

## Symposium Cultural Festival Studies

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### **Szilvia Nagy, PhD Candidate**

Szilvia Nagy is a cultural researcher and curator from Budapest, Hungary. She is a PhD Candidate in Film, Media and Contemporary Culture Studies at the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. She holds an MA in Cultural and Visual Anthropology and in Political Science. Her research focuses cultural policies and on the transforming institutional background of the art field. Her interest in the institutional transformations is closely related to her curatorial approach to organise reflective exhibitions, actions, symposiums, and workshops on the participatory approaches in the arts and their role in cultural sustainability. In 2014 she initiated the Local Operators' Platform (LOCOP), a network and research platform to facilitate dialogues between researchers, local operators and cultural practitioners. LOCOP's overall aim is to highlight the importance of participation and evaluation for a sustainable long-term development, to raise questions relating to the sustainability of cultural projects and to offer an alternative to existing evaluation models that are generally applied in the ECOC context.

### **Deepening Participation: Towards a Sustainable European Capitals of Culture (ECOC)**

Albeit the European Capitals of Culture (ECOC) programme has been discussed and treated in many official studies from different angles, most of these studies overlook questions of sustainability especially in terms of the cities' long-term cultural and social development. Therefore, in this presentation I will first outline a deep approach to participation. The term is widely used in policies, in the cultural field and also in relation to ECoCs, but also in most cases thoroughly instrumentalised. This introduction aims to define participation and clarify the difference between participants and audience based on the participatory ladder. As a next step, I will brief why participation is one of the crucial requirements for cultural sustainability. Finally, within this context I will discuss the roles of local operators' in the ECoCs and long-term evaluation as fine-tuning mechanism of a better system.