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CALL FOR PAPERS



CULTURE
SOCIETY
ECONOMY
POLITICS

**Representations,
Responsibility, and the
Construction of Cultural
Meaning**

SPECIAL ISSUE

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CONSTRUCTION OF CULTURAL MEANING

The cultural dimension of contemporary society plays a central role in shaping public discourse, collective memory, and the ways in which individuals and communities understand their place in the world. Cultural narratives inform how we relate to the past, interpret the present, and imagine possible futures. They provide frameworks of meaning through which identities are negotiated, contested, and reaffirmed.

Across exhibitions, archives, performances, commemorations, publications, and digital platforms, representations of the past are continuously produced and circulated. These sites and practices do more than transmit historical knowledge - they interpret, organize, and narrate it. Through processes of selection, framing, and contextualization, they influence what is remembered, what is marginalized, and how people, events, and communities are positioned within broader historical trajectories.



REPRESENTATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY

Cultural organizations—museums, heritage sites, archives, galleries, cultural centers, and other venues—therefore carry a significant public responsibility. They are not neutral intermediaries. The ways in which they curate collections, design exhibitions, frame narratives, and communicate with audiences shape public understanding and social perspectives. Their choices affect how authority is constructed, how legitimacy is assigned, and how collective identities are validated or challenged. In contexts marked by rapid digitization, political polarization, and shifting social values, this responsibility becomes even more pressing.

The current issue brings together contributions that critically reflect on the societal role of cultural organizations and the responsibilities that accompany their authority. As key mediators between the past and the public, cultural institutions influence how knowledge is structured, how narratives are legitimized, and how values are transmitted. Their interpretative choices—what to highlight, what to contextualize, what to question—have lasting implications for public understanding and social cohesion. The scope of this special issue therefore centers on questions of representation, institutional accountability, cultural mediation, and the ethical dimensions of presenting and interpreting heritage in contemporary society.

This issue invites interdisciplinary contributions that critically explore how cultural organizations and cultural actors construct, negotiate, and communicate meaning. We welcome theoretical and empirical studies that address the responsibilities of cultural institutions toward society, the ethical and political implications of representation, and the impact of cultural narratives on collective memory and social positioning.

Possible areas of inquiry include (but are not limited to):

- Institutional responsibility in shaping historical narratives
- Ethics of representation and public accountability
- Cultural policy and regulatory frameworks influencing representation
- The role of cultural organizations in contested memory debates
- Authenticity, credibility, and authority in cultural communication
- The impact of digitization on institutional responsibility
- Public trust, misinformation, and cultural mediation
- Inclusion, exclusion, and the politics of visibility
- The social consequences of narrative framing in cultural venues
- Fabricated heritage and institutional responses
- Community engagement and participatory approaches to representation



CULTURE. SOCIETY. ECONOMY. POLITICS

CSEP is an online open-access interdisciplinary academic publication. This journal aims at providing both professionals and academics with an overview of the interactions and interdependencies of culture with society, economy, and politics, supporting the development of inter- and transdisciplinary frameworks. It encourages investigations of the complex relationships between culture and the other elements of the contemporary ecosystem. The journal welcomes studies in a wide variety of fields, encompassing but not limited to anthropology, cultural economy, consumer culture, culture and activism, fashion, cultural tourism, intercultural management, management of cultural organizations, cultural policies, cultural diplomacy, cultural security, or sociology of knowledge. The journal is designed to challenge researchers to test the boundaries between cultural, social, and political studies, between humanities and economics. It also observes a practical focus and bearing, encouraging submissions to be practice-oriented and relevant for the contemporary world.

Submission by e-mail: culture-sep@facultateademanagement.ro

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Principles. The journal observes the following guidelines throughout the reviewing and publishing processes: academic grounding, fairness, and objectivity, originality and innovation, acknowledgment, and disclosure.

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Guidelines for submission

The journal accepts both research and non-research papers, which fit its scope and aims.

Research papers

Manuscript length: 6,000-10,000 words

Citation system: APA, use of footnotes is discouraged

Abstract. About 250-300 words

Keywords. 4 to 7

Proofreading. The submitting author is responsible for preparing the manuscript in a clearly written style, in scholarly English, with no errors of spelling, grammar, or punctuation. The editorial office provides proofreading, but if too many errors are present the paper would be returned.

Figures and tables. No graphic material should be larger than 10 x 15 cm. (4 x 6 inches). All figures and tables have to be numbered and referenced. Please do not attach figures and tables as pictures (jpeg formats) and use the facilities offered by the editing program.

Photos. For the submission procedure, they are included in the text and should be larger than 300 dpi. All photos have to be numbered, have a copyright of the case, and have a title.

Non-research papers

The aims of non-research papers are to present original ideas and perspectives in the field, to analyze good practices or significant cases. Discussions on emerging and developing countries are encouraged. These contributions should also be soundly grounded on data and be rigorously argued. The recommended length is 3.000-5.000 words.