

Studies in the UK and Australia show that cultural sector employment outcomes for creative graduates are poor, and yet people still enrol to study creative arts degrees, and continue to work in the field, despite the long hours, low wages and free labour that is often involved. There is at present little research into what motivates their participation and persistence in the field, nor how such commitments are converted into a sustainable creative vocation.

This project seeks to understand the motivations for, and rewards of, unpaid cultural work, and how graduates of creative arts programs in Australia and China build creative vocations, in two United Nations recognised Creative Cities: Melbourne and Shanghai.