

PaRLab

Nick Drofiak

- Indigeneity, language

Mary Courtney

- Still doing thing w N de la T – now a book “to Coventry”

Naomi de la Tour

- Hopes that the “to Coventry” book might be a way for academics to engage with the city
 - Playful engagement for students
- Working on a book on Coventry and the imagination

Nicolas Whybrow

- Will talk more in a minute – Sensing the City; practice-based research;
- Writing book on contemporary European Art Biennial – and on board of Cov Art Biennial

Mark Hinton

- Clown and intercultural community bridge-builder
- Several CLL staff interested

Carmen Wong

- How we perform belonging through food – different places and times – migrant cultures – ghosts of unbelongings
 - Belonging and unbelonging in order to belong elsewhere in her own story are what her second piece is about

Eva McIntyre

- Third year of part-time PhD – story-telling and its role in change and reconciliation in a church context where other ways to resolve disfunction are not working
- Planning to ‘include’ work with BAME, LGBTQ+, MHSS groups – expects that this will be more ecumenical (so far mostly with C of E)
- Practice is story-telling and reflection on the story-telling

Rakel Ezpeleta

- PhD here and in Barcelona
- Performer
- Teacher in professional schools – voice and Spanish diction
- Research brings together academic background (art history) and practice as performer
- Study experimental theatre in relation to the concept of identity (as a Basque)
 - How do I put my identity as a Basque in to my performance
 - Comparing this with other artists and groups

Plan is to do something six-weekly, and other stuff in between

- Interested in workshop offers/training/experiments

Also has a function as a reading group

Carolyn Deby

- Research PhD about choreographing the urban wild in the Anthropocene
- Penultimate performance thing of Urban Flows a year from now; may be part of the biennial
- ...

Carmen suggests themes are emerging – would like to have reading suggestions

- Identity
- Community
- City

This group has helped us hunt down interesting practice/academic texts

This is an emerging field – so documentation is important for that reason

AHRC now requires only 300 words of contextualisation of REFable practice-based research – suggesting that the practice itself is more allowed to speak for itself. NW – what you write should be contextualising, not ‘explaining’ (or containing) the practice.

NdIT – interested in how this works with marking student-devised assessment – helpful to know that REF is thinking about practice in this way.

NW suggests that PaR (at Phd level) has taken its cue from Theatre Studies and Dance UG standard practice re: assessing practice (Naomi notes Writing Programme as a key thingy).

ND – interested in which kinds of writing can be valid and how can they interact (poetic, contextual, etc.)

When the moon waxes red – Nick’s reading suggestion – will be sent

Linda Barry – syllabus: notes from an accidental professor

“loosen the can(n)ons!”

Pecha Kucha – Carmen

Always interviewing people about food then making a performance piece

Nicolas Whybrow

Four bits of Sensing the City – his bit is based on walking

Citycity – the feel of a city; that which may be said to constitute cityness

Embodied mapping is what the project is primarily about – all in city centre so far; much around the ring road

Ring Road is mainly junctions – now moving towards a series called *con-junctions: Coventry ring cycle*

All this work starts from some kind of walking – walked around the ring road which took about 4.5 hours as part of Body Weather work

- This was much more about the conversations that we had
- But mostly walks solitarily
 - o So what happens to me as a pedestrian is key
 - o Ring Road exists in order to facilitate traffic flow
 - o In any way that you might walk in, you tend to hit a bit of a wall
 - Either you get driven underground or across a pedestrian bridge (not as intimidating as a subway, but still subject to the elements)
- Interested in the evolution of post-war planning
 - o Allowed big plans from before the War to reconfigure the city to be implemented
 - o Coventry = very civic, very much a working city
 - o V active post-war architecture and planning departments of CCC
 - o One part of plans was to pedestrianise the city centre – partly done, but much compromise also

Piece called Road Rumour

- Park Fiction made a utopian as-if vision of public space
- Has a vision of the Ring Road re-purposed as highline and to host pop-up markets, etc. – as a way to reinvigorate a slightly aimless city centre
 - o As if Ring Road would be the new City Centre
 - o Interest in “the exciting stuff happens outside the city centre, in the suburbs” and no-one lingers in the city centre
- Enjoying the game of Anonymous Document as manifesto/criticism/bold suggestions
- Likes inspiring example of Pontevedra (car free Spanish City)

Second piece called dysjunction

Junction 7

- Maze of subways – IKEA ends up being the useful landmark
- Also where the Sherbourne goes underground
- Where Neville Staples’ grandson was murdered

Working between junction 9 and junction 1 – Road Voids

- Images of NW and relevant design/planning books inserted into voids in the Ring Road structure