

**Open Call:**

**All Talk**

## **Public Programming, Institutional Discourse and Militant Care**

**2-day workshop in Rijeka, Croatia**

**Hosted by Drugo More (<https://drugo-more.hr/>)**

**Saturday May 24th – Sunday May 25th, 2025**

We invite scholars, practitioners, and activists to participate in *All Talk*, a two-day workshop exploring the structures, strategies, and stakes of public programming within and outside of cultural institutions. This gathering will critically reflect on how public programming functions as a site of discourse production, tracing its genealogies, interrogating its present conditions, and imagining possible futures.

Public programming has long served as a vehicle for art and cultural institutions to engage audiences through formats, from the more classically delivered speakers' talks and symposia, to more experimental pedagogical initiatives like gallery education programs, artist-led workshops, summer schools, world cafes, reading clubs, marathons, citizens' assemblies, and many more.

Though often claiming neutrality public programming has, since its inception, been shaped by ideological struggles, institutional constraints, and political pressures. In recent years the contradictions between the alignment of cultural institutions with the so-called 'extreme centre' and their entanglements with political and economic injustice have been met with both spontaneous protest and longer terms attempts at social and institutional change.

This workshop aims to deepen our understanding of public programming as both a practice and a contested domain, foregrounding the stakes of discourse production in contemporary art, cultural institutions and beyond. How do different modes of public discourse production shape, limit, or expand institutional practices? What forms of discourse are structurally excluded, and how might we create formats that are more embedded with the stakes they claim to interrogate?

A key concern of this workshop is the relationship between public programming and care. The staging and formatting of public discourse systematically exclude not only certain bodies and life circumstances—whether through accessibility barriers, caregiving obligations, or cultural capital, but also the stakes of a militant care - one that considers the relation between time, effort and social and political consequence. One of our central questions is how the evocation of (critical) theory, in its production and circulation through cultural spaces, often

remains untethered from the stakes it hopes to interrogate. How might we envision forms of public programming that do not merely theorize exclusion, precarity, coloniality and violence but acknowledge their own implication with these conditions? How can public programming engage with care as an ethical and methodological commitment?

Structured around three thematic sessions and a final reflective, more speculative segment, the workshop will delve into the following areas:

- 1. Contemporary Right-Wing Public Discourse and Its Mechanisms of Influence**  
This session will analyse how contemporary right-wing discourse spreads through digital platforms, alt-right networks and institutional infiltrations, while also tracing continuities with older propaganda techniques. How does public programming—within institutions who increasingly situate themselves as 'neutral'—interact with these strategies? What can we learn from experiences of countering reactionary narratives within cultural spaces?
- 2. Both Sides Now: Liberal Paradigms of Public Discourse**  
This segment will critically examine the dominant liberal frameworks of discourse that underpin public programming, from philanthropic networks (e.g., the Soros model) to debate clubs, cultural diplomacy initiatives, and the NGO complex. How do these paradigms shape the scope and limits of public engagement? How do they embed the idea of neutrality through discursive forms and formats? How do they structure institutional relationships to power and dissent?
- 3. Legacies and Futures of Alternative Modes of Public Programming**  
Exploring alternative genealogies of public discursive production and gathering this session will reflect on models such as the Bandung Conference, feminist consciousness-raising groups, popular education movements, Zapatista encuentros, and other formations. How have these and more contemporary modes of public programming challenged dominant institutional logics? What are their futures in contemporary cultural and political struggles?
- 4. Closing Reflections: Making Room - Public Programming as Militant Care.**  
The final session will focus on the idea of "room"—not just as a physical space but as a temporal, political, and affective condition for discourse production and/as militant care. What does it mean to create room for sustained, situated engagement? How do existing institutional formats (workshops, labs, panel discussions) foreclose or enable more grounded forms of discourse? How can public programming make room not only for different voices but also for different consequences?

We encourage proposals that address these questions through theoretical reflections, case studies, or experimental formats. Contributions might take the form of short presentations, performances, dialogues, or other interventions that engage critically with the themes of the workshop.

*This activity is part of the COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)- funded Action: TOOLKIT OF CARE (TOC), CA21102 (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21102>)*

## **Submission Guidelines**

We invite interested participants to submit a proposal (max. **300 words**) outlining their contribution to the workshop. Please include a short bio (max. **100 words**) and indicate any technical or accessibility requirements. Please title your email “Submission - YOURNAME - All Talk”

**Deadline for submissions:** 20th April 2025

**Contact:** Davor Mišković: [davor\[at\]drugo-more.hr](mailto:davor[at]drugo-more.hr) & Valeria Graziano: [valeria.a.graziano\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:valeria.a.graziano[at]gmail.com) (Leaders of the Working Group “Analysis, Theory and Politics of Care” - COST ACTION Toolkit of Care, <https://toolkitof.care/>).

## Financial Support

A limited number of funds is available to support selected long-distance participants by reimbursing their travel and accommodation expenses, according to the COST Action travel reimbursement rules:

[https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2024/01/COST\\_Travel\\_Reimbursement\\_Rules\\_Nov\\_2023.pdf](https://www.cost.eu/uploads/2024/01/COST_Travel_Reimbursement_Rules_Nov_2023.pdf)

Please indicate in your application if you wish to be considered for financial support.

## Who can apply?

Practitioners/researchers of any nationality or place of residency affiliated with an academic or other legal entity<sup>1</sup> in one of these countries: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, the Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary,<sup>2</sup> Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Jordan, Kosovo, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Republic of North Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine (government controlled territories), United Kingdom, as well as in one of the EU Member States Outermost Regions (French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin, Azores and Madeira, and the Canary Islands).

We especially encourage Young Researchers and Innovators<sup>3</sup> and individuals affiliated to COST Inclusiveness Target Countries to apply. We will consider gender balance and geographical diversity in our selection.

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<sup>1</sup> A non-exhaustive list of examples of such an affiliation: work contract, enrolment in a PhD or Post-Doctoral programme, voluntary service in a NGO, and Emeritus professorship.

<sup>2</sup> Following the CSO decision of the 16 October 2023, considering the new guidance from the European Commission, as of 1 November 2023 until further notice, individuals from universities maintained by public interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021 and concerned by the [Council Implementation Decision 2022/2056](#) (see entities listed in [Annex I of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021](#)) are allowed to participate in COST activities without receiving financial support from the COST Association (either grants or via reimbursements). Individuals from the flagged institutions can apply to get funded via the Guarantee Fund established by the Hungarian government. The [Hungarian Act IX of 2021](#) is available in Hungarian. You can use one of the frequent translation web-based tools in order to get an English translation. A non-exhaustive list of the affected Hungarian legal entities is available [here](#).

<sup>3</sup> A researcher or innovator under the age of 40.

*\*TOC is an international project led by an interdisciplinary group of creative practitioners, academics, researchers and arts organizations that specialize in creative technologies and that have considerable experience in the production and dissemination of this kind of knowledge across Europe and internationally, who have come together to form a “critical network of care”. The network will collaborate to share their collective expertise and technical knowledge employed in creative ways to develop knowledge and methodologies of care. The main aim is to produce a well formulated and integrated TOOLKIT OF CARE comprising articles, prototypes, audiovisual documentation, technical manuals, theoretical analysis, prototypes, and data. It will act as a model of how to successfully share knowledge and expertise across different geographical regions and social groups.*

*\*\*COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation.*

**Toolkit  
of Care**

Union



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