

HUMAN PLUS 2004

**First Conference of the Archipelago of Humanistic Thematic Networks
"The role of the humanistic arts and sciences in European society, education and research"**

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Work group: 2: defining and promoting cooperation in the archipelago for meaningful collaboration in research

Thematic Network: GENIE

The task of defining and promoting cooperation in the Archipeligo for the purposes of research is a difficult but critically important one. It is important in that research contributes not only to knowledge building but also it is a vehicle for generating a critical understanding of societies and change. My sense is that we need to develop collaborations across the different disciplines that make up the humanities in large part as social formations and their problems and possibilities are highly complex. Added to this is that collaborative research enables us to examine the knowledge frameworks that we work with in our own specific cultural as well as disciplinary locations. I am also concerned that we try and bring fresh eyes to this possibility of collaborative work – to not simply – say compare – but to use our collective knowledge and resources to investigate phenomena like Europe – as a new space that is being created. We might focus our discussions on a number of things

1. Epistemology – is it possible for us to ‘see’ epistemologies as different ways of knowing the world, and from that point look at those that are under pressure and those that need to be valued.
2. Can we work forward on areas of common interest – focused around important matters of concern in a social, political and economic sense?
3. What might genuine collaborations mean when we work with a paradigm that promotes cognitive diversity in the name of social justice rather than simply rampant pluralism?
4. What might connect the knowledges, objects and outcomes of research in a deeper more profound social justice sense?

At a more practical level, we might think of applying for funding for a reseach centre that enables us to work in a centre and on common projects, funded by the Commission and elsewhere. We might look at ways in which a Centre might house staff and student attachments, as well as teaching perhaps around the idea of an annual Institute? This would be teaching based around cutting edge research that is taking place within the centre.