

33rd AAH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

12-14 April 2007, School of Art and Design

University of Ulster, Belfast

Contestations

PAPER PROPOSAL FORM

Please send to session organiser(s)



Paper Title: Deconstructing art history, constructing visual culture

For Session: 05 / Museums and the Construction of Art Histories

Name and address of proposer:

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Abstract for a 20 minute paper (no more than 250 words)

This paper addresses the impact of institutional strategies, cultural policy and funding imperatives on the rethinking of art history in cultural spaces. It draws on the work of Dikovitskaya on the study of the visual after the cultural turn. To what extent are visual studies an appropriate extension of art history or do they rather challenge the traditional discipline of art history? If visual culture is seen as a cause of, rather than merely a reflection or a response to, social, political and economic processes, where does this leave art history?

Contrary to most research in this area, which focuses on the role of collections in building up a material history of a museum or public art gallery, this paper will specifically look at art and cultural spaces *without* collections. In other words, it treats the institution as a discursive space and claims that the identity of a space is constructed from its exhibition history and display practices as well as from the dialogue and controversy surrounding the staging of those practices.

The research will explore exhibition and curatorial practice in Germany, Scandinavia and Switzerland and interrogate the phenomenon of “new institutionalism”.

Equipment Requirements: Please state number required

Overhead Projector:	
Slide Projector:	
Other (Data Projector, Laptop etc):	Data projector, laptop