

Street Art and Urban Creativity

The future:
Urban creativity studies
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The Future: Urban creativity studies

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Peter Bengtsen, Art History and Visual Studies, Lund University, Sweden

Since 2015, six issues of the journal Street Art and Urban Creativity have been published, with a total of 84 research articles and numerous essays, working papers and book reviews.

The journal, along with the annual Urban Creativity conference in Lisbon and a number of other publications and activities – including the research network Urban Creativity Lund – are indications that the field of urban creativity studies has become increasingly established.

The field of urban creativity studies has a broad range of interests including, but not limited to, street art, graffiti, urban foraging, parkour, skateboarding and guerrilla gardening. However, as with any field, once it starts to settle, a dominant paradigm tends to emerge. This will to some degree influence what is considered the core of the field, not only in terms of objects of study, but also in terms of method and theoretical approaches.

As a part of this year's call for submissions to the journal, in addition to our general call (see below), we invite contributions that reflect on the current status and the future of the transdisciplinary academic field of urban creativity studies that has emerged over the last two decades. Questions of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

Which topics related to urban creativity and urban creativity studies are currently overlooked?

Which/whose perspectives remain at the margins of the fields of urban creativity and urban creativity studies?

How can we work to include a broader group of people and a wider range of perspectives in urban creativity and urban creativity studies?

What methodological experiments are you undertaking and what methods are being developed?

Which novel theoretical insights can we draw upon to bring the field of urban creativity studies forward?

And, since this call for papers is arguably written from the center of the field, what questions are we overlooking that should be asked here?

In addition to this specific themed call for submissions, which invites contributors to reflect on our own academic field, we also welcome contributions that deal in a more general way with issues pertaining to urban creativity.