ongoing projects, as long as a distinct and identifiable theme or set of work can be seen as resulting from this funding and the collaboration. Up to 500 Euros may be employed for specialist artistic services sourced from outside the collaboration.

Application Process

This is a two-stage competition.

For the first 'Expression of Interest' stage we require the completion of the EoI form at the end of this document.

Based on a panel assessment of these Expressions of Interest, shortlisted candidates will be asked to submit a full application (further details to follow).

Submission

Your expression of interest form should be emailed to mobilityvariations@gmail.com by 5 pm GMT on 12/04/2019.

Assessment process and criteria

Expressions of Interest will be assessed by a commission panel made up of creative practitioners and scholars interested in mobilities and the humanities.

The Expressions of Interest will be assessed considering the following selection criteria:

- Quality and originality of the idea;
- Relevance to the proposed theme (refer to the four ‘themes’ above);
- Experience of applicants and appropriateness of collaborators and plans for collaboration.

Unfortunately, due to the large amount of applications expected, we will be unable to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications.

For any further question, please contact mobilityvariations@gmail.com.

Variations on Mobility “Expression of Interest” form

1) Project Title:

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]

5) Short summary of how this collaboration will evolve your research/practice [150 words max/ collaborator]