

# Developing artistic citizenships

What fluidly understanding artistic  
citizenship could do

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## **Listening All Around: What Could the Fluid Conceptualization of Artistic Citzenships Do?**

Published in Action, Criticism, and Theory for Music Education 23 (1): 80–101.  
[pdf] <https://doi.org/10.22176/act23.1.80>

# Fluid Artistic Citizenship

Through the bridges of multidisciplinary

As a body of water, a fluid definition might not allow us to build a rigid and eternal structure on top of it, where we can forever stay immobile, but it can create a space where new ideas are born and evolve, where new discussions and new life—that might eventually move completely out of this water—can keep developing.

# Three possible coexisting conceptualizations

**Artistic Citizenship as a Lens for Critical Reflection**

**Artistic Citizenship as a Developing Inclusive Artistic Identity**

**Artistic Citizenship as Action for Change**

# Artistic Citizenship As a Lens to Promote Critical Reflection

If citizenship is linked to exclusion and marginalization (Tambakaki 2015; Yarwood 2014). Why would we connect it to the arts?

Western understandings of “the artist” (Assefa 2015; Gaztambide-Fernández 2008) already exhibit parallels with the aforementioned issues pervading “citizenship,” including underpinnings of exclusion, elitism, unbelonging, and lack of formal recognition. Since these matters are unavoidably present in many artistic practices, considering them should be imperative in the implementation of initiatives that, by remaining aware of these important challenges, are caring towards their participants.



# Artistic Citizenship As a Lens to Promote Critical Reflection

The term “citizenship” can magnify otherwise partially or completely overlooked challenges within artistic practices, contesting advocacy positions. It can promote critical reflections and provide a body of literature that dives into, expands, and attempts to find alternatives and solutions for the similar predicaments impacting both of these terms.

Deborah Bradley: “Artistic Citizenship: Escaping the violence of the normative (?)”.

Thompson-Bell (2022): Artistic citizenship: Co-creating a flexible definition.

Artistic Citizenship week RMC

# **Artistic Citizenship As a Developing Inclusive Artistic Identity**

Inclusive citizenship by scholars such as the sociologist Delanty and the political philosopher Tully, propose inclusive definitions of citizenship, describing it not only as a legal status but also as a constructivist learning process mostly performed through patterns of socialization developed during everyday activities (Delanty 2002, 2003; Tully 2014; Warming 2012).

# **Artistic Citizenship As a Developing Inclusive Artistic Identity**

Artistic Citizen becoming not Artist being:

An ongoing, inclusive, everyday-learned and everyday-performed process where individuals' personal, social, and artistic identities develop through the arts during daily-life experiences.



# Artistic Citizenship

## Critiques of a Developing Inclusive Artistic Identity

Forgetting unequal participation and cancelling “non-artist” as an analytical category: Tambakaki (2015) “non-citizenship is not just a necessary category, but also a useful one. It alerts us to the exclusions, inequalities, marginalizations and naturalisations that accompany citizenship politics” (930).

Lack of personal and social recognition of the individual as an artist: Being recognized is essential to the feeling of belonging in citizenship (Delanty 2003; Warming 2012).

The dangers related to the primacy of the arts and eliminating the choice to not be an artist: “Ethnomusicologists and anthropologists from Blacking (1974) onwards have concluded that being human is being musical” (218).

# Artistic Citizenship As Action for Change

**Apprenticeship** : A person gradually learns what being a citizen means via encountering the use of the word in their life, contrasting their current understanding of what a citizen means to the new situation where the language is used, adjusting their idea of what being a citizen entices, and then acting as citizens in accordance with this transformed understanding. By using “citizenship” in reference to diverse practices that move away from normative and dominant meanings of citizenship—such as citizenship as a developing and inclusive identity—people not only change the definition of this word, but also change what acting as a citizen can be, who citizens are, and what they can do in the world.

# Artistic Citizenship As Action for Change

Tully (2014) defended that “initiating something new” becomes possible because diverse understandings of “citizenship” exist

“The kind of critical attitude that accompanies practices of diverse citizenship and contextualizes or ‘provincializes’ modern citizenship and its universalizing language... frees us from the hold of the globally dominant language of modern citizenship as the pre-emptive language of disclosure of all forms of citizenship and enable us to see it as one language among others. In so doing, it de-universalizes modern citizenship (for, as we have seen, its claim to universality is internal to the globally dominant language of modern citizenship) and de-subalternizes other modes of citizenship (discloses them in their local languages and histories). **Modern citizenship can thus be put in its place as one singular (and imperious) mode in a global field of diverse alternatives. (10)**”

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