

Call for papers:

## Re-searching relevance

Questioning canons of music, dance and theatre around 1800

Trondheim, January 7<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> 2016

*In what way has criticism and scholarly work historically contributed to the canonization of works of art within the fields of music, theatre and dance?*

*What is the role of contemporary scholarship in deconstructing the concept of 'classics' and bringing 'forgotten' works of art back from the margins?*

*How is 'relevance' produced around historical works of art?*

**The interdisciplinary project *Performing arts between dilettantism and professionalism (pArts)* hereby invites paper proposals on the above-mentioned topics.**

At two preceding conferences, the project has explored the development of professionalism within the fields of light opera, theatre and dance in Northern Europe in the decades around 1800. We have looked into the preconditions for the development of professional performers and the establishment of permanent institutions within the artistic fields in question. Also, we have investigated changes in repertoire supporting – and reflecting – this development, and looked into the role of the performing arts for the development of bourgeois culture, growing nationalism, and democratic practices. We have especially tried to reconsider some of the period's artistic practices, including theatrical and social dance, light opera and trivial drama. These are phenomena that to a certain degree have been marginalised in the Nordic research tradition, and also partly in the Western tradition as a whole.

At this upcoming conference, we would like to pursue scholarly questions of a similar kind, but focusing more consistently on the tension between canonisation and marginalisation. One of the major scholarly projects within humanities in the last decades has been a re-examination of 'canons'. Different notions of 'relevance' have played a crucial part in the canonisation processes. The canon is sometimes called upon for its 'timeless' traits, always promising social and political relevance. At other times, the canon is claimed to be a stable reference for artistic development, or an expression of intrinsic aesthetic values. Form, style, and genre characteristics have always played a role in the establishment of canons, as well as in marginalisation of the inferior.

Paper proposals do not have to confine themselves to practices from the Nordic countries.

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**Venue: To be announced.**

*Performing arts between dilettantism and professionalism. Music, theatre and dance in the Norwegian public sphere 1770–1850 (pArts)* is a multi-disciplinary research project supported by the Norwegian Research Council and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), the Faculty of Humanities. For more information on the project, see:

[www.ntnu.no/parts/prosjekt](http://www.ntnu.no/parts/prosjekt)

**Re-searching relevance** is the third in a series of three conferences arranged by pArts in the period 2012–2016. For more information regarding this conference please check the following website where any changes and updates will be made available at the earliest convenience:

[www.ntnu.no/parts/arrangementer](http://www.ntnu.no/parts/arrangementer)

**Deadline for paper proposals:**

Proposals for papers, including a max. 300 words abstract, your name, affiliation and email address, should be submitted to [parts@ntnu.no](mailto:parts@ntnu.no) by October 15<sup>th</sup> 2015. Notice of acceptance will be given by November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.



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