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Academic Session 17: Edinburgh 2016

AAH2016 Annual Conference and Bookfair
University of Edinburgh
7 - 9 April 2016

Labours of Love, Works of Passion: The social (re)production of art workers from industrialisation to globalisation

Convenors:

Kirsten Lloyd, University of Edinburgh, kirsten.lloyd@ed.ac.uk

Angela Dimitrakaki, University of Edinburgh, angela.dimitrakaki@gmail.com

A term that emerged in feminist thinking in the 1970s, 'social reproduction' refers to the 'labour of love' traditionally performed for free by women in the home. Despite the crucial role it plays in sustaining and replenishing the working population, this work is usually excluded from accounts of 'production proper' and the economy at large. In viewing its worth as other than economic, this labour of love connects with accounts of artistic labour which is also seen as simply 'self-rewarding'.

Arguably, the *values* associated with a gendered sphere during the rise of modern art and 19th-century industrialisation have transferred to artistic production within the 21st century finance- and service-led economy. Is art, then, the exemplary case study in the socio-economic order of feminised labour widely encountered in globalisation? How might we connect this to the thesis that artistic critique led to precarious labour (*The New Spirit of Capitalism*, Boltanski and Chiapello 2005 [1999])? And, do the above compel a rethinking into what connects modern and contemporary art?

Click [here](#) to download a .pdf of this session's paper abstracts

Alex Fletcher (Kingston University) **Elisa Adami** (Royal College of Art) *Social Reproduction/Post-production in Numéro deux*

Elke Krasny (Academy of Fine Arts Vienna) *VALIE EXPORT's Transparent Space: A radical feminist curatorial manifesto*

Danielle Child (Manchester School of Art) *De-mystifying Labour in Contemporary Art History: Unproductive labour and social reproduction*

Beth Capper (Brown University) *The Erotic Life of Racism Management: Lorraine O'Grady's Mlle Bourgeoisie Noire*

Manon Gaudet (Carleton University) *'There is always tea and cakes': Collecting and negotiating female-settler identity in the domestic sphere*

Helena Reckitt (Goldsmiths) *Now Can We Go? Refusal and labour in the art world*

Barbara Mahlkecht (Academy of Fine Arts) *The Labour of Curating: Curating as service, curating as care*

Manual Labours (Birkbeck University) *Theories of Not Complaining: Compliance, coping and caring*

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