



MA CONTEMPORARY DIALOGUES

CONFIRMATIVE PRAXIS

WORK-IN-PROGRESS SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY 4th & 11th FEBRUARY 2021

MA Confirmative Praxis

W_{ork} - I_n - P_{rogress}

SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY 4th FEBRUARY

(DAY 1)

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0845	Welcome & Intro	
0900	SARAH PARKER	0900
	CLAIRE STAVELEY	
	TOMOS JAC EDWARDS	
	Panel Discussion	
15mins		
1015	ELENA D'CRUZE-REYNOLDS	1015
	KAROLINA KWAŚNIAK	
	CAMERON RIDGWAY	
	Panel Discussion	
15mins		
1130	ALUN DAVIES	1130
	MARGARET HASTINGS	
	SARA CONDE	
	Panel Discussion	
LUNCH		
1330	MICHELLE COLLINS	1330
	LIZZY FORD	
	KATY FOX	
	Panel Discussion	
15mins		
1445	BENESEK MONK	1445
	CAROL HARRIS	
	PAUL STEER	
	Panel Discussion	
15 mins		
1600	DAVID A GRIFFITHS	1600
	STEFAN GRASSO	
	LEE HENDRY	
	Panel Discussion	

WIP Symposium

Statements/Abstracts

THURSDAY 4th FEBRUARY – DAY 1

9.00am

SARAH PARKER (MA Illustration)

My praxis is based on a fictional, illustrative book work, portraying a central, young, female character who enters a magical world. Within this realm, she befriends creatures who help her to resolve her earthly problems and escape the typical struggles of youth.

Narrative, Children's Books, Issue-Based, Water Colour, Gouache

CLAIRE STAVELEY (MA Textile Design)

My work is a collection of explorations encompassing both digital and analogue photography, metalwork experimentation with printed aluminium, cast iron and silversmithing. Inspired by inherited ephemera and artefacts, my praxis is underpinned by the aim to transform a story of grief into a new commentary, to reframe the narrative and create artworks in celebration of a presence, albeit now absent.

The Archive, Presence of Absence, Trace. Roland Barthes, Jacques Derrida, Rebecca Solnit, Walter Benjamin, Anette Kuhn, Christian Boltanski, Idris Khan, Catherine Bertola

TOMOS JAC EDWARDS (MA Product Design)

My project stems from research into identity and the Welsh language, including works by the poets Hedd Wyn and Dylan Thomas, and the chairing of the bard. I am attempting to create an Eisteddfod chair which uses data extracted from various poems using a handbook created by myself named 'Language and poetry as a design tool' to bring the traditional chair to a new age.

Identity, Welsh Language, Eisteddfod, Poetry, Chair

10.15am

ELENA D'CRUZE-REYNOLDS (MA Visual Communication)

When you Belong to Here, There, Everywhere and Nowhere.

Using costume design and material experimentation, I unweave my Anglo-Indian and Spanish nationalities, in a creative exploration that reflects on my British identity and my contested sense of belonging. Inspired by Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, artist Yoko Ono, and Victorian asylum patient and seamstress Agnes Richter, I confront my insecurities as a woman and acknowledge my hybrid existence. The pursuit of social and spatial freedom is a process that requires interdisciplinary study. Literature, history, philosophy, feminist theory, race theory, geography, psychiatry, art and religion are just some of the threads I use to sew theory and imagination together. Psychoanalyst and social philosopher Frantz Fanon's *Wretched of the Earth* breathed life into my practice, inspiring me to create the avatar 'EurAsia'. She is the Bride of Cameron, a material manifestation of identity across psychological and international borders. Using Tantric meditation, she brings eastern philosophical thinking to her western academic study, in order to create art that opens debate and encourages reflection on the complexities of psychological violence, historical and contemporary, which is borne from political and legal structural change.

Frantz Fanon, Stuart Hall, Catherine Hall, Hybrid Culture, Identity, Belonging, British Raj, European Union, Marriage, Wedding Dress, Law, Nadine El-Enany, Domicile, Diaspora.

KAROLINA KWAŚNIAK (MA Visual Communication)

My practice is an exploration of individual identity and ancestry in our contemporary, multicultural, global times. Through the medium of natural dyes and fabric design, my work aims to interpret and portray the dialectic initiated by my Polish nationality and upbringing vying with the adult experience of British culture and tradition.

Polish, Welsh, Ancestry, Identity, Natural Dyeing, Military Uniform, Traditional Clothing

CAMERON RIDGWAY (MA Graphic Design)

My praxis is exploring the lost gay language of Polari, used chiefly by gay men in the first half of the twentieth century. I explore the history and purpose of Polari, its rising popularity and uses within comedy and queer culture, and examine the writing of Polari expert, Professor Paul Baker, in his studies of language and identity. The work employs mid-century modern design and traditional print-making through letterpress, to express the funny, filthy, and ingenious language of Polari.

Alan Kitching, Saul Bass, Alice and Matinee Provensen. Polari, Identity, Language, Queerness, Comedy, Camp, Bilingualism, Gay History

11.30am

ALUN DAVIES (MA Photography)

My lens-based practice documents portraits and landscapes of archetypes and architecture of Queer bodies in spaces and time, guided by Queer theorists such as Judith Butler and Michele Foucault, especially Foucault's final published text, *Des espace autres*. This work explores both physical and virtual spaces, with reference to Baudrillard's *Simulacra and Simulation* and Bachelard's *Poetics of Space*, within a context of contemporary photographers and artists such as Wolfgang Tillmans, The Wachowski Siblings, Eddie Peak and Rachel Maclean.

Queer, Space, LGBTQIA+, Photographic, Time, Inclusivity, Liminality, Projection, Documentation, Social

MARGARET HASTINGS (MA Fine Art)

Translating (Border)(S)p(II)ace

A synthesis of crochet, video, word and web, my work is an exploration of the place/space between/around through fold and knot, labyrinth and language. Complicating static textile with dynamic text, the material with the conceptual and the virtual, I incorporate and connect ideas from Plato, poststructuralist and feminist theorists and quantum physics.

Liminality, Connection, Textility, Language, Rhizome

SARA CONDE (MA Visual Communication)

I am exploring the link between selective isolation, solitude, memory, and a place of safety through the medium of sculpture; how a piece of sculpture may reflect this memory or safe place. Fong says an existentialist moment with moments of mental clarity and inward facing solitude.

Internal Exploration, Connectivity, Memory, Solitude, Dasein, Walden, Mille-Feuille, Visualisation of Memory

1.30pm

MICHELLE COLLINS (MA Fine Art)

Influenced by Hito Steyerl's video, *How Not To Be Seen: A Fucking Didactic Educational .MOV File* (2013) and the phrase 'Resolution determines visibility' - my research has gone on an exploration surrounding the term 'surveillance'. From surveillance society to the spectacle of society to the culture of surveillance that we sit in today, embedded even further into the Digital Age, due to the pandemic. The initial phase is a reconnection to the practice of documenting with the aim to search for authenticity as an artist through the use of CCTV, capturing autoethnographic data of my creative process.

Heidegger, Foucault, Autoethnography, Surveillance, Hito Steyerl, Bruce Nauman, Feminism, Artist Vs Audience

LIZZY FORD (MA Photography)

This body of practice adopts processes that at first may appear to destroy the image – such as burning. However, 'process' is adopted as a form of sensorial engagement, a physical interaction with a static representation which in turn engenders a new image. Bereavement is often positioned as 'other' within domestic photography. This process acts as a metaphor for the transcendence of the human body into an affective space. Not destroying but understanding. The end of something but also the beginning.

Bereavement, Domestic Photography, Other, Process, Nature, Sublime, Memory, Illness

KATY FOX (MA Visual Communication)

My practise explores the theme of play, nostalgia and space in contemporary art through the study of movement: creating 'play-scenes' through 3D collage, animation and sound. My projects are more about 'process', which indulges in child-like creativity, rather than polished final pieces.

Yayoi Kusama, Helen Levitt, Superflex, Process

2.45pm

BENESEK MONK (MA Photography)

No-one talks about the weather anymore

Revolving around the anthropocentric fallacy of control, this body of work concerns metrics of authority, perception and the creative act. Taking the weather as a starting point of shared experience, it investigates the use of tools as diverse as photography, language and artificial intelligence and questions the role of the human within them.

Anthropocene, Control, Computational Photography, Psychogeography, Experimental literature, Neural Networks, Semiotics, Hito Steyerl, Charles Peirce, Kenneth Goldsmith

CAROL HARRIS (MA Textile Design)

I am at a philosophical position in relation to the politics and beliefs of democracy, and my contemporary praxis is informed by a range of theories, philosophies and practices. An overarching philosophical principle has been Plato's Cave - Imprisonment (Imagined), Release (Reality), Accent (World of ideas). This analogy has stayed with me and helped me to manifest an imagined space of contemplation, a dialogue between what is felt, and what is thought. My intention is to create an installation with image and text projections onto walls, floor and ceiling combined, leaving the energy to 'hang' in that space. The intention is to position the viewer so as to 'ponder and wander' and have the phenomenology choreographed in the space. The work asks how the phenomenological digital environment of light, movement and experience manifests perception and reflection. Inspirational practitioners are Jenny Holzer, James Turrell, expressly the 'tunnel' in his project *Roden Crater*, and the phenomenological experiences created by Olafur Eliasson.

Baudrillard, Rousseau, Merleau-Ponty. Text. Projection. Phenomenology. Light. Shadow. Digital. Space. External Self.

PAUL STEER (MA Fine Art)

Tired of the dualistic thinking which has a direct effect on how we treat each other and the planet, my praxis uses writing, casting, drawing, photography, and projection to explore a landscape which speaks in a rewilding voice of what we may need to do to heal.

Anna Boghiguan, Ana Mendieta, Olafur Eliasson, Sara Sze, Rebecca Solnit, Baudrillard, Heidegger. Anthropocene, Othering, Capitalism, Poetics, Space, Nature, Spirit, Bricolage

4.00pm

DAVID A GRIFFITHS (MA Sound)

Luna Lie Lot

My long-term personal aspirations are to become a music producer who works closely with artists in an industry that is about more than just making music. It is also about utilising branding and marketing, where an artist's image is essential to their success. *Luna Lie Lot* is an emerging musical artist, an alter ego and an opportunity to experiment with different ideas with regards to sound and image. In the following presentation, I will discuss my progress so far with this practical thought experiment.

Concept, Alter Ego, Production, Promotion

STEFAN GRASSO (MA Illustration)

Youth in Flames: Tales of the Damned Generation

My Confirmative Praxis project is a graphic anthology of stories whose common thread is a deconstruction of youth as "the best years of your life". The eventual project can be thought of as the prototype for a graphic novel.

Youth, Graphic Novel, Anthology, Society, Sequence, Dark, Storytelling, School, Nostalgia

LEE HENDRY (MA Sound)

I have created an audio world tour guide, consisting of seven musical compositions (one for each continent) in the genre of minimalism. It also incorporates my own invented language. Underpinning this is the study of 'phenomenology' and how it relates to the way we perceive the world around us.

Minimalism, Language, Interpretation, Subjectivity, Objectivity, Phenomenology, Experience, Embodiment, Perception, Self