

Political Practices in Performing Arts from the Margins

This doctoral research examines the social and political practices of Finland-based artists and art communities that explore feminist, anti-racist, or decolonial themes in their work. With a focus on performing arts, it explores the meanings and goals associated with artmaking as a form of political action, as well as how artistic practices are used to participate in public debate and social change. Based on interviews and ethnographic fieldwork, the study focuses on how marginalised positions and identities, as well as themes of marginalisation, are explored personally and collectively through art.

Informed by queer and Black feminist literature, the research investigates how artists understand the political dimensions of their artistic and care practices, how marginalised positions are experienced and negotiated in communities that blend art and activism, and how artists navigate the shifting boundaries between personal vulnerability, collective visibility, and public scrutiny. By exploring artmaking as a social and political process, the research contributes to studies of everyday and cultural forms of political action.