

Memo: - ESCUS 2005/6
(European Social and Cultural Studies interdisciplinary research centre)

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In 2005/6 we developed interdisciplinary research activities on two main fronts:

1. The European Public Sphere
2. Tourism, Culture and Policy

‘The European Public Sphere’: - ESCUS activities:

- i) we convened an international conference
- ii) we convened an international research planning workshop (partially supported by British Academy funding)
- iii) we coordinated a major (5 million euro) bid to the EU under Framework 6 for a 15-country Integrated Project (this was well received in the evaluation, but failed to win funding)
- iv) we are currently editing a book (Prof. Jackie Harrison and Dr. Bridgette Wessels are the editors; there are many international contributions; the publishers are Berghahn Press, Oxford; publication in 2006/7)
- v) we were partners in a major bid to the EU under Framework 6 on Democracy and Public Culture. This was coordinated by our Vienna colleagues (ICCR). It got through to the second stage of evaluation and would have been worth 400,000 euros to ESCUS. Unfortunately ultimately it didn't win through to financing.
- vi) we are considering further possibilities and projects involving comparative research in Germany, Bulgaria and the UK, with British and international partners.

‘Tourism, Culture and Policy’: - ESCUS activities:

ESCUS established a joint plan of research-related activities in this field with the Centre for Tourism and Cultural Change (CTCC), at Sheffield Hallam University. This involves the following:

- i) a joint Sheffield University and Sheffield Hallam University ‘stock-taking’ workshop on ‘Tourism, Culture and Policy’ (held at ICOSS and supported by the SU’s Research Office), reviewing cross-departmental and inter-institutional research strengths and interests in these fields (Nov 2005).
- ii) a joint ESCUS-CTCC bid to the EU (DG Enterprise (Tourism section)) for a research project on the social and economic tourism impacts of major cultural and sporting events across Europe (decision in 2006).
- iii) a joint Roundtable on Regional Policy for Tourism and Culture, (medium-term strategies and research needs, including those relating to the Olympic 2012 project) involving regional stakeholders (forthcoming, ICOSS, 2006)
- iv) a joint Seminar on ‘Tourism, Culture and Society’ involving national social science and humanities experts to develop a large-scale bid in this field to ESRC and/or AHRC for later in 2006 (forthcoming mid-2006).

