

# **BROKERING INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE: INTERROGATING THE ROLE OF ARTS AND CULTURAL MANAGEMENT**

## **PROGRAMME**

### ***Dominant Ideologies: Examining Institutions, Habits and Terminology in the Profession***

**Queen's University Belfast, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> 2017**

#### **Context:**

Researchers at Queen's University Belfast and Heilbronn University have received funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to establish a research network bringing international academics together with arts and cultural practitioners and policymakers. Entitled, *Brokering Intercultural Exchange: The Role of Arts and Cultural Management*, the network aims to build an understanding of the relationship of arts and cultural management practice and education to intercultural exchange—interaction between individuals, communities, institutions, and /or nations with different values and perspectives. While we are currently focusing on “ethnically-marked cultural difference”, to quote Tony Bennett, we acknowledge that intercultural exchange happens across many groups and communities.

Arts and cultural managers working in the fine and performing arts and heritage engage with creative and aesthetic expressions--arts and cultural objects, exhibitions and performances--which are inherently reflective of broader social as well as personal cultural ideas, knowledge and values.

In directing, administering and mediating arts and cultural expressions, arts and cultural managers work at the interface of the production and consumption of these creative and aesthetic expressions. In doing so, they contribute to how the terms and conditions for intercultural exchange are set both at home and abroad. The intercultural experiences or exchanges they help create may foster the acknowledgement, appreciation, and valuing of alternative perspectives and perceptions of the world or, conversely, promote and reinforce stereotypes and inequitable relationships between individuals, communities, institutions and nations.

Building an understanding of their work will help us understand the contribution of the arts and its agents to how historical, institutional and social assumptions about interculturalism, cultural diversity and cultural inclusion become established and challenged in the social world.

Queen's University Belfast is hosting the second of five seminars exploring these issues with practitioners and policymakers in Northern Ireland on April 6/7th.

This seminar considers the international development of arts and cultural management as a legitimised professional practice. We will explore the origins that have shaped the discipline from different perspectives and what traditions, assumptions and habits have emerged, considering how these may impact on intercultural exchange.

These two days will focus on the following questions:

- What can we learn from other disciplines in considering how ideas and assumptions become traditions, norms and habits?
- What assumptions, traditions and norms underlie arts and cultural management? How have these come about?
- In thinking about intercultural exchange in the arts, what ideologies are we seeking to reaffirm? What are we seeking to challenge? How is this playing out in the ways that we have now come to 'manage' arts and culture?

## **THURSDAY, APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>**

Lanyon Building 0G/074 <https://goo.gl/maps/7CTGdGAz2Y22>

### **8:45AM TEA / COFFEE AND REGISTRATION**

### **9AM – 9:15AM INTRODUCTION AND SETTING OUT THE TWO DAYS**

Victoria Durrer

### **9:20am – 10:50am THE INFLUENCE AND POSITION OF ARTS AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN SOCIETY.**

This session will explore the place that cultural institutions have come to play in society and where, if at all, intercultural considerations come to bear. In doing so, we will unpick the assumptions, traditions and norms that underlie arts and cultural management.

**9:20am – 9:50am Tseng Sun Man will explore the role cultural institutions play in society and how this has come about**

**9:55am – 10:25am Jo Caust will explore the relationship between our cultural identities and our cultural institutions, organisations and policy bodies.**

10:25 – 10:50am Discussion chaired by Victoria Durrer

### **Complementary Reading**

Alexander, Victoria D. and Bowler, Anne E. 2014. Art at the Crossroads: The Arts in Society and the Sociology of Art. *Poetics*, 43(1), pp. 1-19.

### **10:55AM – 11:30AM 'LIVES IN TRANSLATION': A WORK IN PROGRESS**

Kabosh Theatre Company will read an excerpt from the play, *Lives in Translation*, which is a work in progress. Paula McFetridge and the playwright, Rosemary Jenkinson, will join Victoria Durrer in a discussion of what intercultural considerations they have faced in developing the production and thinking about audiences.

*Lives In Translation*

Based on a series of interviews with female Somali refugees, support workers and community organisations, Kabosh's latest production is a poignant new drama exploring how recent migrants navigate the necessary support systems through translation. How disempowering and frustrating this system can be. How dehumanising the multi-layered hierarchy of language knowledge is. How time is controlled by those it least affects.

Paralleling the timeline and ritual of a traditional wedding with that of dealing with the bureaucracy of seeking asylum, it spans a 10-year period and skirts between London, Dublin, Mogadishu and Belfast. It celebrates the human survival instinct whilst not shying away from the horrors of war. It asks difficult questions about our social justice systems. It challenges individuals who have made assumptions without knowing the facts. It gives voice to our new citizens and empowers them whilst bearing witness to their stories.

### **11:30 – 11:45 Tea / Coffee Break**

### **11:50AM – 1:15PM SHARING DISCIPLINARY ASSUMPTIONS:**

What can we learn from other disciplines in considering how ideas and assumptions become traditions, norms and habits?

Chair: Constance Devereaux

The core network members come from diverse disciplinary backgrounds. In this session they will discuss the assumptions and / or dominant ideologies that have shaped their particular area of research. This will serve as a basis to explore how foundations of knowledge are formed, reinforced or challenged through areas of research, practice and education / training.

Victoria Durrer  
Carla Figueira  
Gernot Wolfram  
Lisa Gaupp  
Nanna Kann-Rasmussen  
Maruska Svasek  
Raphaella Henze

Constance Devereaux will facilitate a discussion highlighting common issues / themes.

### **Complementary Reading**

Arnault, K. 2012. Super-diversity. Elements of an emerging perspective. Language and Superdiversities 14, II *Diversities* (2), pp. 1–16.

Bendl, R., Bleijenbergh, I., Henttonen, E., and Mills, A. 2015. Introduction: Mapping the Field of Diversity in Organizations, in R. Bendl, I. Bleijenbergh, E. Henttonen, and A. Mills, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Diversity in Organizations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Bhabha, H. 2006. Cultural Diversity and Cultural Differences. In B. Ashcroft, G. Griffiths, H. Tiffin, eds. *The Post- Colonial Studies Reader*. New York: Routledge, pp. 155–157.

Durrer, V. and O'Brien, D., 2014. "Rethinking Cultural Intermediaries: Negotiating Boundaries in the Arts. *The Cultural Intermediaries Reader*. London: Sage, pp. 100 - 112.

European Commission. 2011. European arts festivals. Strengthening cultural diversity. Luxembourg: Office for Official publications of the European Communities.

Svašek, M. 2016. Creativity and Innovation in a World of Movement. In Svašek, M., and Meyer, B., eds., 2016. *Creativity in Transition: Politics and Aesthetics of Cultural Production Across the Globe* (Vol. 6). Berghahn Books, pp. 1 – 32.

### **1:15 – 2pm Lunch**

Location: Queen's Film Theatre Foyer, 20 University Square,  
<https://goo.gl/maps/YS8i3JoKymE2>

### **2pm – 4pm Cultural Representations: A tour**

Please see the attached document for further information on the tours available. Delegates are asked to sign up for one tour in advance.

**2pm – 2:30:** Introduction of tour context

**2:45pm – 4pm:** Tour

**4 - 4:15pm** Transportation back to QUB Campus is provided. Delegates will have opportunity to have a 30 minute break.

*There is a café in the School of Law building which is directly opposite 21 University Square and next to the Music building.*

### **5 – 6PM APPLICATIONS TO LEARNING—STUDENT FOCUSED SESSION OPEN TO ALL**

**Jo Caust, Constance Devereaux and Tseng Sun Man in Conversation with Ali Fitzgibbon**

Location: McMordie Hall, Music Building, University Square (number 5 on the QUB campus map: <http://www.qub.ac.uk/puremaths/btm30/campusmap.pdf>)

During this semester within the Managing the Arts II module, students on the MA in Arts Management at Queen's University Belfast are concentrating on applying thinking about leadership, strategy and planning from their previous module (Managing the Arts I) to practical study of operational planning, finance, budgeting, fundraising, etc. A key element in 'completing the loop' in their arts management training is embedding their understanding of the function and importance of evaluation at both company or strategic level and at managerial or

individual level. Ali Fitzgibbon, arts manager, PhD candidate and QUB Teaching Associate will facilitate a conversation between our guest speakers and students exploring how their individual understanding, perceptions and wider intercultural awareness as emerging arts managers will shape and inform the future industry.

While this talk will be targeted at the learning for MA in Arts Management students at QUB, all are welcome to attend.

## **6 – 6:30pm Wine Reception in McMordie Hall**

### **6:30pm – 8pm Brokers and Gatekeepers: Arts & Cultural leaders in promoting intercultural exchange** **Jo Caust, Constance Devereaux and Tseng Sun Man in Conversation with Ali Fitzgibbon**

Welcome by Victoria Durrer and Raphaela Henze  
Chaired by Ali Fitzgibbon

Location: Harty Room (across the hall from McMordie Hall), Music Building,  
University Square

The heads of our arts and cultural organisations and programmes are both brokers and gatekeepers, wielding power, managing compromise and responding to a set of social and other obligations. As leaders in arts and culture what is our role in promoting and managing intercultural exchange?

Advanced booking is required for this event: <https://tinyurl.com/jbwwmrX>

## **FRIDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>**

Brian Friel Theatre, 20 University Square (same building as the Queen's Film Theatre), <https://goo.gl/maps/DTxz2mjVDK52>

### **9:00am – 11am CASE STUDIES FROM NORTHERN IRELAND**

Introduction by Victoria Durrer

Practitioners have been invited to consider the assumptions that are brought to intercultural projects and how these become challenged or reinforced in practice. They have also been asked to consider the challenges and opportunities for intercultural exchange that emerge in practice. What ideologies are we seeking to reaffirm? What are we seeking to challenge? How is this playing out in the ways that we have now come to 'manage' arts and culture?

### **Complementary Reading**

Arts Council Northern Ireland. 2011. *Intercultural Arts Strategy*. Belfast: Arts Council Northern Ireland.

### **9:05 – 9:30AM Terra Nova Productions**

Artistic Director, Andrea Montgomery will discuss how and why Terra Nova's work focuses on the intercultural. Terra Nova is Northern Ireland's only professional inter-cultural theatre company. Their mission is "to make excellent theatre where different cultures meet, people explore and the world is changed". To enable this to happen they develop productions in collaboration with like-minded local, national and international theatre companies, artists, venues and communities. They have worked on artistic and social projects across Northern Ireland and in Hong Kong, Macau, Iran, France, England, the Republic of Ireland and Canada.

### **9:35am – 10am Draw Down the Walls, Ruth Graham and Breandán Clarke**

*Draw Down the Walls* is a unique project that uses art and language to explore the legacy of interface walls and the impact of segregated living on communities. Using art as a starting point *Draw Down the Walls* seeks to create debate and discussion within and between communities. Activities include talks and discussions, temporary artworks, workshops, short films and high profile participatory art events that use interface walls as a starting point for creative enquiry. Projects address difficult issues through the arts while challenging perceptions of what art is and what it can do. Any artworks created on or near interface walls are temporary as it is believed that walls should not separate communities in a permanent way. The aim is to create debate and discussion about the walls inside and between different communities bordering the walls.

*Draw Down the Walls* is a partnership between North Belfast Interface Network, Lower Shankill Community Association and the Golden Thread Gallery with other relevant groups engaging with the project more loosely and at different levels. Members of the partnership will reflect on the project.

### **10:05 – 10:30am Nisha Tandon on Belfast Suitcase Stories, Arts Ekta**

ArtsEkta is established for the advancement of intercultural exchange and to promote ethnic arts to people from the north and south of Ireland regardless of age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnic identity, political or religious opinion. Belfast Suitcase Stories was developed on the foundations of four years of previous work by ArtsEkta and a number of partners including Cara Friend, An Droichead, Belfast Islamic Centre and Northern Visions TV. The project brought together a group of the city's younger and older citizens to explore and celebrate the great social diversity of Belfast. Over the course of several months, participants came together across a series of reflective artistic workshops to explore the nuances of their own identities, and where those identities fit into the new multicultural tapestry of the city, and its people. The physical legacy of the project was a multimedia and visual arts exhibition consisting of suitcases reimagined artistically to tell the individual stories of participants.

### **10:35 – 11am Picas, Community Arts Partnership**

The Programme for InterCultural Arts Support (PICAS) is Community Arts Partnership's programme offering a range of opportunities to support the delivery of key areas of the Arts Council's Intercultural Arts Strategy. The Purpose of the

programme is to encourage and foster initiatives in the intercultural arts arena. Charo Lanao-Madden will reflect on the programme to date.

### **11:05am – 11:30 Discussion facilitated by Raphaela Henze**

### **11:30 – 11:45 Coffee Break / Comfort Break**

### **11:50am – 12:30pm Workshop with Constance Devereaux**

Devereaux's work brings both applied and philosophical dimensions to the study of arts and cultural management. Her research has highlighted the need for greater critical discourse in the field. Based on the activities and discussions of the two days, she will facilitate a workshop for delegates, which will assist us in goal setting for Seminar 3, which focuses on intercultural exchanges in arts and cultural management 'education' and Seminar 4, which focuses on this exchange in arts and cultural management 'practice'. Outcomes will be new research questions and / or specific directions (tasks) for further study, which we will begin to explore together in the afternoon.

### **Complementary Reading**

DeVereaux, C. (2009) 'Practice versus a Discourse of Practice in Cultural Management', *The Journal of Arts Management, Law, and Society*, 39(1), pp. 65-72.

Paquette, J. and Redaelli, E. 2015. Introduction in J. Paquette and E. Redaelli, eds. *Arts Management and Cultural Policy Research*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 1 - 6.

### **12:30 – 1:15 Lunch**

Queen's Film Theatre Foyer

### **1:15 – 2:15pm Research Open Inquiry Session**

Delegates will work in groups to discuss and explore emerging research questions and potential projects.

Locations: rooms in 21 University Square

### **Complementary Reading**

Newman, A., Baber, M., O'Brien, D., Goulding, A. Hedd Jones, C., Howson, T., Jones, C., Parkinson, C., Taylor, K., Tischler, V., Windle, G., 2016. Carrying out research across the arts and humanities and social sciences: developing the methodology for Dementia and Imagination, *Cultural Trends*, 25(4), pp. 218-232.

### **2:20 – 3pm Research Groups Share back and Seminar Summary**

Raphaela Henze

### **3pm Departure**