

The Fourth World Congress of Psychogeography

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Friday 4 to Sunday 6 September 2020

We invite you to contribute to this year's Congress and to join with us in celebrating the Fifth anniversary of the Fourth.

Covid-19 has made a dogged effort to stop us in our tracks but we hope, with a few nifty body swerves, to keep moving and maybe even to find new pathways and insights from it. The big point to note is that there will be no physical gathering of people in Huddersfield, or anywhere else, this year. The Congress will happen within the parameters of the social distancing regime – in other words a virtual congress.

This year's theme will be:

“Walk, Don't Walk”

We suspect that the period of confinement, for most people, to their homes and immediate neighbourhoods, and the disruption of routines and patterns of social behaviour has been a profound experience. For some, of course, it has been an existential threat. It has not been a great leveller and it may, or may not, exacerbate existing power relations - but it has obliged almost all of us to alter our relationship with time and space. Many have had the chance to reflect on what is really meant by 'normality' - on what is a given and what is up for negotiation.

Enforced leisure and heightened vigilance has opened new vistas to many. This is not just the case with people who might already recognise a psychogeographical sensibility within themselves. We can perhaps all point to examples of others in our networks of contacts who have, expressed some small sense of revelation about their surroundings which, under the previous regime, they had been oblivious to. People have listened to birdsong for the first time, or ventured down a strange footpath, noticed mysterious markings on an old building or simply remarked upon the quality of the air.

As restrictions loosen and we return to old patterns, much of this sensibility will be re-submerged, but surely vestiges will remain to define whatever becomes the 'new normal'. Our theme “Walk, Don't Walk” expresses that central paradox. Our lives may remain subject to certain restrictions for many months or even years to come – but our heightened sense of awareness opens new insights and possibilities.

This year's Congress...

...will be a space for you to express your own take on that. Please send us your suggestions for events you would like to present in the programme.

Technology will inevitably be a defining factor of the Congress format, and we will rely on platforms such as Zoom, Skype and Slido to enable presenters to connect with audiences and participants. But

we don't want the Congress to become a 3-day Zoom webinar. That would be boring and tiresome. We welcome submissions which explore the possibility of physical activity within social-distancing. Also feel free to submit ideas for one-way transmission, such as a film screening – not everything has to be interactive. Nor indeed, should everything be screen-based, so we welcome audio and other media of communication.

Because the Congress will be despatialised, it is no longer limited to the time zone in which Huddersfield sits. It can take place in any time zone of the world during those 72 hours of the long weekend, so we welcome international submissions.

Documentation

We want to ensure the content, and the audience/participator reaction to the work is well-documented. So we will expect all proposals for the programme to include a plan for documentation. Also for the first time, this year, we would like to commission someone to take specific responsibility for coordinating the documentation. We think it might be an attractive assignment for a student or researcher with an interest in psychogeography or walking arts. We offer an honorarium of £300, so please let us know if you are interested.

Process

There will be a two-stage selection process. An **Expression of Interest** followed by an invitation to submit a **Detailed Proposal**.

The Expression of Interest should be submitted to us (by email to philwood44@live.com) by 17.00 BST on Friday 14 June.

It should be in a MS Word document and address the following headings:

- Your name
- Email Address
- Biographical information (50 words)
- Your website or other links to online examples of your previous work
- The Name of your Proposal
- Describe the Content of Your Proposed Idea (100 words)
- How does it address the theme of the Congress? (50 words)
- What will be your delivery format and preferred technology platform?
- What will be the approximate duration of the event and the time zone from which it will be initiated?
- What support do you require from the Congress to realise your idea?

We also invite offers of voluntary help in planning and running the conference particularly in terms of :

- Administration
- Technical support
- Support for those with little previous experience of presenting via emerging technologies.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**The Politburo
of the
Fourth World Congress of Psychogeography**