

D'Art 24: Ethics in Cultural Policy

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IFACCA has received a query from Leena Marsio, Department for Cultural, Sport and Youth Policy, Ministry of Education, Finland. The Ministry and the Arts Council of Finland are looking for research and other resources that relate to ethics and cultural policy. The ultimate aim of the research is to develop a new cultural policy ethics.

BACKGROUND

The researchers are investigating ethical issues in cultural policy, with a particular emphasis on cultural rights. The aim is to analyse the ethical aspects of cultural policy discourse and draw attention to the ethical choices made in cultural policy. Based on the findings, the Ministry intends to propose a cultural policy ethics for the new millennium. Concentrating on practical aspects of ethics and human rights in cultural policy, the research will explore human and fundamental rights in the core fields of creativity and communications, and in the related fields of the creative economy, creative industries, art and wellbeing. An additional element of the research will be how to evaluate rights maintenance, through measures such as indicators of cultural diversity.

As a first step in the project, the researchers are documenting and analysing ethics resources connected with cultural policy: treaties and conventions, declarations, legislation, and government programmes and strategies. At the international level, the analysis will concentrate on the human rights declarations, conventions and programmes of UNESCO and other specialised UN organisations, the EU, and the Council of Europe. At the domestic level, the analysis will focus on legislation, government policies, programmes and strategies, and the ethical guidelines with a particular focus on each country's cultural sector (ie. the ministry of culture, or equivalent, and the administrative sector it oversees).

This is a potentially broad and abstract topic. To keep the project focussed, the researchers aim to concentrate on the following ethical aspects of cultural policy:

Right to culture

- Human rights, fundamental rights, civic rights
- Right to develop and protect cultures
- Right to choose one's own culture
- Right to participate in cultural life
- Respect for culture and its autonomy
- Equitable access
- Right to participate in the planning and implementation of cultural policy
- Right to protect cultural products, expressions, cultural heritage, producers, cultural identity and culture overall

Rights relating to creativity

- Right to creative work
- Copyright
- Artistic freedom
- Intellectual freedom
- Right to language
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of expression

QUESTIONS

1. Do you have or know of existing reports, analysis, research or ongoing projects that relate to ethical issues in cultural policy or to cultural rights? If so, please provide links or references.
2. Does your network of contacts include experts in these fields? If so, all contact information, sources and links are welcome, and please feel free to copy this question to them.
3. Do you have any opinions about how best to measure any of these rights issues (eg: through indicators of cultural diversity)? Can you recommend any recent research or analyses on measuring human and cultural rights?

We would welcome any assistance you could provide with this important research.

WHAT TO DO:

- If you can assist, please reply to both Leena Marsio and Hannele Koivunen (email addresses at top) and to IFACCA (info@ifacca.org).
- If you know someone else in your country who could help, please forward this query to them.
- The deadline for responses is 29 July 2005.

A summary of responses will be prepared and sent to respondents prior to publication.