Art activist (artivist) and non-celebrity clips as expressions of self in North Africa and the Middle East

• Location: Paris, France
• Programme: MSCA-H2020-ITN 813547-MIDA
• University of enrolment: École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales
• Employer: Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
• Work package: Narratives of the Self

CALL FOR POSITION >
EARLY STAGE RESEARCHER 3

Art activist (artivist) and non-celebrity clips as expressions of self in North Africa and the Middle East

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION >

It has been noted that the performing arts, street theatre, graffiti and improvised protest songs were a moving political force during the Arab Uprisings. Taking place outside the commercial structure of the art world, improvised spontaneous artivist projects continue to play an important role in political awareness, especially by inviting spectators to become part of the event. This particularly blurs the strict boundaries between art and non-art in a region where a strong tradition of celebrity culture and a state sponsored-controlled art world exist. Since its emergence, the Internet has provided space for countermovement and subversive genres of art. Due to political suppression after ‘the Arab Spring’, the Internet has become (again) a safe haven for expressing art activism. Preachers lecturing during the month of Ramadan, for example, are daily ‘answered’ and ridiculed by puppets in amateur animations. In addition, a new phenomenon of self-expression by uploading home-made performances by ordinary hobbyists (men or women) of whatever artistic level has become a fashion. Although not necessarily political in character, these amateur clips blur boundaries of art and non-art and are part of a trend towards asserting the self within authoritarian climates.

The ESR will be under the supervision of Dr. Pénélope Larzillière (IRD) and co-supervision of Prof. Karin van Nieuwkerk (Radboud University). External tutor: Simone Brannahl (PS Media).

The applicant is expected to develop his/her own research project within the framework of the position description.

The applicant will interact on a regular basis with the other project partners and cooperate with the other Early Stage Researchers where required. Additionally, travel abroad will be necessary.

Each applicant may apply for up to 3 Early Stage Researchers positions.

SECONDMENT >

• Center for Digital Scholarship, Leiden (Fieke Schoots, Laurents Sesink)
• InVisu, Paris (Mercedes Volait)
• Cultural Heritage without Borders, Sarajevo (Adisa Dzino Suta)

Deadline: 1st of June
Candidatures received after the 1st of June will not be considered.

Starting date: ideally in September 2019

Eligibility criteria:
• no residence in France for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately preceding the engagement date
• no PhD degree
• less than 4 years of research, Master excluded
• not restricted to EU citizens

Application form on: www.itn-mida.org

Application file:
• copies of degree certificates (Master degree or equivalent)
• curriculum vitae
• list of publications (if applicable)
• reference letter
• 2-page research proposal
• short motivation letter

Successful candidates will receive an attractive salary, based on the Marie Curie Program regulations.

For further information about the project and the position, please contact: info@itn-mida.org