



International Walking Encounters/Conference Sunday July 4th to Sunday July 11th 2021, Prespa, Greece



Walking as a Question

What questions does walking pose? What questions can walking be used to explore? Who walks? Who chooses to walk? Who is forced to walk? Who can walk? Who cannot?

In raising walking as a question in itself, we invite critical and artistic engagement with the limits and possibilities of this most everyday of modalities. Borders and checkpoints curtail walking. Dog companions stimulate a stroll. People have been forcibly marched to new territories. People have walked across enormous distances in search of refuge, asylum and freedom. Some use parks and hiking trails for their regular exercise; others walk miles to work; still others must contend with walls or constricted spaces such as in a prison yard or camp.

- How can walking be used to highlight or intervene in political, personal, social, economic, and ecological issues?
- How does walking expose assumptions regarding ability/disability, mobility and immobility?
- How can we think about the material and sensory aspects of walking—the soles of one's feet, calluses, footwear, hiking poles, crutches and wheelchairs?
- What sort of a question can walking as an aesthetic practice ask of our contemporary moment—of the pandemic, of migration, of climate change?
- What questions does the ground you walk on raise?
- What sort of questions does walking ask of you as a person? How do you ask questions by walking?
- What questions are activated by walking the territories we inhabit (in terms of negotiating and designing the urban/rural - public/private space)?
- What questions are activated by walking the territories and with the communities of Prespa?
- How can we share a walking experience in real time with others who live elsewhere in the world through walking hubs?

CALL FOR CREATIVE PROJECTS AND PAPERS



Photo: Vasilis Ioakeimidis

We invite proposals from artists, writers and other creative practitioners, critics and scholars that take up any or all of the provocative questions embedded within the Encounters/ Conference theme. of the International Walking Encounters / Conference. All media and formats are welcomed: e.g., film, poetry and other textual interventions, sonic investigations and audio papers, performances, immersive virtual experiences, digital and new media art as well as sound walks, guided walks, workshops/participatory walkshops etc.

We ask proposals to consider how the work can be experienced virtually if it is also conducted on the ground, in real time.

Project history

The 2021 Walking Encounters / Conference is the second international walking Encounters/Conference that takes place in Prespa. The Encounters / Conference was first realized in 2019 by *Visual March to Prespa*, an artistic venue of the Department of Fine and Applied Arts of the School of Fine Arts of the University of Western Macedonia (EETF/UOWM), and by *Made of Walking (VI)*. The Encounters / Conference was titled *Walking Practices/Walking Art/Walking Bodies* and initiated a momentum of research in the field of the walking arts. An archive of all the walking activities was realized and can be accessed in <https://tinyurl.com/youtube channel WAC 2019> and a 600-page volume recorded the process and its outcome, both artistic and theoretical.

The Walking Arts Encounters Conference, 2021 takes place in a collaboration of Visual March to Prespa (EETF/UOWM) with Made of Walking (VIII), AICA/Hellas and with other international and local partners.

Artists, cultural practitioners and scholars interested in walking practices are invited. to explore these questions on foot and with materials and media in a variety of ways.

SUBMISSIONS: TWO PATHWAYS

For the 2021 edition of the Encounters/Conference, to be held in the shadow of the pandemic, the main activities will be held in Prespa but in addition we will explore the possibilities that virtual international exchange can facilitate. To that end, we invite submissions along two tracks:

TRACK ONE: As a “Hub”: A hub is a partner based anywhere in the world who wishes to organize a set of local events or activities that align with the Prespa Encounters / Conference theme--but which respond to questions and conditions within their own site/network/region. Such activities, during the period of 4-11 July 2021, might include local walking experiences, performances, conversations and panels with some component of these events organized so they can be experienced long-distance by a conference participant in any location. Hub partners may be artistic or curatorial collectives, local networks or organizations or university programs. The encounters/conference provides access to a larger international network of walking practitioners and scholars as well as promotion for all activities, but the local hub bears the responsibility for organizing and resourcing the events. A hub application should include the following:

- Conceptual framework or theme that relates to the encounters/conference: What walking questions/practices are unique to your location/region? Is there a site-specific theme?
- Program: Duration, content, activities you propose, including panels, performances, walks etc. How will these be curated or solicited?
- Capacity: What resources or experience do you have in organizing such an event?
- Virtual/networked component: How will the works/events/presentations your hub realizes be made available to the Walking Encounters/Conference?

Finalists for hub partners will be scheduled for an interview with the organizers before the final confirmation and are asked to express their interest latest by **March 30th 2021**

TRACK TWO: As an individual proposal for papers and audiopapers, workshops or other creative proposals. This may be submitted by an individual or small group in relationship to the Encounters / Conference theme. We seek a balance between Prespa-located and other projects considering questions that arise around mobility/immobility, including participants that are not able to travel.

The conference organizers are open to a range of formats as indicated above. The application should include the following (full details see below this page):

- Thematic connection: How does your project/paper take up the theme of walking as a question?
- Description of the project or an abstract of the paper
- Location: Is the project being proposed for Prespa? How can it be shared or experienced virtually in Prespa?

We encourage interactive, interdisciplinary and collaborative/participative/collective approaches.

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2021

*The official language of the workshops and conference is English, although hub activities may be organized in other languages.

APPLICATION PROCESS

-For conference papers and audio papers:

A presentation 10-15 minutes long, pertinent to the above themes, will take place during the Conference.

For a paper presentation an abstract should be submitted by **April 30th 2021** of approximately 300 words and a short CV (150 words) along with the name and the affiliation of the writer. By **May 15th 2021** the authors will receive a notification of acceptance. The co-authors for papers can be maximum three. All co-authors need to register.

Audio papers will be published online for download. Audio papers need to have a performative or site-specific element. See for reference <http://www.soundstudieslab.org/what-is-an-audio-paper/>

Please specify if the application is for a paper or for an audio paper.

The abstract should be **submitted online in the Conference site** (including your name/affiliation, the presentation title, the main theme, and a short bio of up to 150 words). The application platform will be available after February 15th, 2021.

IMPORTANT

In the proposal the applicant should specify whether he/she intends to travel to Prespa or will participate remotely, and if they will participate as an individual or a hub. Please clarify how the proposal will be connected to both the subject of the Encounters / Conference, whether the participants are in Prespa or joining and walking elsewhere in the world in the walking hubs.

-For the art proposals, performances, workshops:

By **April 30th 2021**, an outline of the process (300 words) should be submitted, accompanied with up to 5 photos or graphics (if needed) or links pertinent to the above themes. For the workshops, information about an estimated duration, desired time of the day (dawn, morning, midday, afternoon, dusk/evening, night) and a maximum number of participants needs to be included. By **May 15th 2021** the artists will receive a notification of acceptance. In case of participation as a hub, the hub needs to be described in the application.

The abstract should be **submitted online in the Conference site** (including your name/affiliation, the presentation title, the main theme, and a short bio of up to 150 words). The application platform will be available after February 15th, 2021.

The Encounters / Conference is conceived and composed as a unity of practices and sharing of ideas. Participants coming to Prespa are encouraged to stay for the entire event whenever possible, to ensure the richest and most meaningful exchange to occur, along with exploring engagements with the territory and community of Prespa.

Important dates

30 March 2021: Expression of interest for hub participation, followed by an interview before end of March

30 April 2021: Submission of abstract/art projects and remote or hub activities

15 May 2021: Author/Artist Notification

15 May 2021 to June 20: registration

4-11 July 2021: Walking Encounters /Conference

30 August 2021: Submission of the final papers/ description and documentation of the projects

REGISTRATION FEES

For participants experiencing financial hardship or for whom the fees would be prohibitive, the fees can be waived or reduced on request. For remote attendees and for hubs who organize activities in their local community the registration fee is waived. We are dependent on your contributions and donations and this Encounters/Conference would not be possible if not by the priceless and voluntary effort of many people locally and around the world.

Early bird payments (until May 30th)

60 euros per paper/art proposal/poster per participant for early bird registrations

20 euros for any additional paper/art proposal for early bird registrations

10 euros for students (please provide evidence) /student participation for early bird registrations

40 euros for any attendee (those who don't present a paper, project or poster) for early bird registrations. Remote attendees are not required to pay, see below.

Regular payment (after May 30th)

80 euros per paper/art proposal/poster per participant

30 euros for any additional paper/art proposal

20 euros for students (please provide evidence)

50 euros for any attendee (those who don't present a paper, project or poster). Remote attendees are not required to pay, see below.

For unemployed, including artists and cultural workers with no other means of income or that have lost their income by the pandemic, for EETF graduates and students there is no fee (please provide evidence).

In case that you belong to one of these categories (unemployed or artist with no other means of income, EETF graduates or students) please notify the Organizing Committee with the contact form of the site: <http://icowaf.eetf.uowm.gr/contact/>
For those who acquire the printed volume of the 2019 proceedings (Walking Practices/Walking Art/Walking Bodies) they will have a 25% discount in their registration fee. For acquiring this publication see following link: <http://icowaf.eetf.uowm.gr/> (will be available after February 4th)

The Encounters/Conference registration includes:

- The attendees/participants will receive a certificate of attendance from the University of Western Macedonia
- Access to all official conference sessions
- Encounters/Conference bag with program booklet and digital conference proceedings
- Buffet, Coffee breaks and snacks. Refreshments during coffee breaks, buffet lunch during lunch breaks of the Encounters/Conference sessions.

Donations / Registration fee for remote attendees:

Although we don't ask registration fees to remote attendees we would appreciate a donation on the conference bank account. Your contribution will help support the artists- and students-volunteers and the local community during the Walking Encounters/ Conference.

OTHER

Accommodation:

For a small group of participants we can provide free accommodation in the annex of the Art School in Psarades/Prespa. Simple accommodation is offered in bunk beds in a separate female and male dormitory, with use of a shared kitchen and separate female and male bathrooms. Places are limited, so contact us as soon as possible if you want to use our facilities. The kitchen, dining room and workspace of the annex will be available for all participants.

Hotel accommodation is at one's own expense and starts at 35 euro/night for a single room in Prespes.

IMPORTANT

The Organizing Committee will follow all the measures related to the pandemic situation as addressed from the Hellenic Public Health Organisation (EOΔΥ/EODY). Also all those who will be selected to participate in Prespa will have to sign a consent document, concerning safety and health issues.

CONTACT E-MAIL

sinedrioteet@uowm.gr

WEBSITE

<http://icowaf.eetf.uowm.gr/>

(will be updated from February 4th)



Photo: Vasilis Ioakeimidis

SCIENTIFICARTISTIC COMMITTEE

- Yannis Ziogas, Associate Professor, Department of Fine and Applied Arts, School of Fine Arts, University of Western Macedonia, Greece (coordinator of the Walking Encounters/Conference, coordinator of Visual March to Prespa)
- Geert Vermeire, artist, curator, the Milena principle & walk listen create, Belgium (Walking Encounters coordinator, “Made of Walking” coordinator)
- Herman Bashiron Mendolicchio, Lecturer at University of Barcelona / Faculty Member at Transart Institute, Spain
- Lydia Matthews (US), Professor of Visual Culture, Parsons School of Design / Art, Media and Technology/ The New School, New York, USA
- Radhika Subramaniam, Associate Professor of Visual Culture, Parsons School of Design/ Art & Design History and Theory, The New School, New York, USA
- Julie Poitras Santos, Director of Exhibitions, Institute of Contemporary Art at MECA, Maine College of Art, Portland - Maine, USA
- Faye Tzanetoulakou, Art Historian, Special Secretary, AICA Hellas, Greece.



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