

Dr. Cissie Fu is Dean of the Faculty of Culture + Community at Emily Carr University of Art + Design in Vancouver, Canada, and Co-Founder of the Political Arts Initiative, which invites 21st-century imaginations of the political through digital media and the creative and performing arts.

After an AB in Government and Philosophy at Harvard University, Cissie explored public interest law in Washington DC before moving to the University of Oxford for an MSt in Women's Studies, an MSc in Political Research and Methodology, and a DPhil in Politics and International Relations. She lectured at Oxford and University College London prior to her academic appointment to the Faculty of Governance and Global Affairs at Leiden University, where she became Senior Tutor and Director of Studies of Leiden University College and forged partnerships with the Royal Conservatory of Music and the Royal Academy of Arts in The Hague to enable interdisciplinary and cross-degree practice-based programmes in political arts and performative inquiry.

In Vancouver, Cissie is an external advisor to the City of Vancouver's Equity Framework and served as the President of the Board of Directors of Or Gallery. The storied culture of artist-run centres on the Northwest Coast, where the current revitalisation of the languages and traditions of the Coast Salish peoples whose unceded and ancestral homelands also bear a complex overlay of migratory histories from the Pacific Rim, affords para-institutional and semi-autonomous zones that can disrupt polite dissensus by introducing transpacific and transatlantic creative practices and discourses to challenge prevailing premises and values of the local art scene and the provincial creative economy alike.

Cissie's research sits at the nexus of politics, philosophy, and performance, with a focus on contemporary manifestations of the political through individual and collective action and expression. Suspending divisions of theory/practice, contemplation/action, and analysis/performance, Cissie seeks common ground where thinking, making, and acting are equally foundational to being human, which, when taken as the starting point of political theorising, casts performance—of identity, will, and responsibility—as a powerful source for political awakening and a robust realisation of community. On the premise that the aesthetic refracts the ethical and the political, Cissie draws from artistic practices for her forthcoming monograph on the politics of silence, towards resuscitating silence as a positive political concept which can articulate and embrace the constructive ambiguities between attachment and detachment in political practices of speech and action.