H.F.R.I.
Hellenic Foundation for Research & Innovation

Description of the funded research project

1st Call for H.F.R.I. Research Projects to Support Faculty Members & Researchers and Procure High-Value Research Equipment

Title of the research project:
GENESIS: Genetic Research & Digital Visualization in the Performing Arts

Genesis | GENETIC RESEARCH & DIGITAL VISUALIZATION IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

Principal Investigator: Eleni Papalexiou

Reader-friendly title: *Genesis*

Scientific Area: Humanities & Arts, Performing Arts

Institution and Country: University of the Peloponnese, Greece

Host Institution: University of the Peloponnese, Greece

Collaborating Institutions:

- **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**
- **Antwerp University**
- **Université Rennes 2**

Budget: 198.601,20 €

Project webpage: https://genesisproject-uop.gr (under construction)

Duration: 36 months

ΕΛΙΔΕΚ
Ελληνικό Ίδρυμα Έρευνας & Καινοτομίας

Research Project Synopsis

The Research Project *Genesis: Genetic Research & Digital Visualization in the Performing Arts* aims to conduct primary research in the domain of the performing arts, and more specifically in the genetic analysis of performance and the digital visualization of the creative process.

Genetic analysis has to do with the study of all the stages of the creative process, from initial conception up to completion on stage. It focuses on the gradual realization of dramatic and scenic composition, on the creators' elaboration of dramatic material, the identification and comprehension of the theoretical background of artistic thought and of artists' sources and references, the study of the process of rehearsal, the training of actors, the management of space, stage, sets, costumes, lighting, production, etc. The genetic approach of stage creation is nowadays considered a necessary presupposition for the scientific analysis and interpretation of a performance.

The investigation is based on two case studies, the rich and complex work of two internationally acclaimed stage directors, Romeo Castellucci and Dimitris Papaioannou.

Project originality

The project *Genesis* proposes for the first time a holistic and integrated model of genetic analysis of performance, starting from the documentation of creative material, the systematic observation and recording of training and rehearsals and finishing in the digital visualization of the creative process. The originality and innovation of the project lies mainly in the research on major questions occupying scholars in the field of academic studies, which will be based on solid primary, and largely unknown evidence. Furthermore, the research will lead to the creation of an important primary resource available to the academic community. In particular:

- **This innovative approach is driving new science, with the objective of opening new exploitation avenues based on the scientific and technological advances achieved in an international level.**
- **The project centers around issues which lie at the forefront of research in performing arts studies in the modern period, such as the use of audiovisual digital technology on stage, the interaction of many different art forms, as well as the transformation of drama and literature on the contemporary avant-garde stage.**

Project originality

- **The development of performing arts genetics is based on the unbroken continuity between past, present and future and endeavours to encourage artistic research and performance experimentation on new forms, and to inspire young artists to be creative and productive in the competitive digital environment of the 21st century.**
- **The *Genesis* project promotes the familiarization of the performing arts studies academic community with a new and to a great extent unknown area, thus opening new research possibilities. It also fosters the advancement of knowledge in the field of cultural archives and provide better understanding of the artistic developments in the international stage.**
- **Finally, the project offers an integrated model which will be tested hands-on, on the work of two major European artists, Romeo Castellucci and Dimitris Papaioannou. Both have developed a unique creative process, which has led to emblematic works of art. The research results of the project aim to build a standard multiform toolkit, with new protocols and methods which may be applied to the work of other artists, thus leading to the establishment of interdisciplinary genetic research in the domain of the performing arts.**

Expected results & Research Project Impact

The project *Genesis* is expected:

- **To cover a serious gap in the study of the performing arts, and more specifically in the domain of performance analysis, by introducing a methodology which connects archival research with genetic study and digital humanities. This methodology records gradually and stage-by-stage the creative process, taking into consideration any factors that may alter or affect it, as well as the special properties of the artists and their works. The establishment of a solid methodological framework is expected to lead to the obsolescence of "traditional", descriptive, journalistic or other subjective analyses which dominate the bibliography in later years.**
- **To bridge the gap between the empirical knowledge and practice of the artist and the theoretical background of the scholar-researcher.**
- **To apply a new model of knowledge dissemination in the domain of the performing arts, through the use of state-of-the art digital tools.**
- **To enhance the connection of Greek researchers with European research groups and international research networks, leading to the development of international collaborations with academic and artistic institutions on a global level.**

Expected results & Research Project Impact

Furthermore, the project *Genesis* is expected:

- **To strengthen the international orientation of the academic study of the performing arts, in order to limit introversion and isolation. Within this framework, a specific objective is the production of high level publications (articles, monographs, translation, digital cultural products) which will disseminate research to the academic community.**
- **To disseminate research results to the specialized and wider audience, through the organization of events of international interest (conferences, lectures, meetings, workshops, exhibitions, other scientific, educational and artistic activities).**

Finally, the proposed research hopes to upgrade research methodology in the scientific study of the performing arts, with emphasis to open accessibility, the elaboration of complex and pertinent research questions, the widening and deepening of knowledge, the establishment of large-scale collaborations between scholars, researchers, students and artists, as well as the general public. This approach may eventually lead to multiform interdisciplinary research models, between the domains, e.g., of performing arts, archival studies, digital humanities, cultural studies, philosophy, anthropology, sociology etc.

The importance of this funding

Thanks to the funding granted by H.F.R.I., a new model of dissemination and transfer of knowledge and information will be introduced and applied in the domain of the performing arts, with wide scientific, economic and societal impact. In particular, the resources that will be obtained from H.F.R.I.'s funding will be used to increase accessibility to cultural material of very high quality and great rarity, which would remain unreachable without the contribution of state-of-the-art digital technologies. This cultural content will be revealed, highlighted and become common property for all researchers at a global level, without geographical, temporal, social and economic limitation, in an ultimate effort to connect art with the production of knowledge and research.

Furthermore, through the digital recording, enhancement and visualization of archival documents and performance material, genetic research imparts a technological dimension to arts and humanities, so that they may better serve research, educational and cultural aims. Within this framework, the *Genesis* project is expected to produce a series of applications with beneficent social and economic results (digital exhibitions, data dissemination platforms, internet-streamed screenings, open access cultural depositories, lifelong and long-distance learning).

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