Are We American? Canadian Culture in North America

SESSION VIII: *OBSERVING CULTURE*

Vladimir SKOK

15 FEBRUARY 2008

The *Cultural Observatory* concept

- Originally French / Europe
- Augustin Girard, DEP
- L'Observatoire du Grenoble
- Mark Schuster – "bridging the cultural policy research infrastructure"
- Serving the cultural policy research community
- Collaborating with the community

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Welcome to LabforCulture.org

The essential tool for everyone in arts and culture who creates, collaborates, shares and produces across borders in Europe.

MOST RECENT ITEMS

North-South Centre - European Centre for Global Interdependence and Solidarity

The North-South Centre was the outcome of a process started in 1984, when the Portuguese Parliament hosted a conference held by the Council of Eu...

Read more ...

Virtueel Platform e-Culture Event Agenda

The up to date event agenda of internationally oriented, independent expertise centre Virtueel Platform. VP stimulates innovation a...

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WHAT'S IN THE BLOGS

Latinamerican Contemporary Photography Exhibition tour

Description¨Confitura de Moniato¨ is a project developed and curated by Carles Poy one of the most relevant professionals in this area in Catalu...

Jorge Rodriguez | 01 feb 2008

Read more ...

LATEST DISCUSSIONS

Latinamerican Contemporary Photography in Barcelona

Event Info - Name: Exposicion Casa America Barcelona Salmeron-Garrido Host: The Arts and Entertainment Catalog Type: Exhibit Time and Pla...

Jorge Rodriguez | 01 feb 2008

Read more ...

LABFORCULTURE BLOG

WHO'S ON THE SITE ?

Cultural Observatories in Canada

- 2 Canadian public sector services have leveraged the Observatory concept … but in different ways
- **Canadian Cultural Observatory**
  - Knowledge aggregation and exchange on-line via interactive Culturescope.ca portal and off-line through partnered events
  - Managed by Department of Canadian Heritage but collaborative
  - Focus on policy research trends, information, no original research
- **l'Observatoire de la culture et des communications du Québec**
  - Focus on managing data surveys, research and analysis
  - Dissemination through traditional research publications
  - Part of of the l'Institut de la statistique du Québec
  - Draws on expertise of the l'Institut as well as through a number of sector advisory bodies

Culturescope.ca
Observatoire culturel canadien

Canada

4 février 2008

• Réactions | • English | • Carte du site

Recherche [_____] Allez-y

Accueil

🔲 **Nouvelles**

🔲 **Événements**

🔲 **Thèmes de recherche**

🔲 **Index A à Z**

🔲 **Répertoires**

🔲 **Groupes de Culturescope**

🔲 **À propos de nous**

Chronologies de la politique culturelle

connectCP
Canada
LE WHO'S WHO CANADIEN SUR LA POLITIQUE, LA PLANIFICATION ET LA RECHERCHE CULTURELLES

PARTENAIRES

Partenaire en vedette:

Balados Culturels
100%·canadiens
CULTURE

📄 EN SAVOIR PLUS SUR NOS PARTENAIRES

En vue

ARE WE AMERICAN?
Canadian Culture in North America
SOMMES-NOUS AMÉRICAINS?
La culture canadienne en Amérique du Nord

Sommes-nous américains? La culture canadienne dans le contexte nord-américain
L'Institut d'études canadiennes de McGill, 13e conférence annuelle
du 13 au 15 février 2008
Montréal, Québec

Nouvelles

📄 Suggérez une nouvelle

Manchettes :

📧 Canadian book industry 'flat' as titles flood market
– The Globe and Mail (disponible en anglais seulement) - 2008-02-02

📧 La musique, une industrie en décroissance
– Cyberpresse.ca - 2008-01-29

📧 Le gouvernement du Canada participe au lancement du Mois de l'histoire des Noirs
– Patrimoine canadien - 2008-01-31

📄 **VOIR LISTE COMPLÈTE**

Événements

📄 Suggérez un événement

Ajouts récents :

📄 Appel du Communications : 16e Assemblée générale (ICOMOS)
date limite : le 15 février 2008
Ville de Québec (Québec) - 2008-02-15

📄 Call for Workshop Proposals: 13th International Metropolis Conference
Deadline: February 28, 2008
Bonn, Germany (disponible en anglais seulement) - 2008-02-28

📄 Gouvernance et participation démocratique au sein des minorités linguistiques et nationales

GROUPES

Nom d'utilisateur [_____]

Mot de passe [_____]

📄 SOUMETTRE

✦ Créer votre groupe
✦ Créer un compte
✦ Mot de passe oublié?

EN PERSPECTIVE

Examen des tendances de la recherche sur les politiques culturelles.

DANS CETTE ÉDITION :
Pleins feux sur les jeunes : Programmes et politiques artistiques pour les jeunes Canadiens

Les archives d'*En perspective* >>

CYBERBULLETIN DE L'OBSERVATOIRE

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Is it possible to define and measure the cultural activity of nations?

- to define? No

- to depict? Perhaps

- to measure? Sometimes.

- to observe? Mais oui!

- how to observe? Objectively, except with a bias towards the importance of culture and cultural policy within the broader activities of society and economy and the public agendas.

- what to observe? The plethora of measurements, studies, data, reports, research and analysis, announcements, data and information both qualitative and quantitative

- what perspective? That of the community of practice, who are also the producers of that knowledge.

- Defining user needs? By engaging them and supporting their engagement with each other.

Gathering information

– an undeniable public sector activity (e.g. Statistics Canada, performance data or cultural policy and programs, commissioned studies)

- is not and should not be the only source

Using information

– public cultural authorities need it for good policy making and program management

-cultural sector for good decision making in the delivery of culture

-The cultural research community to provide new knowledge and analysis

- the media to critically review

Disseminating information

– a more complex question

- is government directly responsible for disseminating all information, notwithstanding source or should it focus only 'official' information?

- what is the proper editorial stance?

- what are informational needs of the community and what type of services are required to meet those needs?

- what degree of interactivity, networking, exchange would a full-service observatory provide?

urescope.ca
Cultural Observatory

Can...

February 4

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Home ▸ Research Themes ▸ Cultural Policy ▸

Cultural Policy Timelines

Revisit cultural policy across the decades

Canadian Cultural Policy Timeline — Timeline of Canadian Federal Cultural Policy Milestones – 1849 to 2005

U.S. Cultural Policy Timeline — Timeline of U.S. Federal Cultural Policy Milestones – 1787 to 2006

GROUPS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2008

3	4	5	6	7	
○	○	○	○	○	
10	11	12	13	14	
○	○	○	●	○	
17	18	19	20	21	
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24	25	26	27	28	
○	○	○	○	●	

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February 5,

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meline of Canadian Federal Cultural Policy Milestones – 1849 to 2005

piled by Sharon Jeannotte for the Canadian Cultural Observatory

isit Canadian cultural policy across the decades

Timeline of Canadian Federal Cultural Milestones presents over 150 years of key Canadian ral legislation, policy decisions, reports, programs and federal management of culture gorized into nine sub-themes: Cultural Policy, Arts, Broadcasting, Copyright, Digital Media, and Video, Museums and Heritage, Publishing, and Sound Recording.

0s 1900s 1910s 1920s 1930s 1940s 1950s 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s

or's Introduction

Sources

Print PDF

meline of Canadian Federal Cultural Policy Milestones – 1849 to 2005

| 0s | 1900s | 1910s | 1920s | 1930s | 1940s | 1950s | 1960s | 1970s | 1980s | **1990s** | 2000s |

Cultural Policy - Arts - Broadcasting - Copyright - Digital Media
Film and Video - Museums and Heritage - Publishing - Sound Recording

Cultural Policy

1990	Business Development Bank of Canada establishes the Cultural Industries Development Fund to support entrepreneurs in book and magazine publishing, sound recording, film and video production, and multimedia
1991	Task Force on Professional Training for the Cultural Sector in Canada (White-Rossignol) releases its report, *Art is never a given*
1991	Legislation establishing a Department of Multiculturalism and Citizenship passes
1992	National Sectoral Council for Culture (later renamed the Cultural Human Resources Council) established
1992	Standing Committee on Communications and Culture releases its report *The Ties That Bind* recommending a 5% increase in funding for the arts and stable funding for the Canada Council and the CBC
1993	Department of Communications and Department of Multiculturalism and Citizenship disbanded and responsibilities transferred to newly-created Department of Canadian Heritage (along with responsibility for national parks, amateur sport, official languages, off-reserve Aboriginal programs and citizen participation)
1994	Canada joins the World Trade Organization and ratifies the Uruguay Round of negotiations on the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade* (GATT) which exempts cultural services (but not

ces
PDF

How has the Cultural Observatory movement, often considered a European invention, fared in the Americas?

- it is alive, but often under different alias

- concept easier to embrace in Latin America given a more "European" take-up of culture in general – lots of *observatarios*

- is as strong or weak as the public cultural sector since in the end, as focus is on on cultural development for public policy-making

- overshadowed by entities that focus more on sectoral representation or advocacy (which can compromise the impartial or neutral stance required of a model observatory)

-works better when there is already some aspects of a cultural information system in place. Otherwise, priority is on primary research or building information systems.

- scoping often a challenge (general or narrow)

- easier at the national, sub-national, local level with public support

- much more difficult across national borders, languages which requires a networking function and supra-national funding.

What are the successes and failures of cultural observatories in North America and elsewhere?

- Canadian observatories exist due to public sector funding, but not without difficulty / mandate / sustainability issues.

- U.S. observatory-like entities are primarily located within academic institutions (Princeton, Chicago) while others that (Center for Arts and Culture) have closed down.

- Latin American Observatories are a mix, suffering due under-developed cultural information systems to draw on.

- Proposal for an "Inter-American Cultural Policy Observatory" has been superseded by CIS efforts

- UNESCO Network of Cultural Observatories has been moribund for a number of years.

- Observatory function proposed to support the UNESCO cultural diversity convention, but was not adopted due to concerns over costs of a traditional observatory structure.

- European LabforCulture, funded by the rich European Cultural Foundation as well as the EU, Member States and other foundations is, carefully finding its groove.

ervatorio Interamericano de Políticas Cultura
Inter-american Cultural Policy Observatory
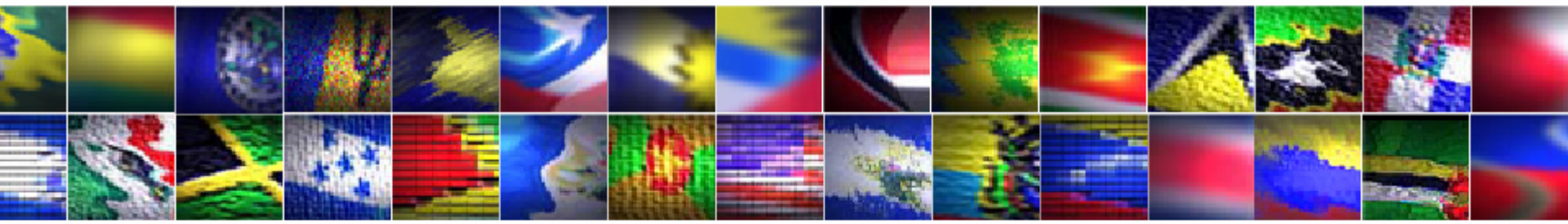
Primera Fase Virtual del
OIPC, desarrollada por la
Unidad de Desarrollo Social
y Educación de la OEA

First Virtual Phase of the
ICPO, developed by the
Unit for Social Development
and Education of the OAS

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