Organizers: Neilson, Brett, University of Western Sydney, Australia; Rossiter, Ned,

University of Nottingham Ningbo, China

Chair: Harney, Stefano, Queen Mary, University of London, United Kingdom

Logistics of Creative Labour: Borders, Subjectivity, Governance

We propose a series of three panels that investigate seemingly distinct aspects of globalization – the condition of creative labour, the transformation of the university, and the amplification of borders. These panels also explore ways in which such phenomena overlap with and reinforce each other. The analytical device and organizational paradigm through which connections are made is that of logistics. The global logistics industry, we suggest, is key to understanding emerging configurations of the social as well as their implied technologies and labour regimes. Logistics concerns the management of people and things in the interests of economic efficiencies. When connected to the multiplication of borders, the informatization of subjectivity and the rise of the global university, logistics holds broader implications around the governance of transnational worlds.

The proposed panel connects both thematically and in terms of intellectual collaboration with the panels entitled Logistics of the Global University and Logistics of the Border, which should succeed it in the conference program. Like these cognate panels, it investigates how logistic methods of governance, measure and management come to bear upon contemporary forms of labour and creative production. The panel explores how emergent technologies of labour management and economic generation are displacing the centrality of intellectual property rights (IPRs) as the definitive instrument of regulation in the creative industries. Part and parcel of this shift is a new emphasis on borders and regions, since 'cloud' providers such as Google divide the world according to state demands (as in the case of China), local and regional customisation of software and pricing regimes based on market interests. The panel will examine the relevance of these developments for the mobility and subjective capacities of creative labour across a variety of world regional contexts.