

## ARTS, CULTURE & COMMUNITIES

### Option Unit – Semester 2

SAHC60112

Course Tutor : Simon Parry



### Overview

This unit explores the relationship between communities and practices within museums and the arts. It looks at how museums and arts organisations engage with different communities and how these communities are defined both from within and without through theory, organisational strategies and practices. It considers and critically appraises different approaches to engaging communities in the arts and museums as audiences and participants and introduces debates within policy discourses on community cohesion, social inclusion and cultural diversity. Case studies might include community arts organisations, social enterprises, outreach programmes and public engagement initiatives. We also explore how community arts might be documented and analysed for different contexts.

### Teaching and Learning Methods

There are weekly two-hour seminars with directed reading which examine case studies in relation to policy debates and theoretical ideas of community. Alongside the seminars there is a group project in which groups use simple audio recording and editing equipment to produce podcasts documenting case studies of community arts practices. The preparation of the podcasts is supported by an initial audio workshop and involves local fieldwork. Podcasts have focused on examples such as the Manchester Irish Festival, Contact Theatre and Community Arts Northwest. The unit is assessed by presentations of the podcasts and final essays which also incorporate material from the fieldwork.

### Illustrative Bibliography

Delanty, Gerard. *Community*. Key ideas. New York, NY: Routledge, 2003.

Dhaly, S. *Social capital and the cultural sector: a literature review for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport*. London: Centre for Civil Society, London School of Economics, 2005.

Kuppers, Petra, and Gwen Robertson. *The Community Performance Reader*. London: Routledge, 2007.

Matarasso, François. *Only Connect: Arts Touring and Rural Communities*. [S.l.]: Comedia, 2004.

Sandell, Richard. "Social inclusion, the museum and the dynamics of sectoral change." *Museum and Society*. 1.1 (2003): 45-62.