

# Post Doc Art Event I

1.2.2018 Academy of Fine Arts Elimäenkatu 25 3rd floor Site and Situation -room

Presenters:

**Esa Kirkkopelto**, professor: Centre for Artistic Research **Lauri Väkevä**, vice-rector: Welcoming words **Tiia Saarinen**,: Research funding sources **Katja Kiviharju**, head of research services: Affiliation issues **Michaela Bränn**, coordinator of CfAR: CfAR websites

**Tero Heikkinen**, post doctoral researcher: Video streaming, recording, discussion notes. CfAR steering board members:

**Mieko Kanno**, Professor, Sibelius Academy **Leena Rouhiainen**, Professor, Theatre Academy **Mika Elo**, Professor, Academy of Fine Arts **Kristiina Ilmonen**, Professor, Sibelius Academy

## Centre for Artistic Research

**Esa Kirkkopelto**, Professor -The purpose of CfAR is to develop inclusive post doctoral culture.

The culture does not only include employed university post-doctoral researchers, but all post docs, other staff members and people outside institutions.

-CfAR does not exclude any forms of research, but the current priority is with the post doctoral. This is not limited to art fields, it can relate to art practices, or practices that in some way benefits from collaboration with art.

-CfAR raises the basic question, who are Post Doc Artists, and what are their real needs? Many do not do research, but have other roles in society, art world and elsewhere.

-Research on arts is conducted also in other fields, and the future of Artistic Research is undoubtedly that of collaboration, between for example humanities research on arts, arts pedagogy, arts field and artistic research.

-The past year, the relation of CfAR and the Academia (the three Uniarts universities) has been discussed. The suggested model is now “CfAR *in* the Academia, and *with* the Academia”. CfAR supports all post doc activities, no matter where they take place.

Whether the CfAR activities needs a venue or a material environment, is open to discussion.

-An important aspect of the CfAR is the affiliation. The affiliation to CfAR is being developed to work with as low threshold and criteria as possible. The affiliation would provide basic infrastructure such as e-mail address, and help in organization and funding.

This semester is for self-organization the CfAR activities. Measures to be taken in 2018 spring:

- Monthly post doc art events
- Call for 4 short-term post-doc researchers
- Funding for expert visits
- Production grants
- NEST meetings
- CfAR webpage, e-mail list, Artisticresearch.fi page

## Research funding resources

**Tiia Saarinen**, Uniarts, Research Services, Research funding

-Understand the funding party

-Understand the funding scheme and its goals (eligibility)

-What has already been funded

-Contact programme officer

-Contact research services

Some example funding sources include Finnish foundations, Academy of Finland, EU's Marie Curie fellowships and European Research Councils.

The question was raised whether CfAR short-term grants could be added to state artist pension. This is possible, but the funding always needs to be justified somehow. The CfAR applications are envisioned as light, as presentations of good ideas.

## CfAR on the web

**Michaela Bränn**, Uniarts, Coordinator for research and coordinator of CfAR. The CfAR website is at <https://sites.uniarts.fi/en/web/cfar/home>

The e-mail list collected in this event is a basis for the CfAR mailing list which can be used for sending information about events, calls and other news.

<http://artisticresearch.fi/> site is developed as a portal for artistic research activities within Finland.

---

## Discussion and collected comments on The Future of CfAR?

The event concluded with discussion based on a series of questions:

- Inclusiveness / exclusiveness of CfAR?
- Further measures?
- Nature of Post Doc Art events?
- What kinds of issues should be discussed?
- Role of AR postdocs in Uniarts?
- Communication & website –politics
- Infrastructure

– Organisation of CfAR

*...What else?*

Some of the recurring themes in the discussion were:

- The nature, function and purpose of Artistic Research in society
- Means of connecting with other researchers with similar themes, and across disciplines/domains
- Ways of being informed, access to knowledge, journals, theses, either through events or websites
- CfAR as a platform for common research activities, such as seminars, reading circles and presentations

Here's a selection of the written comments, partially edited and anonymized:

We engaged the logic of a publication / journal and still find a physical, printed journal that can in time have an autonomous presence while engaging the various faculties of Uniarts (design, fine art, art history etc.) a worthwhile idea. Online is not enough.

\*

Inclusiveness will provide the best results at this stage.

Further measures? Quite a range was presented already. But creating joint projects involving post docs seems to be of utmost importance.

Related to the above, should we discuss about confidentiality and trust? Most of us are applying funding from some sources and competing with each other.

Also, discussion on how artistic researchers can connect to other university research. Ideas about collaborative projects with, for example, people working/doing research \_on\_ arts. Perhaps a special session / gathering, researchers around specific topics. Links also to multidisciplinary!

Just wondering, the international fora that have already been established. What is their role in relation to CfAR? and: CARPA?

Website, a place where the post-docs can introduce themselves and their projects.

\* What kinds of issues should be discussed?

The reflection of research that has been done. A lecture series on finished, past doctoral works. How does the artistic research look like to the authors now?

\*

Digital/ Internet tools and resources and their connection to CfAR? What is free and available without university login?

Do people have the skills and initiative to use digital tools for making, distributing, collaborating on, and being informed about artistic research activities?

\*

Inclusiveness / Exclusiveness of CfAR?

Could we create research groups with MA (or even BA students), DA students and post-doc researchers? In this we could look at approaches in sciences and apply them in suitable ways.

As an MA student in both arts and sciences it would be interesting to take part in a broader whole, and contribute to it through.

What is the significance of artistic research, and purpose within society (cf. Science - Scientific Research) This is a broad question, but addressing it would help in founding such groups.

\*

Is it possible to get access to E-books, E-archives easily in the future through CfAR as a post-doc artist?

\*

The timing of these meetings is impossible for many musicians, as the sessions tend to be during evenings. It would be good if all the events were video recorded and made available at web pages.

\*

I am a doctoral student still 1-2 years away from graduation. I'm currently doing my artistic research in Aalto university.

Considering I'm a total outsider, not being a post-doc or having an affiliation to Uniarts, my only suggestion could be regarding inclusiveness. I would be very happy to participate in CfAR events in case they are organized as open-for-all basis.

As a doctoral student who is working quite independently, the thing that I'm severely lacking is a sense of community. From where I stand CfAR seems like a light at the end of a tunnel for that.

\*

Role of the artist-researcher in various fields of activity?

-Communication with other fields of society -> influences of the artist researchers

- Exchange of ideas and methods?

- To create interdisciplinary research projects

-International connections and their promotion

\*

We could take the initiative together to define the identity, the status, the role of artistic researcher.

On my behalf I already find it interesting that little bit depending on the context I linger between two possible ways to present myself as either artist-researcher or artistic researcher.

I find it important that we as such "creatures" take the responsibility and also freedom to ourselves to define what we can offer to society? What kind of experts we are?

Cfar could be the platform to collect and document these thoughts! \*

I propose a seminar or an event, which focuses on the use of historical data and materials in artistic research.

\*

The nature, methodology of themes such as 1. multidisciplinary in Artistic Research, or, multidisciplinary Artistic Research. 2. Artistic Research in/and society 3. Artistic Research postdocs in artist education 4. Developing education and training, preferably not double, extra organisation. 5. The spaces / contexts / locations of Artistic Research

\*

The dissemination of our own research projects should be topic enough for meetings, especially if the grouping has been made in an interesting way.

I hope the name "CfAR" is changed in the future. It is difficult to remember. The name could be dual-language.

Boundaries and gradients between professional domains:

-Historically informed contemporary art

-Socially engaged art

-Pedagogically oriented artistic research

\*

There are a couple of areas in which we are losing in the international competition:

-Funded doctoral study positions (Applying for doctoral school and funding at the same time)

-Funded post doc projects, which aim at thematized research (professor-led research)

-Attractive infrastructure, which in itself makes possible certain kinds of research

A small propaganda work could be made through Research Services to the academies:

-Artistic Research is important

-The whole infrastructure can, and should serve research among other things

\*

It would be good if CfAR could organize itself in such a way that people working on similar themes would find each other.

-> Smaller groups meetings and seminars where your work can be presented to artist- researchers, who are interested in similar themes and approaches, and who could comment your work

\*

Different functional possibilities for working as an Artistic Researcher?

Is it possible to have research activities outside research funding requirements as relates to the time spent, producing "results" and similar responsibilities.

\*

Events, webpage, affiliation, network

Method for activities:

Joining in to collaborations with publications as a tool

\*



How to advance understanding and knowledge about the work of other researchers and research topics, across research fields?

What does Artistic Research aim at? How it is articulated?

-Research? -The wider public?

\*

Promoting Artistic Research as a field. Presenting and sharing interesting research projects (Questions, methods, outcomes etc). Bibliography of texts published on artistic research in Finland. List and links to all artistic doctorates at all the academies (Or everyone in Finland?) Meetings focusing on interdisciplinary artistic notions of concepts

\*

Nature of postdoc events

-A thematic provocation (general or specific, such as "public", politics of body/-event/space", "rhythm", "transformation", "flying") with the participants' response to it through their own ongoing artistic research.

Possible working method

-Good old reading circle with introductory speech, perhaps with opponent/dialogue/based on prepared dialogue?

Venue (or not)

-One of the events (or outside of the regular Post Doc Art Event frame) could be the CfAR community putting up an artistic research pavilion, a temporary dwelling/construction in a public space, Rancièrian subjectification through taking a matter in (our) hands, perhaps.