



CULTURE AND COMMUNITY RESEARCHER'S NETWORK

The Culture and Community Research Network is a partnership between the **Centre for Cultural Partnerships (CCP)** at the University of Melbourne and the **Cultural Development Network (CDN)**. It brings together researchers who are interested in cultural development, social change, creative methodologies, artistic intervention, practice-based research and/ or community research themes. The network provides a friendly and collegial interdisciplinary environment to present new research, share ideas and build networks.

The group meets monthly between February and November on the last Wednesday of every month from 2 - 5 pm, Founders Room, Elisabeth Murdoch Building, Victorian College of the Arts. To register: <http://www.trybooking.com/BFFM>

Researchers who are interested in attending or speaking at future meetings are invited to contact Poppy de Souza on 0409 165 643 or p.desouza@student.unimelb.edu.au.

Semester One draft program below. Full details to come soon.

Wednesday 29 February: Creativity/Creative Risks

1. Jim Chambliss: "Can Epilepsy Enhance Creativity in Visual Art?"

Abstract: This interdisciplinary research across visual arts and medicine used an innovative confluent methodology of quantitative (Test for Creative Thinking - Drawing Production) and qualitative (independent evaluations of artworks) approaches to assess creativity. Participants with focal epilepsy scored substantially higher than their family member control group with significantly different types of creative output. An innovative web site and art exhibition were produced to help recruit participants, display the artworks, and show appreciation and respect for the participants in this study.

Jim Chambliss is a PhD candidate at The University Of Melbourne and St Vincent's Hospital. He is currently doing research on the influence of human conditions, such as epilepsy and migraines, in art. His blog is <http://sparksofcreativity.blogspot.com.au/>

2. Nilgun Guven:

Abstract: Nilgun will share her critical reflections on practice led research as a performance, community and arts worker collaborating with diverse groups on a variety of projects: SPARC Theatre (City of Port Phillip and arbias), Transpose (Neami and Splash Art Studio), Women's Group (Port Melbourne Neighbourhood House) and Artplay (City of Melbourne). Is there a unity of approach? What processes and understandings are at it's foundation?

Nilgun Guven is a theatre director, community artist, facilitator, project manager and performer. A

practitioner in inclusive arts since 1999, Nilgun has worked with diverse communities, groups, organisations, health service providers, arts companies, and local government on arts projects inclusive of people with disabilities, acquired brain impairment; those who identify with the experience of mental illness, disadvantage and marginalisation.

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Wednesday March 28: Participatory and creative research

1. Devora Neumark: “Collaborative Performance Art in Search of Beauty and Home: Making a Case for Participatory Research and Co-creativity”

Abstract: As an artist-scholar reflecting on the forces that have shaped my life experience and relationship to culture—including the legacy of multiple forced dislocations—I have been exploring the ambivalent role of beauty in the (un)making of home. Over the past four years I have initiated a series of collaborative live art events considering how the affirmation of beauty and settling at home of one population can have a devastating impact on another. The co-creative performances that comprise Radical Beauty for Troubled Times¹ have invited sensory-laden and affectively charged participatory explorations of how beauty, while vital in sustaining communities, can also be used to perpetuate fixed identity reflexes stemming from the need to survive displacement. Working with these performative events (with respect to both methodology and content), I will trouble the relationship between aesthetics, politics and ethics while exploring the role beauty can play for individuals and communities whose homes and habitats have been destroyed by the increasingly common instances of cultural domicide and environmental disaster.

*Interdisciplinary artist **Devora Neumark** is a Faculty Member in the MFA Interdisciplinary Art program at Goddard College (Vermont) and a SSHRC-funded Humanities PhD Scholar at Concordia University’s Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture. Her research/creation project examines the role that beauty plays in the process of homemaking in the aftermath of forced displacement. <http://www.devoraneumark.com/>*

2. Speaker to be confirmed

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Wednesday April 18* : Urban space and the creative city

* Please note: Due to the Anzac Day holiday, our April meeting will take place on the 18th, a week earlier than usual.

1. Kelum Palipane: “Towards a Sensory Production of Urban Space: Developing a Conceptual Framework of Inquiry based on Sensory Embodied Practice”.

Abstract: Based on fieldwork studies undertaken in the suburb of Footscray, Melbourne, this presentation will focus on the multimodal mapping technique employed to identify and analyse existing sensory embodied practice through activity and sensory rhythms. The data gathered is synthesized and represented in a series of multimodal mapping diagrams developed adapting the film composition process for musical scores which explore the relationships between time, space

and activity. The findings reveal examples of how the tactical occupation of space occurs through the ephemeral and temporal nature of sensory embodied activity.

Kelum Palipane is a graduate architect with experience in the field of architecture in Melbourne. She is currently reading for her PhD at the Faculty of Architecture Building and Planning, University of Melbourne, aiming to develop an urban design framework that would help retain and foster the diverse place-making practices of multi-cultural communities in neighbourhood regeneration projects.

Dr Kate Shaw: "Re-thinking the 'creative city': reconciling global strategies with local subcultures".

Abstract to come.

Dr Kate Shaw is a Melbourne University Future Fellow with a PhD in urban planning and a master's degree in urban policy. Her research interests include social equity, cultural diversity, low-income and student housing markets, gentrification, and urban policy and planning. She has received several awards for publications in these areas and is regularly invited to advise city councils and local campaigns on matters of planning and policy. Her most recent book is a collection of essays co-edited with Libby Porter titled: Whose Urban Renaissance? An international comparison of urban regeneration policies (2009).

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Wednesday May 30

1. Jan Hendrik Brueggemeier: How to reclaim my life in my city? - Towards a manual of small steps to a sustainable urban citizenship.

Abstract: In this presentation I would like to introduce to the scope of the transdisciplinary research team of the Athens-based NGO Poiein kai Prattein ("to create and do") and my participation to its work as an artist. This group currently consists out of urban planners, cultural practitioners, artists and philosophers and is dedicated to urban questions and their cultural and social dimension. Since the question of sustainability is crucial, it has to be realised that this question becomes ever more evasive if culture is excluded. Through the work of the transdisciplinary research team at Poiein kai Prattein we want to show how inspiration and perception alters once research goes beyond theory and practice and the falsification of a hypothesis as a way to instigate a certain learning process. The role of culture and arts in action research is important as they represent a "human" perception of time, production, results and environment. Time perception is mostly based on cycles and not on linear development. Always in line with temporalities: the importance of history (roots) in sustainable development. Meaning gives in that sense to life a sense of continuity. So one question is: what kind of dialogue between the imagination and reality is made possible through the arts.

Jan Brueggemeier is a creative Ph.D candidate at the Centre for Creative Arts, La Trobe University Melbourne.

2. Joji Mori: Designing Interactive Technologies For Commemorating Tragedy: A Black Saturday Bushfire Case Study

Abstract: This project explores how the design of interactive technologies for commemorating tragic events can be made sensitive to those directly affected, yet allows larger, interested populations to participate. Affected communities of the Black Saturday Bushfires that occurred in February 2009 is the focus of the study. Both existing and potential interactive technologies will be presented.

Joji Mori is a Ph.D. candidate in the Interaction Design Lab at The University of Melbourne. He has recently worked in industry as an interaction designer and usability consultant. His research interest is the role of interactive technologies in society, with a current focus on memorialisation and communities. www.jojimo.com

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Wednesday June 27

Speakers to be confirmed.

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