

CICANT EAB PhD student meeting report

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7 May 2021

This brief report complements my earlier report. Here, I only deal with the PhD student meeting on 7 May 2021.

Clearly, there is considerable support and appreciation for CICANT. The changes are appreciated. CICANT is considered relevant and responsive.

In particular:

- 1/The flow of information is appreciated; there is also emphasis on the integrative / connecting role of this flow;
- 2/Events (and invitations to events) are also appreciated, and there is the feeling that lots of things are happening. Maybe a bit more for Media Arts could be considered, though;
- 3/The use of remote teaching was very much appreciated. Even though we should not underestimate the importance of f2f interaction in teaching, in the return to the (new) normal.

I noted the following issue:

1/ A 'classic' issue is the language usage in more international groups working within a 'national' institution. There might be a need to develop the bi-lingual policy more (and/or make it more explicit), also finding a balance which doesn't erase Portuguese.

2/ There seems to be a need for a PhD student Seminar, allowing students to talk more about their research and generating a meeting point. I would suggest that this needs to be a mixed responsibility, with also PhD students taking some (organisational) responsibility. At the same time, institutional support still is necessary, to guarantee continuity & stability ...

3/ The Arts-Academia relations might need some more reflection. I noticed that the PhD students still needed to find a better language to position oneself as hybrid ("artademic"). For instance, arts-based research and artistic research are not the same (as they have different relations to the fields of arts and academia). How to stimulate respect for the diversity of knowledge producing and communicating practices might need to be addressed more explicitly. The request for clearer protocols (what is allowed, desired, validated, ...) fits into this discussion.

4/ There was one comment on having better access to (media production) technology.

Personal notes:

1/ It would be nice if the EAB would get (a selection of) the CICANT publications (if they are printed). Language might be an issue (as I don't speak Portuguese), but if there are English-language books / reports, I wouldn't mind receiving a copy.

And a note to the note: Maybe more could be done in communicating new publications?

2/ The Artademic discussion interests me (and the other AEB members) – CICANT might want to open a separate dialogue about this ...

(to indulge in self-promotion and give you a sneak-preview, here's my new book, with some of my Cyprus photos – it hasn't been announced yet: <https://www.intellectbooks.com/iconoclastic-controversies>)