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Creative Industries and Urban Cultural Policy

There has been a surge in academic and policy literature discussing the rise of creative industries and the creative economy over the 2000s. Creative industries are being presented not only as providing alternative, more humanistic accumulation strategies for post-industrial economies, but also through organizations such as the World Bank and UNCTAD as offering a way for developing nations to “leapfrog” economic and social development through combining creativity with digital technologies. This panel will not revisit debates about the creative industries paradigm *in toto*, but rather focus upon some underlying assumptions about the relationship of creative industries to cities, and their implications for urban cultural policy. In particular, papers are sought that address the following questions:

- What is the state of empirical evidence on claims that creative industries are uniquely incubated in the inner-urban zones of “creative cities”?
- Does the creative cities focus reproduce an urban/suburban binary that reinforces existing claims upon cultural resources to the detriment of access, participation and cultural democratization agendas?
- How are creative industries discourses being taken up in urban cultural policies, and is there evidence of tensions and contradictions in the application of such policy discourses?
- Can new insights be developed into such questions by methodologies that combine cultural studies with fields such as cultural geography, economic geography and urban and regional planning?