

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

All the World's a Stage Now

Professor David Rowe and colleagues from the Centre for Cultural Research and Advanced Cultural Studies Institute of Sweden researchers at Linköping University, Sweden, are investigating the interfaces of culturalisation and globalisation. This research is funded by the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education under its Institutional Grants Program for the total amount of 1,600,000 SEK.

'Culture is often understood within national contexts or in terms of the impact of the cultures of dominant nations on less powerful ones,' says Professor Rowe. 'But with growing networks of transport, trade, travel, tourism, migration and communication, relations between the local and the global are being redefined. What we call 'culturalisation' foregrounds aesthetics, media and meaning-making in all aspects of social, economic and political life. Globalisation is constantly disrupting local conditions, but also carrying local cultures far beyond their points of origin. This multi-directional, dynamic exchange demands a better understanding of these complex cultural and global processes. Getting a clearer picture of the global-cultural nexus can enhance social, political and commercial interactions between countries and cultures.'

Comparative studies will be conducted by the researchers in four areas: cultural policy and cultural production in Australia and Sweden; uses of history and museums in both countries; urban tourism (Stockholm and Sydney are key tourist cities in an international tourist circuit); and media and popular culture, including sport, music and youth cultures. Workshops at both universities, with the substantial participation of PhD candidates, will allow participants to collaboratively discuss and examine their findings.



Increasing transnational interaction brings cultures into greater contact, but also results in their mutual modification. For this reason, the cultural dimensions of regional planning, sustainable growth, democracy and social cohesion have come to the fore. Knowledge of these trends is critical to Australia in a global context.

Project Title: Culturalisation and Globalisation: Advancing Cultural Research in Sweden and Australia.

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