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PhD Management

Doctoral School Research Award

Acknowledging the support from the Doctoral School, my participation in the International Workshop “Gatekeepers in the Art Market” was made possible thanks to the Doctoral School Research Award. Organised as part of the International Workshops Series “Tools for the Future: Researching Art Market Practices from Past to Present”, the workshop took place in-person at LSU, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA, from April 14 to April 16, 2023. The Doctoral School Research Award facilitated my attendance, offering a valuable experience in the final stages of the PhD studies and supporting the trajectory of future academic and professional endeavours.

Workshop Overview:

The International Workshop “Gatekeepers in the Art Market” served as a platform for scholars and professionals from diverse disciplines, study periods, and areas of practice to converge and engage in discussions about the complexities of the art market. Individual presentations and roundtable discussions provided an opportunity for academic growth, networking, and knowledge exchange.

Participation and Experience:

During the workshop, I presented my paper “Attention Shifting in the Art Market: How Art Collectors Construct Value and Taste.” Deriving from my PhD research, this paper explored the intricate dynamics of the art market with a focus on the role of art collectors as key gatekeepers, influencers, and tastemakers in the art market. The paper delved into the habits, motivations, intentions, and career stages of art collectors, establishing a new typology that outlined twelve distinct collecting profiles. By interpreting the gatekeeping influence of these profiles on art market trends, the research aligned seamlessly with the workshop’s objective of advancing research methodologies to understand gatekeeper complexities. The positive reception from the workshop organisers, participants and attendees validated the relevance of my research to the broader discourse within the field of consumer culture theory and the wider marketing research. Participating in the International Workshop, presenting my primary research findings and exchanging notes and feedback with fellow scholars and researchers was proven instrumental in determining my research contributions and shaping the last chapter of my PhD thesis, just a few months before my submission deadline. Roundtable discussion on the gatekeeping effects of various actors and stakeholders in the art market was instructive and educational as it facilitated discussion of empirical data, findings and anecdotal experiences and interactions, all of which were shared between the workshop participants.

Impact on Thesis and Future Endeavours:

The insights gained from the workshop significantly contributed to the advancement of my research, especially as a final-year PhD student in the writing stage. The constructive feedback received during the workshop played a pivotal role in refining my doctoral thesis before submission. Engaging with more senior scholars and professionals from various disciplines (e.g., art historians, sociologists, economists, marketeers, etc.) a unique perspective on the international academic community that studies the art market. At the same time, I created meaningful connections with both UK-based and international academics and practitioners, many of whom supported my academic growth in various ways, from providing feedback on my research contributions at the final stages of my PhD, to sharing tips on academic teaching practices, to recommending future conference participation and journal article submissions. Moreover, they supported the selection of Viva examiners by identifying suitable academics within their connections with peers. Beyond the academic realm, the International Workshop provided a unique opportunity to explore the cities of Baton Rouge and New Orleans, and to visit the prestigious LSU Museum and hearing about their exiting exhibition programme and cultural contribution.







