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|  | **DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE AZIENDALI**  UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BOLOGNA |

**Analyzing Political Intervention and Impact on the plural values of culture**

1. **Research project**

The research is part of the H2020 project UNCHARTED, which aims to understand the plurality of values in the cultural sphere and find ways to manage tensions between conflicting values. UNCHARTED is informed by a pragmatist approach to value, elaborated from the analysis of the valuation practices of social actors. The approach has been developed by economic sociology (Beckert and Aspers, 2011) and the sociology of evaluation (Boltanski and Thévenot, 2006; Lamont, 2012) with recent developments and applications in management and accounting studies (Oldenhof, Postma, and Putters 2014; Plante, Free and Andon 2020; Risi and Marti 2022).

The UNCHARTED project started in 2020. By the end of 2022, three work packages will be completed (WP1, 2 and 3), while WP4 and 5 will run throughout 2023. The present post-doc grant focuses on WP4-related activities.

WP4 aims to evaluate cultural policy effectiveness and impact at the level of cultural institutions by developing comparative case studies on cultural institutions that are representatives of the European diversity of cultural regimes. Six case studies will be developed, two of which by the University of Bologna. The guiding questions for this analysis will be the following:

* To what extent and how do institutional configurations and the strategies of action of cultural institutions favour cultural diversity, equality and inclusion?
* What is the impact of the interplay between different systems of valuation and evaluation in cultural institutions?

Answering this question will first require understanding the outcome of the interplay between different valuation and evaluation systems at the case study level. The outcome is intended here as a trade-off, ranging from solutions that are more inclusive in terms of the values represented to situations where inconsistencies between different ways of attributing values are not overcome, or where gaps of representation take place. Drawing on this understanding of the outcomes, the impact of the trade-offs will be investigated at the following levels for each case study:

* Demand side level, looking at patterns of consumption among different segments of the population;
* Supply side level, looking at the achievement of professional goals;
* Policy level, looking at the extent to which the outcomes are intended or unintended, and whether they legitimise or problematise current cultural policies.

Once the case-by-case analysis is complete, the comparison stage will start. Effort will be put into identifying generalisable ideal types in terms of configurations of outcomes and impact.

1. **Research plan**

During the first year of the post-doc grant, the successful candidate will join the UNIBO research group working on the UNCHARTED project and carry out WP4-related activities, including: selecting the case studies, collecting and analysing data, drafting the deliverables, interacting with the project partners to develop a common framework, joining on-line and in presence coordination meetings. The first year of the post doc grant will roughly coincide with the last year of the UNCHARTED project.

During the second year of the post-doc grant, the successful candidate will critically reflect on the first year's research process and main findings. Second year activities will include, but are not limited to, developing the framework further, applying it to other fields and/or investigating its theoretical implications, linking it to the broader academic debate on valuation and evaluation practices.

**3. Candidate profile**

The researcher is expected to have competencies in management and/or accounting research, have a substantive interest in heritage management as a field of study, and be familiar with qualitative research methodologies. The candidate should be fluent in Italian and English.

The researcher is expected to contribute to the research project through a research activity aimed at producing international publications. He/she is expected to develop and propose new research ideas that are not indicated in this document, but that may become relevant during the research process.

**4. Contacts**

Contact Paolo Ferri, [p.ferri@unibo.it](mailto:p.ferri@unibo.it), for additional information.

**5. References**

Beckert, J. and Aspers P. (eds) (2011). *The Worth of Goods: Valuation and Pricing in the Economy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Boltanski, L. and Thévenot, L. (2006). *On Justification. Economies of Worth*. Princeton/ Oxford: Princeton University Press.

Lamont, M. (2012). ‘Toward a Comparative Sociology of Valuation and Evaluation’. *Annual Review of Sociology*, *38*(1): 201–221.

Oldenhof, L., Postma, J., & Putters, K. (2014). On Justifi cation Work: How Compromising Enables Public Managers to Deal with Conflicting Values. *Public Management Review*, *74*(1), 52–63.

Plante, M., Free, C., & Andon, P. (2020). Making artworks valuable: Categorisation and modes of valuation work. *Accounting, Organizations and Society*, *xxxx*, 101155. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aos.2020.101155

Risi, D., & Marti, E. (2022). Illuminating the Dark Side of Values: A Framework for Institutional Research. *Journal of Management Inquiry*, *31*(3), 253–263.