

Conference Programme, 14 – 15 September 2021

Festival Cultures: Imagined Pasts, Alternative Futures

Conference Convenors: Dr Maria Nita and Dr Leonore van den Ende

Day 1: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 – 14:00 to 17:15

Welcome

14:05 – 14:35

Session 1: Opening Keynote

Chair Dr Marion Bowman

Dr Kinga Povedák, MTA-SZTE 'Convivence' Religious Pluralism Research Group: 'Christian Rock Festivals During Socialist Hungary'

14:35 – 15:20

Session 2: Festivals from Past to Present

Chair: Dr Leonore van den Ende

Chiara Baldini, California Institute of Integral Studies: 'Mysteries of Transformation: Exploring the connection between Psychedelic Festivals and ancient Mystery Cults'

Emília Simão, Portuguese Catholic University: '*Ravesilience* and festival culture in pandemic times: Because the power of music and oneness cannot stop'

15:20 – 15:30

Break

15:30 – 16:30

Session 3: 'How are festivals adapting to a (post)pandemic context?' Round table discussion with academics and festival organisers

Chair: Dr Leonore van den Ende & Prof. Graham Harvey

Participants: **Michael Walling**, Artistic Director Border Crossings; **Teresa Moore**, Director of A Greener Festival; **Nanna Lodewijk**, Event Organiser Kamiwaza Festival; **Jasha van der Wel**, The Experience Enhancers

16:30 – 17:00

Session 4: Festivals and Politics

Chair: Dr Maria Nita

Dr István Povedák, Charles University, Prague: 'Festival culture and Neo-Nationalism in Hungary'

17:00 – 17:15

Wrapping up

Day 2: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 – 14:00 to 17:15**14:00 – 14:30****Session 5: Opening Keynote**

Chair: Dr Maria Nita

Dr Sharif Gemie, Independent Writer and Researcher: 'The 1957 Moscow Festival of Youth and Students'**14:30 – 15:15****Session 6: Protestivals and Imagining Alternative Futures**

Chair: Dr Marion Bowman

Dr Maria Nita, The Open University: 'Festival Structures and XR's Impossible Rebellion'**Dr Leonore van den Ende**, Vrije University Amsterdam: 'The future of festivals? Alternative events for sustainable communities'**15:15 – 16:00****Session 7: Utopian Visions and World Making at Festivals**

Chair: Dr Leonore van den Ende

Bosco Moshe Kuttner and **Orr Guilat**, Tel Aviv University: The Queer Festival**Dr Sarah-Jane Gibson**, York St John University, and **Dr Laura Risk**, University of Toronto: 'Performing Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding: Ethno World's Festival Performances'**16:00 – 16:15****Break****16:15 – 16:45****Session 8: Closing Keynote**

Chair: Dr Marion Bowman

Prof Amanda Lucia, University of California-Riverside: 'Utopias and Religious Exoticism in Transformational Festivals'**16:45 – 17:15****Rounding Up****Festival Cultures Conference Team**

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Social Sciences & Global Studies

The Open University

<https://fass.open.ac.uk/festivals-research>