

Everyday Revolutions conference report

Inspired by the centenary of the 1917 Revolution, the event explored the contemporary pertinence of the idea of revolution in Southern and Eastern Europe. Moving beyond questions of radical transformation and irreversible political change, we used the concept of 'everyday revolutions' to problematize the overlooked revolutionary potential of small-scale resistance, grassroots mobilisation, counter-culture, liberation movements, and alternative provisioning, among others.

These phenomena direct attention to the challenges faced by the 'edges of Europe'. From deindustrialization to corruption, and from authoritarianism to welfare retraction, the Southern and Eastern peripheries of the European project are currently troubled by profound social, economic, and political challenges. The diverse manners by which actors signify, cope with, and react against these everyday struggles are revealing. People's struggles for wellbeing, equality, and dignity materialise in ideological critique, intimate investment, and tenacious action.

Engaging a wide range of social causes, the multivalent concept of 'everyday revolution' materializes in sight, sound, and movement. It manifests in struggles against homelessness and deprivation, and combats nationalism and xenophobia. It finds expression in music, literature, and film. It resonates in civic engagement, youth culture, and pastime. Finally, it realizes in remembrance, imagination, and desire.

This event featured conventional academic papers on a range of topics connected to the themes, including history and memory of revolution, environmental and ecological activism, artistic and creative revolutionary practices and many more. The event was enriched by keynote lecture by Professor Davina Cooper, author of recently published 'Everyday Utopias', who will speak on *What good is playing at being a state?* In addition to academic papers a series of short and full length documentary and artistic films were shown at the Whitworth gallery, and complemented by discussions. Some of our participants also chose to engage with items from the Whitworth's collections as part of their presentation. We also held multigenerational workshops open to the public which on poster making, homelessness and revolutionary songs. As well as conference participants and their families these were attended by families visiting the gallery.

Conference participants came from across the UK and abroad, primarily Southern and Eastern Europe (the regional focus of the conference) but also China and USA. We particularly encouraged PGR and early career researchers, and as such were able to bring together cutting edge research in a creative and productive environment. We also gave PGR students at Manchester a chance to get involved on the day by providing organisational and technical support, and acting as chairs and discussants on panels, and as such improve their experience in these roles. We were able to support some of the participants' expenses, and socialising and networking activities during the conference, and prioritised expenses for those who would not otherwise be able to attend. Unfortunately some of those accepted for the conference were not able to attend due to visa restrictions.

We were particularly grateful to artsmethods first and foremost for providing core funding to allow this event to go ahead, and to allow as many participants as possible to attend. In addition the artsmethods administrative support, and PGR conference handbook were both incredibly useful to us.