InCommon will be the first study to systematically approach, map, and visualize the field of performing arts as resulting from the practice of commonality both theorized and experienced over the 1960s and the 1970s. In particular, the project will address the ‘laboratory Italy’ as the place where performing arts originated from the collaboration of a network of artists, critical theorists and activists of the counterculture.
WHAT IS COUNTERCULTURE?

**Time frame: 1959-1979**

Italian counterculture of the 1960s and 1970s was aimed at subverting the role of established institutions through irony, self-organization, disobedience, autonomy, and creativity as weapons to oppose the “monopoly of the political decision-making”.

![Images of counterculture scenes]
Activists and Critical Theorists:
- Mario Tronti
- Toni Negri
- Oreste Scalzone
- Pietro Valpreda
- Adriano Sofri, etc

Main issues:
- State Murder
- Anarchism
- Legalization of abortion
- Anti-fascism
- Red Aid

Performances:
- Morte accidentale di un anarchico
- Mistero Buffo (second edition)
- Non si paga non si paga
- Il Fanfani rapito
- Guerra di popolo in Cile
- Pum pum chi è? La polizia
- Basta con i fascisti
IN PRAISE OF COMMUNITY: SHARED CREATIVITY IN ARTS AND POLITICS IN ITALY 1959 TO 1979

BASAGLIA AND MARCO CAVALLO

Franco Basaglia
‘Total Institutional’ negation
National Law for the closure of Italian asylums

Staging of the performance
Marco Cavallo, 1973

Network of artists
Giuliano Scabia
Vittorio Basaglia
Alberto Grifi
Sylvano Agosti
Silvano Bussotti, etc
RESEARCH QUESTION

Counterculture

Shared creativity and Will-to-the-common

Dynamism of the Network (Artists, Critical theorists and Activists)

Performing arts

Cultural action and social change
TIMELINE AND CASE STUDIES


- Caligola
  Carmelo Bene
  Teatro di Dioniso
  Celli, Carella,
  Teatro Spoleto off

- Don Chisciotte
  Bene, de Berardinis

- Bello e basta
  Pistoletto

- Luci della città
  Gaia Scienza

- Contemporanea

- Orlando Furioso
  Ronconi, Sanguineti

- Marco Cavallo
  Scabia

- Morte accidentale di un anarchico
  Dario Fo - La Comune

- Inondazione de l'Attico

- Cottimisti
  Rem & Cap

- Camion
  Carlo Quattrucci

- Punto di rottura
  Carrozzione

- La Fabbrica illuminata
  Scabia, Nono,
  Pavese

IN PRAISE OF COMMUNITY: SHARED CREATIVITY IN ARTS AND POLITICS IN ITALY 1959 TO 1979
Challenge 1: how to analyse the network?

**Solution:**
a novel methodology that interweaves the scholarly approaches of theatre historiography, semiotics, performance studies, political and critical theory with Network analysis.
Challenge 2: what and how to collect

**Solution:**

InCommon will link the counterculture records referred to performing arts together for the first time by creating a unified metadata scheme for all of its key elements.
Challenge 3: how to visualize the Network

**Solution:**

*InCommon* will design rich, ‘generous’ interfaces through which to get access to its digital collection. The users will see, at a glance, the net that held this community together.
InCommon will provide at the same time the novel atlas and the new tools to navigate the lost continent of counterculture giving primacy to performance/s, and will develop new insights and skills in innovative humanities and social science in general.
InCommon will:
- provide a new methodology to investigate complex networks and relations among different spheres
- contribute to the definition of a new benchmark for archiving and analysing collective performing art works and complex, multimedia events
- advance the definition of shared standards that will apply to similar research.

In conclusion, InCommon aspires to be ‘transformative’ for artistic, political, and social research.