

**Module Title:** Life Under Construction

**Module Code:** SML5209

**Credit Value:** 15

**Level:** 5

**Pre-requisite modules:**

### **Content Description**

This module navigates across European art movements, highlighting an intensive exchange and collaboration between German and Russian artistic and intellectual circles involved in the radical avant-garde practices after the First World War and the October Revolution (1917-1930). Covering debates on the artistic strategies of intervention in society, politics, everyday life, mass media and urban planning, each session focuses on a theoretical response to a specific problem and a case study of artistic practices across various media and forms, including fine art, architecture, cinema, literature and theatre.

### **Module Aims**

1. To give students an understanding of the formal characteristics of artistic avant-garde as opposed to classical art.
2. To help students acquire an ability to provide cogent and differentiated interpretations of art forms in the post-war period.
3. To give students an understanding of the impact of particular Russian and German art movements on the political, social and cultural debates of the day, and their relation to the wider contexts of the First World War and October Revolution.
4. To develop a comparative understanding of the distinctiveness of the Russian and German art movements in the wider European cultural perspective.
5. To encourage the application of the discussed historical materials to the contemporary contexts of art practice and cultural industries.
6. To encourage the development of visual analysis and essay writing skills.