



Re-structure 2014

A conference discussing the re-structuring of the arts, culture and creative sector in Australia today

www.restructure2014.net

20. Nov 2014 - 11am-7pm
215 Franklin St, CBD, Melbourne,
La Trobe University (City Campus)

This is a free event but requires RSVP: <http://www.trybooking.com/GFKF>

Live stream available @ <http://centreforcreativearts.org.au/live>

Budget cuts proposed by the Abbott government have instigated a proliferation of restructures across the public sector. These restructures will have far reaching impacts on culture and education in Australia. Not only are we witnessing the manifestation of a markedly neo-liberal policy paradigm with its *small government* and *big society* rational, but with so many cultural workers currently sustaining their practice through employment in the public sector, we may also see a failure of a particular kind of Western art professionalism.

How can knowledge sharing and art practice be maintained and organised differently in this time?

This conference looks at the current state of the arts, and considers alternative modes of culture and knowledge production within times of shrinking public expenditures. Featuring participants from performance, fashion, gaming, media and community intervention, the event explores both broader sustainable strategies as well as "clever partial solutions" to cultural and knowledge production in a post-public sector environment.

In seeking alternatives, the *Re-structure* Conference looks to the proliferation of smaller scale community economies worldwide, in both on and offline environments, and to the modes of cultural production and knowledge exchange with other sectors such as environmental NGOs.

The conference will include presentations by Dr. Stephen Healy (co-author of *Take Back the Economy*), Dr Joan Staples (researcher / Environment Victoria), Dr Geert Lovink (Institute of Network Cultures), Angharad Wynne-Jones (artshouse / tippingpoint Australia), Dr. Maria Miranda (artist / researcher / ARI experience), Jon Hawkes (policy analyst / co-founder Circus Oz), Dr. Grace McQuilten (researcher / curator / founder of Social Studio), Siying Zhou (artist, VCA / Melbourne Uni), Trent Kusters (League of Geeks), Dr. Katharine McKinnon (community planner / La Trobe University), Rick Chen (pozible.com), Fee Plumley (artist, digital activist), Vic McEwan (CAD factory) and many more

While focussing on what can be done locally, *Re-structure 2014* also considers developments occurring elsewhere on this planet. In this light, *Re-structure 2014* takes place synchronously to the in Amsterdam, *MyCreativity Sweatshop: A Reality Check on the Creative Industries* organised by Institute of Network Cultures in Amsterdam.

<http://restructure2014.net>

<http://centreforcreativearts.org.au>

<http://networkcultures.org/mycreativity>

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Keynote by Dr Stephen Healy (co-author of *Take Back the Economy*)

Panel 1: Artist run initiatives – How gets art into communities and community into arts?

Here current examples of ARI are being discussed that engage with community economies as well as introduces into modes of cultural production within different communities.

Panelists: Dr Maria Miranda, Siying Zhou & Dr Grace McQuilten

Panel 2: Internet and cultural platforms - The merits and disillusion of the Internet

Although the Internet offers means for networking and self-organisation, one question remains: if we can come up with alternative platforms to what current crowd-funding websites are already offering and under which framework could we do that?

Panelists: Trent Kusters, Rick Chen & Fee Plumley

Panel 3: Learning from cross-sectorial experiences

This panel compares the environmental and cultural sector. Issues like the environment or sustainability are similar to the arts and culture not at the top of the list when it comes to funding and lobbying but the environmental sector in Australia, though, seems to have a longer tradition of *“going independent”* in terms of funding.

Panelists: Dr Joan Staples, Angharad Wynne-Jones & Vic McEwan

Panel 4: Culture & civil society

Lastly we are pondering into questions of cultural production as a part of civil society and the role of the state as a facilitator of such. Do we need to refresh our bigger picture view here or do we better just keep picking up the pieces while society is moving on?

Panelists: Jon Hawkes, Dr Grace McQuilten & Dr Katharine McKinnon

Panel 5: My.Creativity Sweatshop: A Reality Check on the Creative Industries

– a skype conversation with Dr Geert Lovink, director of the Institute of Network of Cultures, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences and co-organiser of My.Creativity Sweatshop: A Reality Check on the Creative Industries.



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"Fruit Pyramid Lanao" source: <http://takebackeconomy.net>