

Review

1. Success of the project in terms of artistic research

Contribution and importance of the work to the further development of the discipline, any importance for related disciplines (transdisciplinary questions and methods), quality of the dissemination of the results (publications, activities at conferences and so on)

Comments

This is an excellent project that has achieved and exceeded its aims which were to a)analyse and develop artistic methods on story telling in the field of history and memory, b) to gain an understanding of how these stories might be connected between Israel and Austria. The final report makes clear where and why alterations to the original plan were made and out these have affected the outcome of the project. These changes all appeared to be appropriate to the project and there was much learned from the experiences and need to make alterations. One of the key aims was that this was an interdisciplinary project and so aimed to inform many disciplines and it would appear that putting the „arts practice“ at the centre of the project has enabled other disciplinary specialists to engage with their own discourse and practice in new and unique ways. I was slightly surprised at the need to keep these disciplines separated in the strands of the report. Of course it adds clarity but I also wonder if there is more scope – for any project funded by ARC – to the arts discourse and practice to be altered more fundamentally through the research interrogation.

The dissemination and quality of these outcomes appear to be of good quality although, not being able to speak the language or have cultural knowledge of the press and academic sectors it is hard to assess this accurately and I would demure to a reviewer who is situated in Austria.

2. Development of human resources in the course of the project

Improvement of the project leader's standing in the relevant field; involvement of young artists / researchers in the project work; development of international contacts

Comments

The project leader seems to have grown in expertise and the outcomes and new exhibitions for the key workers is exemplary. There is less emphasis on young artists or researchers but a newly developed community engagement and so there may be new artists emerging in the future.

3. Effects of the project beyond the research field

(in the sense of applications in or impacts on social, cultural, ecological, medical, economic and / or technological areas)

Comments

It is clear that the sensitive nature of the project has really forced the researchers to engage with these political issues and think how to conduct this research and engage with the public in a way that is sensitive to all groups. The exhibition, and the research that led to the exhibition which involved many community participants, appears to have been sensitively curated. The public awareness of history as it came face to face with the memory of individuals is pertinent and sensitively handled

4. Project performance (in the sense of efficient use of available resources)

Were the goals achieved? Were the changes to the original plan sensible? What is the relation between the results obtained, the duration of the project and the resources available?

Comments

Yes the goals were achieved and the changes sensible (as mentioned in section 1). It is hard to assess accurately the outcome, duration to resources as this would appear to require more locally situated knowledge of the field. On the face of it, it seems to have been a large scale project that achieved high standards for a reasonable amount of funding

5. Future perspectives of the research work

Should the topic be pursued or should the artists/researchers involved be advised to switch their attention to a different area? What goals does the referee feel should be set for future work?

Comments

To develop further, I would hope to see the arts research interrogated more. Otherwise the danger is that the arts become the vehicle through which we are able to come to know more about any given situation, in this case history and memory. It would be excellent to see more artist led research into the practices and processes of storytelling in relation to the processes of memorialisation and the role of memory in the telling of stories. I think this work might be very different as there might be no need to engage with a particular subject in the first instance. Although this is in no way a reflection on the value of this project.