

To Research or Not To Research? (Vilnius, 14–17 Oct 21)

Vilnius Academy of Arts, Vilnius, Lithuania, Oct 14–17, 2021

Deadline: Jun 20, 2021

www.vda.lt/en/doctoral-studies/congress-2021

Vytautas Michelkevicius

X-disciplinary Congress: To Research or Not To Research in the Post-disciplinary Academy?

Artists and researchers of any kind are welcome to apply with contributions that discuss urgent matters on the question of artistic research, the nature of its relationship with academia, and to artistic practice, the culture sector, and the art worlds. You can choose yourself what to insert instead of “X” in the x-disciplinary: non-, trans-, post-, un-, inter-, etc.

As a springboard for this conference, we follow the proposal by Charles Esche in ‘Include Me Out: Helping Artists to Undo the Art World’ where he writes of ‘certain educational fundamentals’ including ‘anti-specialization, anti-isolation/anti-autonomy, and anti-hierarchy’^[1].

In light of this, we wish to ask:

- Is artistic research like and aligned to the contemporary academy, and if so, how?
- Is artistic research a post-disciplinary, un-disciplinary, meta-disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary field of inquiry that because of this has the capacity to transform the institution?
- How does and should artistic research collaborate with fields (and research paradigms) outside of academia, and on what terms?

This first regional congress on artistic research marks the 10th Anniversary of the Doctoral Programmes in Arts in Lithuania (Vilnius Academy of Arts and Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre).

Ten years is a good point in a field or phenomenon’s maturation: it is getting closer to adolescence, has considerable learning to draw from, and the experience that enables it to imagine possible scenarios for the future. The phenomenon is mature enough so it makes no sense to return to the one and only answer what artistic research is. However, it is still very fresh to be fully recognised by other fields of research across the arts and sciences.

Thus far, most of the conferences on artistic research (SAR, EARN, SHARE) have been held in Western-Northern Europe; but with the proliferation of programmes in the Baltic countries and Eastern and Central Europe (from Estonia to Bulgaria and from Czech Republic to Georgia) it is now the right time to bring colleagues together from more proximate, as well as more distant, neighbourhoods.

The joint discussion aims to consider what the specific trajectories of schools, countries and

regions are and how they correlate with the forerunners of doctoral programmes in the UK and the Nordic countries. Within the variety of cultures of doctoral studies, we hope to build a shared understanding of and to identify different cultures in the Doctoral programmes in the Arts.

The conference is organised around both (post)disciplinary and thematic issues. When applying, please indicate your preferred strand and format, or propose a new one. Event organisers are open to any format of presentation and will try to support and accommodate the specificity and materiality of various practices.

Formats: performative talk (15 min + 5 min discussion), performing with the "epistemic object" you have brought (20 min), discussion/panel (45 min), milestone & keynote lecture (45 min), intervention in the space (5 min for activation), poster exhibition (5 min for activation), and similar.

Questions, topics and strands

- The Ontology and Epistemology of Artistic Research as a postdiscipline, undiscipline, indiscipline, transdiscipline, or even paradiscipline and patadiscipline?
- Who is doing Artistic Research outside academy and outside any discipline?
- Practices and histories of Artistic Research and Artistic Writing in Central and Eastern Europe. What are the regional specifics of Artistic Research: from post-USSR (post-socialist) to Nordic, Baltic, Balkan and Central-Eastern-European dimensions?
- Who is doing Artistic Research in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences (STE(A)M, chair prof. Aldis Gedutis)? What is Artistic Research impact on the sciences and research methodology and epistemology?
- Where is artistic research in Fine Art, Media Art and Material-based Art (art practice as research, chair Doc. Dr. Žygimantas Augustinas)?
- When and how do you make artistic research in design and architecture? (spatial, design, and speculative research, chairs prof. Audrius Klimas, doc. Julijonas Urbonas)
- When happens Artistic Research in performing arts, film and literature (performative and fictional research, chair artist and writer Paulina Eglė Pukytė)?
- Language and Writing. The role of language, whether verbal or not, and its national variants, in artistic research. (In English & lietuviškai). Modes of expanded and diagrammatic writing. Is there any other lingua franca besides English in Artistic Research?
- Publishing and dissertating. Exposition and exhibition. What is actually a supplement in the Doctoral thesis (project): writing or portfolio (artwork)?
- Post-research and everything.
- And other topics offered by the applicants.

Artists and Researchers Committee

Dr. Akvilė Anglickaitė (VDA)

Doc. dr. Žygimantas Augustinas (VDA)

Doc. dr. Ramunė Balevičiūtė (Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre)

Prof. dr. Mika Elo (Helsinki University of the Arts)

Dr. Rokas Dovydenas (VDA)

Prof. dr. Aldis Gedutis (Klaipėda University)

Prof. Audrius Klimas (VDA)

Doc. dr. Vytautas Michelkevičius (VDA, Chair)

Prof. dr. Agnė Narušytė (VDA)

Prof. dr. Lina Navickaitė-Martinelli (Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre)

Paulina Pukytė (artist, writer)

Prof. dr. Marquard Smith (VDA and UCL, London)

dr. Rūta Spelskytė-Liberienė (VDA)

Doc. Julijonas Urbonas (VDA)

Organizing-Curating Committee (VDA)

Dr. Akvilė Anglickaitė (chair), Vytautas Gečas, dr. Marius Iršėnas, Laima Kreivytė, Robertas Narkus,

doc. dr. Vytautas Michelkevičius, Alfreda Pilitauskaitė, dr. Ieva Pleikienė, doc dr. Eglė Ulčickaitė,

doc. dr. Darius Žiūra

VDA = Vilniaus dailės akademija / Vilnius Academy of Arts

Dates & Venues

Deadline for proposals – 20th of June, 2021

Note of acceptance: by the end of July

Please apply via application form <https://forms.gle/ETkWQhVBbBxxV72D9>

Conference dates October 14-17th, 2021

Funding: participation is free of charge for contributors. Selected contributions will be supported by a letter of acceptance for further funding applications.

Venue: Vilnius Academy of Arts and SODAS2123 (mostly onsite and partly online)

Artistic symposium: A performative Research Symposium-Festival organised by young doctoral researchers and artists will take place as part of the congress. The event will include open artists-researchers' studios, performative actions, exhibition, collective social & dining activities, etc.

If you have any general questions, please contact Doctoral Department coordinator Alfreda.Pilitauskaite@vda.lt or event producer dr. Akvilė Anglickaitė (akvile.anglickaite@vda.lt). Content related questions should be addressed to the congress chair Vytautas Michelkevičius (vytautas.michelkevicius@vda.lt).

Congress is organised by Vilnius Academy of Arts. It is running Doctoral Programme in the Arts (Fine Art & Design) since 2010/2011. So far 33 doctoral candidates have defended their theses and 34 are on the way.

More about the congress www.vda.lt/en/doctoral-studies/congress-2021

[1] Esche, Charles. 'Include Me Out: Help Artists to Undo the Art World'. In Madoff, S. H. (2009). Art school: (propositions for the 21st century). Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, p. 102-112.

Reference:

CFP: To Research or Not To Research? (Vilnius, 14-17 Oct 21). In: ArtHist.net, May 23, 2021 (accessed Apr 23, 2026), <<https://arthist.net/archive/34173>>.