

Foreword

With this issue, the Cultural Policies and Management Yearbook 2012-2013, published by Istanbul Bilgi University Cultural Policy and Management Research Centre (KPY), has reached its fourth edition. The aim of the Yearbook is to evaluate, on an annual basis, developments, academic work and research in the fields of cultural policy and management from around the world. The KPY Yearbook is published both in Turkish and in English and is distributed worldwide. Since 2009, we have been issuing calls for articles and review pieces in our bid to cover this broad area of cultural policy and management from different perspectives and geographic locations, aiming to understand the impact of the global-local nexus on cultural policy and management agendas. Our Yearbook has a number of sections: the 'Dossier' section covers our central theme of the year, while the 'Other Articles' section publishes academic work that has been accepted by the Yearbook Board. The 'Review' section, meanwhile, is a compilation of commissioned short pieces that cover important public events, publications and happenings of the past year in the areas of cultural policy and management. Finally, we have a section titled 'Top News of the Year from the KPY Database'. The current issue differs from the previous ones in that it covers not only 2012 but also the first seven months of 2013.

This fourth edition focuses on the way in which cultural operators have been instrumental in bringing about changes and renovations in the cultural scene in the context of and in response to the present situation of social change and crisis.

The current crisis has both economic and political dimensions. On the one hand, there is the economic slowdown caused by the financial crisis in Europe and the United States, while on the other there is the political crisis, known as the 'Arab Spring', which began in 2011 with the overthrow of the governments in Tunisia and Egypt and which continued on into Libya. Whether economic or political, these crises have affected many countries from North Africa to the United States, including Spain and Greece.

Their most important effect has been the emergence of a continuing political activism in which a wide spectrum of ordinary people have taken to the streets and public spaces. Civil society activism is spreading as a global phenomenon and cities are assuming new roles as stages of democratic visibility. This first began in 2011 in Zuccotti Park on Wall Street in New York and spread as the 'Occupy' movement to many cities all over the world. Then in the Arab world civil society took to the streets in the form of demonstrations and mass rallies, the occupation of Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt. In May/June this year, huge numbers of people gathered in Gezi Park at the heart of Istanbul to protest against top-down decisions regarding the transformation of the park into a shopping mall.

All these movements oblige a fresh look into the issue of political participation. As a way of participating in politics, civil society is finding new and creative ways to stage itself in the public realm. It is demonstrating in the 'street' (and learning at the same time) the idea that everything, even the most apparently insignificant aspects of everyday life, is political. And of course, during these times of social change, the role and function of the arts is called into question.

The reason for extending the normal 12 months-coverage of events in this issue is that in publishing this Yearbook we wanted to investigate and evaluate how this crisis and on-going social turmoil is being addressed by cultural operators and how it is impacting on the fields of culture and art. Unsurprisingly, it took a long time to gather together articles from places like Egypt and Syria where political turmoil is particularly violent.

Indeed, the military invention eventually made it impossible to receive anything from Egypt. Similarly, some articles analysing the cultural and artistic dimensions of social activism and popular opposition to the new interventions of neoliberal politics were late in arriving due to the changeability of events and the activism of the writers themselves. Delays affected the Dossier section of the Yearbook in particular; some articles did not materialise.

Eventually, however, Philipp Dietachmair, editor of the 2012-2013 Yearbook Dossier, which is titled 'Cultural Change-makers', did succeed in overcoming a rather unpredictable editing process and in gathering together articles, interviews and evaluations covering a wide geographical area from Croatia to Syria. Dietachmair is Programme Manager for the European Cultural Foundation (ECF), which has been collaborating with KPY since 2009, both on the Yearbook and on joint research exercise and policy consultations.

The rich Dossier which Dietachmair put together includes: commissioned articles and submissions, an interview with Doris Pack, Chairman of the European Parliament Committee for Culture and Education, on cultural strategies at a time of crisis and a second interview conducted by Ferhat Özgür, member of the KPY Yearbook Board, with Zoran Erić, curator of the Belgrade Modern Art Museum Visual Arts Center.

On May 28, during the final stages of the Yearbook editing process, protests began against the Turkish government's wish to build a shopping center on a park next to Taksim Square in Istanbul. Unlike the similar protest movements taking place elsewhere, you will not find a piece in the Dossier examining this protest in terms of its ramifications for the cultural and artistic world. As Nasser Abourahme¹ makes clear in the introduction to his article about the people's uprising in Egypt in the latest edition of the journal *City*, "[t]here is always a risk of writing into the 'open mouth of event'... there somehow seems to be at the same time too much and too little to say, a funny mixture of conviction and doubt." We are planning to give space to articles about the cultural politics of the 'Gezi Resistance' in future issues. In this Yearbook, meanwhile, we introduce the topic with two short pieces in the Review section.

As usual, the KPY Yearbook begins with a keynote article. This year it is based on a talk given at the KPY Annual Conference by Professor Yudhishtir Raj Isar, entitled 'Autonomy of Culture: a new take on an old concept' which analyses how this concept changes in times of crises and social turmoil. In the text published here, he explains how in the context of the present crisis and in the face of the neoliberal government policies to privatise public space, culture and the art world can become actors, stakeholders of popular activism in defending public culture. To do this requires creative means and strategies of self-redefinition.

The 'Other Articles' section of the Yearbook contains an article about the de-centralisation of the cultural field in Latvia and an article on sustainability issues faced by cultural enterprises.

The 'Review' section is global in its scope and features short review pieces on important events and publications in the field of cultural policy and management from over the last year.

The Yearbook closes with a selection of the top fifteen cultural policy and management news items from Turkey, covering the 2012-2013 period and chosen from the KPY news database. A last minute addition to this selection is the news of the publication of Turkey's National Cultural Policy Review Report on the Council of Europe website. This means that Turkey now has a cultural policy document. This Report is accompanied by an independent experts' report on Turkish cultural policy issues that was put together as part of the national policy review process. This news collection was carried out by the postgraduate students, Derya Acuner and Selin Özavcı from the Art and Culture Management Programme at Istanbul Bilgi University. The articles in this issue were submitted in August 2013 and they do not reflect the developments since then.

We would now like to thank all those who took part in the preparation of this Yearbook. First of all our students, assistants and researchers for their support and commitment, and to all those who showed interest and trust in the KPY Yearbook by submitting articles in answer to our call. We would like to thank the translators, Oya Erez, Ozan İşler, Miriam Angela Roome, Ceylan Uşaki Erali and Mehmet Cem Ülgen, together with

1 Nasser Abourahme, 'Past the End, Not Yet At the Beginning: On the Revolutionary Disjuncture in Egypt', *City*, Vol 17, Issue. 4 August, 2013.

our editors Esther Hookway-Banev, Nicholas Birch and Vicky Anning. Good translation and editing are key to the success of any publication. Thanks are particularly due to cultural manager, Dr. Ayça Ince, who prepared the 2012-2013 Yearbook for publication, for her energy and for her unfailing patience and long hours. Thanks are also due to Selin Özavcı and Serhan Şahin for their hard work and creative support.

We are extremely grateful for all the support we have received towards the 2012-2013 Yearbook given by the Zorlu Center and by the Directorate General for Copyright of the Republic of Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism. We greatly appreciate the confidence they have shown in the work of the KPY, in a developing field of study in cultural policy and management. As mentioned above, our collaboration with the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) goes back many years and has been an immensely valuable experience as well as an enriching knowledge-sharing exercise for us. It has been a pleasure to have the ECF by our side again during the preparation of this latest Yearbook.

The intention is to continue to publish the KPY Yearbook annually, backed by İstanbul Bilgi University and İstanbul Bilgi University Press. We ask for your participation in developing the field of cultural policy and management by following KPY events on our website (www.bilgikpy.com).

The increase in the number of replies to our call for articles for the Yearbook indicates growing interest to this field, and suggests that the area of cultural policy and management has begun to be recognised as a discipline in its own right. As the conceptual vocabulary improves, more research is published and a greater variety of analysis is being carried out, together with an increased flow of international expertise, this discipline will develop in Turkey. Our readers have an essential role to play in this process.

KPY Yearbook Editorial Board

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