



September 10, 2014

**CULTURE ACTION EUROPE ANNUAL CONFERENCE:  
OPENING BY CHRIS CSIKSZENTMIHALYI  
IN CONVERSATION WITH ERIC CROSS (NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY)  
AND LUCA BERGAMO (CULTURE ACTION EUROPE)**

The programme for the Annual Conference of Culture Action Europe (CAE) is now available online ([www.caeconference.org](http://www.caeconference.org)). This gathering, due to take place in NewcastleGateshead from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2014, will challenge certain assumptions, practices and beliefs concerning culture and Europe, with the aim of shifting the focus away from “producing things” towards “nurturing social capital”. In this context, leveraging human networks and arts so as to actively shape social change is a crucial element in redefining the role of culture.

The Conference will open with a talk by Chris Csikszentmihalyi (*ERA Chair at M-ITI, University of Madeira | Former Director, MIT Center for Civic Media & Computing Culture Group*). This will bring together Csikszentmihalyi’s academic knowledge and his substantial experience in designing and experimenting new ways of empowering communities, especially those of artists and cultural workers. The talk will be followed by an open conversation on networks, social change and the arts with Eric Cross (*Dean of Cultural Affairs & Director of Newcastle Institute for Creative Arts Practice, Newcastle University*) and Luca Bergamo (*Secretary General, Culture Action Europe*).

Inspiration will also be provided by other notable speakers, including prominent representatives of some European and UK-based institutions – ranging from the European Parliament to the British Council – and such “unorthodox” speakers for the sector as Renata Salecl (a Slovene philosopher, sociologist and legal theorist). Renata will share her views on the evident increase in denial and ignorance with regard to social problems, and how the arts can open up new points of “visibility” and reflection.

To find out more about the speakers and the proposed formats, as well as practical information about the Conference, visit [www.caeconference.org](http://www.caeconference.org)

**CONFERENCE PARTNERS**

Association of North East Councils  
Arts Council England  
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Gateshead City Council  
ISIS ARTS  
NewcastleGateshead Cultural Venues  
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Newcastle City Council  
Newcastle University  
Northern Stage  
The Sage Gateshead  
Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums

and the European Cultural Foundation, with its longstanding support.

## **ABOUT CULTURE ACTION EUROPE**

Culture Action Europe (CAE) is a European network of artists, cultural producers and membership organisations dedicated to promoting culture as an essential element of sustainable development both locally and on a European scale. It also contributes intensively to the European debate on culture through the expertise and the practice of a wide community of cultural organisations and practitioners from different disciplines across Europe.

Culture Action Europe is moving “beyond the obvious” and transforming itself from an advocacy and lobbying organisation into a genuine network: a community actively engaged in discussing and reshaping culture’s role in generating societal well-being.

For more information: [www.cultureactioneurope.org](http://www.cultureactioneurope.org)

## **CONTACTS**

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