

In: Humanities & Arts in a Global World

Abstracts

2nd International Conference on Humanities & Arts in a Global World,

3-6 January 2015, Athens, Greece

Edited by Gregory T. Papanikos

First Published in Athens, Greece, by the Athens Institute for Education and Research

ISBN: 978-618-5065-76-8

All rights reserved. www.atiner.gr

Helmi VENT

Professor emerita, Mozarteum University Salzburg, Austria

Arts and Humanities in a Global World

Artistic and Transcultural Field Studies

The paper begins by reflecting on the terms that comprise the conference's theme:

"Humanities", "Arts" and "Global World", and goes on to address questions about the potential for transforming the 'big' concepts into manageable categories of thinking, feeling and acting, that means to 'humanize' the "Humanities". The attempt to bring about a transformation seeks to establish connections between the Humanities as academic disciplines and the Humanities as Applied Human and Cultural Sciences and/or as Applied Life Sciences.

Culture does not exist by itself. Culture arises through contact. That means especially against the background of our impermanent, fragmentary and erratic world that the university-studies on cultural issues need to establish additional platforms for process-oriented and transcultural practices that aim at finding forms of contact-oriented "doing culture".

A "global" orientation of the "Humanities" makes great demands; for instance, to perceive culturally influenced and constrained theories about global perceptions – including their categories and conceptual systems – as just ONE of the world's many views and types of knowledge appropriation. A global perspective demands to re-evaluate the philosophical concepts and methods of the western-oriented continents and - depending on the sociocultural and societal conditions - to leave those concepts and methods right where they originated, in their respective cultural and intellectual history.

That way, new spaces could open up for the development of a jointly supported basis for thought and action. We could open new spaces where we could learn how to learn from each other, where we could learn to see ourselves as others see us.

Global citizenship evolves from the people.

The paper will be complemented by film excerpts from Transcultural Field Studies (produced and directed by Helmi Vent). They will offer insights into joint-projects in India, in which communicative and social resources from people with different backgrounds from Austria, Germany and India lead into direct confrontation.

The chance of our common future is in the making.