



Joint Cities Institute and Maastricht University Research Opportunity

PhD position 'Cultural Mega-Events and Urban Development'

This research position will focus on the theme of cultural mega-events and urban development. Mega-events such as the European Capital of Culture, the Olympic Games, arts festivals and World Expos play an important role in shaping the development strategies of cities around the world and cities invest substantial resources into the bidding for and running of these events. The PhD researcher will investigate and interrogate the relationships between artistic and cultural practices and the wider governance structure in place by addressing, for example, city imagineering, redevelopment, place-making and branding. This can encompass the extent to which arts programming and production is influenced and shaped by cultural and urban policy – such as diversity, regeneration and entrepreneurial initiatives – and how artists, creative producers and other actors negotiate the post-industrial city. It can also address the way in which the changing cityscape leads to the production of new cultural icons, ways of presenting heritage and the redesign of city centres and industrial areas. Finally, the research can focus on the changing expectations and patterns of cultural consumption and the role of audiences and participation in the arts and the wider cultural sector.

The PhD researcher will be supervised by Prof. Graeme Evans, Dr. Bas van Heur and Dr. Peter Peters and will become part of a research group on culture and urban development within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of Maastricht University where the position will be based. Of specific current interest to this group is the Netherlands playing host to the European Capital of Culture event in 2018 (jointly with Malta) and the selection process amongst candidate cities and city-regions – including Maastricht, Brabantstad, Friesland, The Hague and Utrecht. More widely, the group members do research on topics ranging from the creative/cultural industries and economic development to cultural heritage and tourism, artistic research, cultural politics, the built environment, and urban design. It is expected that the PhD researcher adopts an interdisciplinary approach and research methods from both the humanities and social sciences.

Strong applicants are encouraged to send their CV and a research abstract (max. 750 words; describing the envisioned research framework, proposed methods and empirical focus) to Graeme Evans (g.evans@londonmet.ac.uk) and Bas van Heur (b.vanheur@maastrichtuniversity.nl). Deadline for applications is Monday 22 November. Preference will be given to applicants who have followed a Research Master route and/or have relevant research or work experience.

The position is part of the Dutch NWO 'PhDs in the Humanities' scheme and will follow a two-step selection procedure. Following a preliminary selection on the basis of the CV and 750-word abstract, a select number of candidates is asked to develop their abstract into a full proposal (deadline: 10 February). These proposals will be submitted to and evaluated by NWO in a second review round. The selected candidates will receive notification in June and are expected to start their PhD in September 2011. The selected candidate will be employed by the university for a period of four years (no teaching) or five years (20% teaching).