CASE STUDY: Cultural and Creative Sector (CCS) of Brussels

- **Definition of “CCS”** as in Throsby (2008) and adopted by the BCR
- **Why focusing on CCS in Brussels today?**
  - European, federal and local policy priority
  - Recently: CCS are considered to be important in urban and economic development strategies, but “creative cities” theories (Florida, Landry, ...) need critical evaluations
  - Brussels as unique case:
    - Superdiversity (Vertovec, Corijn)
    - Complex institutional and policy structure offers opportunities and constraints for CCS
    - Challenge of socio-spatial dualisation of the city
- **General Research Question:**
  - How does it work for Brussels?

**Diversity of Work**

- What are the **working conditions** in the CCS?
- How do sectoral specificities and public policies shape work practices, work careers, and the diversity of work?
- What about **work satisfaction**, work/life balance and career prospects?
- What is the role of education and human capital?
- The relationship between different sources of government funding, public policies and work practices?
- How do creative workers organize themselves outside the “formal” sector?

**Diversity of Workers**

- How does one become a creative worker in the creative industries of Brussels?
- What are the main obstacles and opportunities for a successful career?
- Which selection mechanisms are at play?
- What is de socio-demographic composition of the CCS (gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, language)?
- Creative worker **biographies**?

**Spatial embeddedness**

- How important is the “informal side” of the sector? Who are these agents and how are they rooted in their local environment?
- How do different actors in the CCS interact with each other at the local scale?
- What is the role of CCS in urban revitalization process?
- What is the social and economic impact of the CCS in Brussels?
- What is the importance of hubs, local social networks and cultural clusters?

**METHODS:**

We use a **mixed method design** with **quantitative** and **qualitative** methods tailor made for each research question. More specifically: statistical analysis of secondary datasets and a representative survey, semi-structured interviews, life story interviews, (participant) observation and ethnography, discourse and policy analysis.

**TIMELINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>YEAR 1</th>
<th>YEAR 2</th>
<th>YEAR 3</th>
<th>YEAR 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature review</td>
<td>jan/15</td>
<td>jul/15</td>
<td>jan/16</td>
<td>jul/16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of research questions, research design and methodology</td>
<td>jan/16</td>
<td>jul/16</td>
<td>jan/17</td>
<td>jul/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Data collection (quantitative and qualitative)</td>
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<td>Data analysis</td>
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<td>Output (papers, conferences, reports, colloquium...)</td>
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More info: [http://workccsbrussel.wordpress.com](http://workccsbrussel.wordpress.com)