

SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR CULTURE IN ENGLAND POST-BREXIT: A BRIEF INTRO TO THE ISSUES

ROD FISHER,
Associate Lecturer, ICCE, Goldsmiths, University of London.
Director, International Intelligence on Culture 2000-2015

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BREXIT & CULTURE: A Preamble (1)

- Although the Referendum represented a major constitutional issue, the result was determined by a simple majority. The UK Government never envisaged the Leave campaigns would win.
- Regional differences in the voting.
- Many people who voted to leave the EU were unaware of the consequences.
- The result was hugely divisive.
- The cultural sector appeared to be a blind spot for the UK Government. Many warnings went unheeded.
- The UK Government consistently under-estimated the extent to which the cultural & creative sector depended on creators/workers from the EU.

BREXIT & CULTURE: A Preamble (2)

- The full consequences of Brexit for culture have been blurred so far by the Coronavirus pandemic.
- Although some issues such as Artists' Resale Rights have been resolved, many outcomes remain uncertain.
- Even when issues such as copyright & related rights are governed in the UK by international treaties, some aspects have been harmonized by EU Directives (e.g. photographs & sound recordings) which, in theory, are implemented in national legislation. However, following Brexit the national interpretation of such laws can start to move away from EU legal interpretation.

BREXIT: Some implications for the cultural workforce

- Before Brexit EU citizens represented:
 - 8% of UK classical music workforce (ABO)
 - 15% of larger museums staff (Museums Association)
 - 20% of dance sector
 - Almost 30% of Royal Opera House employees.
- Restrictions on cultural workers from EU will result in skills gap that could take a generation to replace, especially when arts subjects are being squeezed out of school education in England.
- 40% of visual artists travelled to Europe in year to July 2017 (artists newsletter); 70% of musicians travelled abroad to work (especially EU (ISM)).
- Cambridge Econometrics predicted 27,000 creative jobs could be lost in London.

BREXIT: Some issues on cultural co-operation/work (1)

- Impact of Brexit on artistic collaboration was key issue raised in the consultation on Arts Council England's 2020-2030 strategy.
- More than 50% of 1000 stakeholders surveyed by ICM & SQW for Arts Council England in 2017 said cultural exchange was very important to their work.
- Manchester University study (with Tom Fleming Consultancy) in 2020 predicted UK cultural organisations would be less likely to commission European artists because of continuing issues and uncertainties over Brexit.
- Without a single EU carnet, touring theatre companies, music ensembles, TV/film production will face significant delays/costs at each internal border when bringing sets, instruments, equipment & into the EU.

BREXIT: Some issues on cultural co-operation/work (2)

- A study by Euclid for Arts Council England revealed that 1,385 projects in the arts, museums & creative sector (excluding audiovisual) received at least £345 million from the EU between 2007-2016 through the cultural programmes etc. Several hundred more projects have been funded since.
- Investment in the UK audiovisual sector through the MEDIA sub programme of 'Creative Europe' (Euro 12.2 million in 2018) helped UK film/TV producers' distributors, a/v festivals & markets, independent cinema, video games etc.
- Although direct funding for cultural co-operation is not large it has been important, especially for smaller organisations, not only as a financial incentive, but for connecting with European cultural practitioners for dialogue, collaboration & building sustainable networks. Indeed it can often be the factor that determines whether or not they commit to engage.
- There is no indication that the Government plans to replace Creative Europe.

BREXIT: Some issues on cultural co-operation/work (3)

- The UK Parliament's Digital, Culture, Media & Sport Committee told Government that issuing visas for visiting creators on the basis of salary levels was a crude device for recognizing the value of cultural workers from the EU.
- EU's A1 system protects individuals performing in a member state from social security deductions. Without a bilateral solution deductions will be re-instated (up to 15-20% of salaries) increasing costs for UK organisations & individuals travelling in Europe.
- British Council report 'Our Shared European Future' (2017) indicated a strong will across Europe for continued cultural engagement with the UK.
- In a survey for The Observer of 50 leading figures in UK cultural life, 46 considered that Brexit ending free movement would have a devastating impact on the UK's cultural reputation & adversely impact its cultural relations.

BREXIT: Some implications for the cultural economy

- Arts Council of England report suggests 17% of earned income of theatre companies and 16% of dance companies was generated by international activity (much from engagement with EU countries).
- Pre-Brexit and pre-Covid19, Edinburgh festivals generated c£300 million from ticket sales plus spin-offs for local economy. The International Festival engaged c2,500 artists, many from EU. Almost 50% of hospitality staff was from EU.
- EU sales helped UK become the largest book exporter in the world. Following Brexit UK was likely to face major competition from US publishers.
- UK publishing industry also threatened by possible change in copyright law that would allow the import of books from overseas without permission from the copyright holder. Almost 2,700 authors raised concerns with Government.

BREXIT: Some reports & further information

- British Council, 2017, Our Shared European Future
www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/oursharedeuropeanfuture-communique)
- House of Commons, Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, 23 January 2018, “The Potential Impact of Brexit on the Creative Industries, Tourism and the Digital Single Market: 2nd report of session 2017-2019.
- Arts Council England, 2017, “Assessing the European Union’s Contribution to the Arts, Museums and Creative Industries in England”, EUCLID.
- ICM Unlimited, 2017, “Impact of Brexit on the Arts and Culture Sector”, report on behalf on Arts Council England.
- Greater London Authority, 2017, “Preparing for Brexit”, (Cambridge Econometrics)
(www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/preparing_for_brexit_final_report.pdf)
- Creative Industries Federation, 2018, “Global Trade Report
www.creativeindustriesfederation.com/sites/default/files/2018-01/Federation%20Global%20Trade%20Report_0.pdf)
- Manchester University, 2020, “The Arts After Brexit” (www.manchester.ac.uk).