

# 2nd Midlands ESRC DTC Conference

## Abstract Booklet

### SESSION 1, PANEL A (Room R0.03/04)

#### **Jennifer Kitchen: Moments of Awe Vs. Moments of Guffaw: Articulating The Value of Theatre Education through play**

During my MA thesis I explored the role of play in the learning of KS4 drama lessons. This research suggested social and transgressive elements of play were key to learning at this age. This research, and my subsequent career in theatre education, led to a continued interest in how to capture and assess the value of theatre education, and whether further development of a playful pedagogy could inform this.

This paper, which will be presented in a fuller form at the National Drama Conference this summer, will focus on renowned theatre education practitioner Dorothy Heathcote, and her concept of 'moments of awe' as an expression of the key 'learning moment' in theatre education; critiquing it with reference to the work of later practitioner John O'Toole. O'Toole coined the phrase 'moments of guffaw' to describe a moment of spontaneous, united laughter and joy. It was this he saw as the ultimate expression of key learning moments in theatre education.

I want to propose this reshaping of key learning moments in theatre education from 'awe' to 'guffaw' is central to conceptualising a play-based expression of its' value. I will develop this argument, drawing on the social and transgressive aspects of play theory.

Expressing the value of theatre education has long been a problematic methodological question for the sector. I will further suggest a re-valuing of theatre education through play would have profound effects on impact assessment methodology.

#### **Maria Armaou: Exploring teachers' perceptions of job resources**

This paper explores teachers' perceptions of job resources using a sequential mixed methods research design adopting the rationale of complementarity. 109 Secondary school teachers participated in a pilot-study, 64 in a survey-study and 10 in semi-structured interviews. Overall, the study's research design consisted of three parts. The first part involved the processes that were followed for the development of the surveys and interviews. At this stage, those processes influenced one another as they also allowed the development of the processes through which inferences were drawn. The developments of the surveys included the design of the questionnaire and questionnaire testing, while the development of the interviews included the development of a case study protocol and the development of an interview schedule. The second part of the research design involved the pilot-study; the surveys and the interviews that happened at separate times while interviews took place with a group of survey study's participants. Finally, the third part involved the surveys' findings, the interviews' interpretations and the inferences drawn from one method to another. Surveys' findings and interview interpretations took place at separate times but questions found in the study's research design allowed them to complement each other.

#### **Emma Nielsen: Functional dimensions of coping and change in self-harm behaviour**

Self-harm represents a significant public health concern worldwide. The examination of psychological variables is central to identifying key factors influencing self-harm behaviour, which is associated with emotional distress and both attempted and completed suicide. Research indicates that engaging in (non-suicidal) self-injury affords a means of coping. Recent conceptualisations of psychopathology have focused on behavioural functionality. Viewed in this light self-harm can be seen as a manifestation of a general deficit in emotional regulation strategies and an inability to deal 'appropriately' with difficult emotions/situations. This 'experiential avoidance' refers not to the specific behaviour but rather to a wider category of behaviours united by a common function.

While avoidance may prove exceedingly effective in the short-term, pervasive reliance has detrimental consequences and is proposed as central in the aetiology, exacerbation and maintenance of pathological behaviour. Although research evidence supports the cyclical nature of self-harm, there is a dearth of evidence addressing behaviour change. My research aims to contribute data to this gap, exploring transactionally what an individual believes their behaviour engagement will achieve. Preliminary results will be presented exploring coping function between groups differing in self-harm histories. Further, the relationship between self-report ratings and a behavioural measure of avoidance will be explored. This is pertinent to the conceptualisation of 'recovery'; an increasingly important agenda in mental health services. We need to know whether individuals coping in a functionally different manner, or are they merely demonstrating an alternative behavioural manifestation of identical coping function?

### **SESSION 1, PANEL B (Room R1.13)**

#### **Sabarinath Krishnan: Public Private Partnership approach for rural development in India**

This doctoral study proposes to analyse the relevance of PPP (public private partnership) approach for rural development in developing countries with focus on the adoption and implementation of the PPP approach in India in the context of rural development. The research will particularly focus on the analysis of the governance framework and implementation structure of the PURA (Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) projects, which have commenced implementation in India. The primary objective of this research is to use the analysis of different PPP projects, the analysis of governance issues and implementation challenges to explain i) how the models could evolve further to augment project implementation and refine project design to cater to the specific rural needs and ii) how a model implementation framework for PPP projects could be evolved exclusively for rural development in developing regions.

#### **Sameen Zafar: Measuring multidimensional poverty in the Punjab**

My study is an attempt to measure multidimensional poverty in the Punjab province of Pakistan and to analyse the determinants of income and non-income poverty in the province. The analysis is conducted at household level and the results are decomposed by urban/rural areas as well as at district level to understand how and why the situation of poverty varies across different parts of the province to aid targeted policy formulation.

My current research design involves mainly a quantitative approach. I use the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) of 91,075 households conducted in Punjab to compute multidimensional poverty index (MPI) (Alkire and Santos, 2010). The multidimensional poverty results from the quantitative portion of my study illustrate that northern districts of Punjab are least poor (Rawalpindi is the least poor district) and southern districts are most poor. The results as expected show that poverty is more prevalent in rural areas.

However as it is well-known that poverty is a complex phenomenon requiring a social, economic, cultural and psychological analysis, it is essential to carry out case studies and interviews of poor households to get deep insights about their health, education and living conditions. Therefore, I propose to supplement my existing study with qualitative research. I intend to use the household survey as well as case studies and interviews to analyse poverty in Punjab. I propose to use a mixed methods strategy for my research because I believe that this would add a more human face and depth to my research.

#### **Georgia Michailidou: Distributive Justice And Relative Economic Status: Experimental Evidence from Athens**

Using a four-person dictator game with either earned or random endowments we elicit people's preferences on distributive justice. Experimental results suggest that Athenian subjects bracket their decisions with reference to the lab rather than everyday life. We find an earned endowment effect among student participants but not among employed and unemployed people.

## **SESSION 1, PANEL C (Room R1.03)**

### **Spyridon Terovitis: Impact of more information in capital markets**

In our paper we show the impact of more information in capital markets, by introducing a Credit Rating Agency (CRA), on the interest rate, the probability of projects' financing, the expected default probability and the expected market surplus.

We find that the introduction of a CRA is not always beneficial, even in the restricted case where the CRA reveals its private information truthfully and costlessly. The impact of introducing an intermediary will depend on the value of the parameters of the economy as follows: (i) If both the high and low Net Present Value (NPV) projects are productive enough, the market never collapses and the introduction of CRA leads to higher expected default probability and lower expected surplus, (ii) If both the high and low NPV projects are not productive enough to restrict market collapse, there is no impact from the introduction of the CRA, (iii) If the low NPV project's financing can be sustained only if it is pooled with high NPV projects, introduction of CRA leads to under-financing and (iv) If the low NPV project's financing cannot be sustained even if they are pooled with high expected productivity projects, absence of CRA leads to under-financing.

### **Di Luo: Liquidity risk, consumption risk, market risk, and the cross-sectional returns**

We incorporate stock liquidity into the Epstein and Zin (1991) framework to examine whether modeling liquidity as a factor is useful in explaining cross-sectional returns. Using various liquidity measures, we find that not only the price of liquidity risk is positively significant, but the liquidity factor makes a significant contribution to the incremental explanatory power to the cross-sectional variations of expected returns. A liquidity consumption model has significantly higher cross-sectional  $R^2$  and smaller HJ-distance (Hansen and Jagannathan (1997)) than the Epstein and Zin's model according to the tests of Kan, Robotti, and Shanken (2012) and Kan and Robotti (2009).

## **SESSION 2, PANEL A (Room R0.03/04)**

### **Pedro Monteiro: Intra-organizational collaboration**

Intra-organizational collaboration represents one of the central challenges of the current workplace. As the complexity of products and services escalates in the post-industrial, knowledge-driven society, organizations rely more and more on the interdependence of a number of professional groups. To wit, balancing between the separation and integration of multiple specializations is the very *raison d'être* of organizations as these are places set to accomplish collective goals through interdependent practices. This is enabled in turn by a division of labor that allocates individuals and groups with diverse knowledge and skills to different tasks.

Based on an ethnographic approach, I propose to investigate cross-functional teams in an aircraft manufacturer, zooming in on the interaction of different specialties (e.g. design engineering, manufacturing engineering, etc.) by analyzing their meetings, conversations and the tools they use to coordinate their work. The choice of cross-functional teams is purposeful as it represents a conspicuous site to observe the struggles and mobilization of different discursive and material elements by professionals. That is, given that individuals from different boundaries directly interact in these situations, it is possible to observe the clash of the different "thought worlds".

The study aims to contribute to the literature on knowledge integration, boundaries and cross-functional teams by expanding its focus on micro-processes. By doing so, it joins forces with the current interest for bridging levels of analysis through the connection between practice theory and institutional scholarship.

### **Anna Baiardi: The impact of Candelilla wax production on the economic lives of the people of the Chihuahuan desert in northern Mexico**

In my presentation I will outline my experience of trying to combine quantitative and qualitative methods; the paper in question is an analysis of the impact of Candelilla wax production on the economic lives of the people of the Chihuahuan desert in northern Mexico. Given the underdevelopment of the region, this source of employment can have large impact on poverty, migration, and social networks. Because of this multidimensional

impact, the Candelilla wax is of interest for both economical and sociological studies. Understanding the impact of this activity has gained attention because of its potential to grow in the future.

This work in progress allows me to depict the challenges of interdisciplinary work and the conflicts due to the rigid requirements of the respective fields.

### **Boromeus Wanengkirtyo: Beyond Inventory Management: The Bullwhip Effect and the Great Moderation**

Previous work that considered the role of better business practices in the Great Moderation only previously examined inventory management. We consider a wider set of business practices -- lean production and supply chain management -- that may affect ordering behaviour. Since new orders are a component of sales, this may also cause the observed break in sales volatility. We test the extent that the reduction bullwhip effect -- the amplification of order volatility through the supply chain from information distortions, that has been dampened with improvements in ICT and manufacturing techniques -- has in reducing production volatility. We find that in the durables sector, one of the biggest contributors to the fall in GDP growth volatility, industry-level structural changes diminished new orders volatility -- what we interpret as the reduction of the bullwhip effect. Nevertheless, countercyclical inventory dynamics also seem to stabilise production too. Shocks also contributed to some volatility moderation. In the non-durables sector, the role of reduced shocks is less important, but there is a bigger interaction of industry dynamics with the macroeconomic structure. The changes in the monetary policy environment stabilises external shocks to enable firms to implement these improvements in supply chain management.

### **SESSION 2, PANEL B (Room R1.13)**

#### **Man Lei: Teacher understandings of, and responses to the new (2011) PRC English Curriculum Standard**

This paper reports an enquiry into teacher understandings of, and responses to the new (2011) PRC English Curriculum Standard, which includes profound changes both to curriculum content and role of the teacher. These changes are unexplored in the west and is unclear to what extent these changes are understood by teachers or researchers.

The researcher aims to understand what challenges the new curriculum poses for teachers. Research about effective teaching gives a prominent role to teacher beliefs and knowledge not only in teaching but also in changing existing practices. Any educational reform ultimately relies on teachers (Fullan, 1993), so their views are pivotal to the success of the new curriculum.

This paper will report a detailed comparison between the new curriculum and the 2001 curriculum and the findings of a qualitative analysis of teacher discussion about the new curriculum. To explore teachers' understandings of the new curriculum and accompanying challenges, a novel approach has been taken in examining teacher views through their activities on web forums in China. This approach allows the researcher to sample views expressed anonymously and to generate categories, which represent their views about the nature of the curriculum and teaching practices.

This paper will report a preliminary analysis of views and, to be used in future questionnaire and interview based study. The results so far suggest that teachers share a range of concerns, particularly their uncertainty about the nature of "reflection" on their own practice and the possible accountability uses of this reflection.

#### **Maria Evans: Working title: The disconnect between evidence and practice: why evidence alone isn't enough to change the classroom teaching of Shakespeare**

For more than 100 years respected educators and practitioners have advocated approaching Shakespeare's texts as plays, highlighting the way it engages young people and its effectiveness in overcoming any fears, prejudices and difficulties with the text. For the last 40 years the Royal Shakespeare Company has championed this approach.

Research recently undertaken by the University of Warwick shows that when teachers are trained in these approaches not only do young people's attitudes to Shakespeare improve but so do their attitudes to school.

Despite the evidence Shakespeare is mostly taught by English teachers whose approach is literary rather than dramatic. Much of that practice is exemplary; yet too many teachers and students continue to struggle with Shakespeare – with damaging results for both, given the compulsory inclusion of Shakespeare within English.

At a time when evidence is both topical and highly political my PhD seeks to look at the complexities of evidence-based approaches within education and examine why, even when evidence is clear and robust, it doesn't necessarily lead to changes in classroom practice.

### **Laurence Arnold: Developing a critical approach to autism**

My research was originally predicated upon notions that although there are conflicting accounts of autism in the scientific literature, it was likely that one of them would have more validity than the others and sufficient to have some influence on and be capable of explaining autistic traits as they relate to education.

However the outcome of the research has thus far failed to add any strength to that argument. The general overview of the research as this project has progressed has inevitably led to the conclusion that much of the science is flawed. Instead of approaching greater certainty, research into autism has fragmented even within the main schools of thought. It has also become evident that a more sociological approach, that recognises both the positionality of the researcher and the social and cultural conditions that have led to the production of this knowledge is needed.

Education in its most classical sense is considered to be the leading out of what is already within pedagogy, and there is no reason to suppose that is not the same for autism.

There should be respect for autistic peoples cognitive styles and insight, seeing autism in a more positive light to bring together the worlds of the “neuro-typical and autistic on more even basis, without the continual of autistic deficit in need of curbing or extinction, so much as the need to adapt autistic behaviours to the demands of a none autistic world.

## **SESSION 2, PANEL C (Room R1.03)**

### **Rogan Collins: Security Matters? Questioning Human Subjects and Technological Objects**

This paper focuses on the politics of technology and particularly the ways in which it might be made relatable to the study of security. It plots a trajectory between some of the key approaches to technology found across the social sciences and humanities, including philosophy, political theory, sociology and history, and interconnects this with literature interested specifically in the concept of security. In particular, focus is given to the onto-political relationship between technology and security, ‘onto-political’ here being used as a term that seeks to recognise and highlight the political nature of ontological claims. The paper argues that any notion of what ontology is and what it means to ‘be’ is itself predetermined by a particular resolution of the technological, and vice versa. That is not to say that ontology is reducible to technology but rather that they form an inherently interconnected aporia that raises significant questions about our ability to separate a human 'being' from its own technological realisation, questions which lead to a fundamental problematisation of the ability to clearly demarcate, or in any way securitize, (human) subjects and (technological) objects in social science research. The argument and exploration in this paper forms the theoretical basis for the rest of my PhD thesis, which offers an empirical analysis of drone technology using actor-network theory and new materialist approaches.

### **Christoph Koenig: Voting decisions after the Chernobyl disaster**

The Chernobyl disaster in 1986 has so far been the biggest and most devastating accident in the history of nuclear energy. Apart from its detrimental effects on the local population, it also marked a major turning point in the public perception of the dangers posed by the usage of nuclear power. This project is looking into the indirect "Chernobyl effects" in West Germany and, more precisely, into how it affected people's voting decision. I will try to provide plausible quantitative evidence that areas located closer to a nuclear facility at the time of the disaster

are associated with a significantly higher Green party vote share in the following Federal election in 1987. Furthermore, the effect is shown to be persistent and robust to several other potential explanations.

### **Raghul Venkatesh: Political Polarization of Elections in US**

Political polarization of elections in US has increased drastically in the last decade, going against the classical theory of Downsian convergence. In a similar vein, political activism (and lobbying) is increasingly affecting political platforms taken by parties/candidates. In this paper, a unique symmetric equilibrium in pure strategies is derived in a model of elections with responsible candidates and representative activists. This equilibrium platform becomes more convergent when benefits of office increase; and when candidates are less ideologically polarised. The model also predicts some counter-intuitive results. Specifically, as activism becomes more extreme, and the curvature of the contribution function of the activists is moderate, equilibrium platforms of candidates tend to converge rather than diverge. The paper derives precise parameter values for which this holds. In addition, fixing the ideology of activists, the model predicts convergence of equilibrium platforms when curvature of the contribution function increases within an interval. In arriving at these contrary results, this paper poses a puzzle.

### **SESSION 3, PANEL A (Room R0.03/04)**

#### **Katy Harsant: The role of responsibility within the context of human rights and international intervention**

The aim of this project is to explore the role the notion of responsibility plays within the context of human rights and international intervention. Whilst responsibility has a moral underpinning, to understand the protection of others as an inherent moral duty fails to recognise the complex power relations involved when this duty is enacted. In order to focus these ideas more tangibly, this project will look at the United Nations principle of Responsibility to Protect, providing an understanding of how this principle came into being, some of the problems associated with the way in which it is conceptualised, and an exploration of these debates in empirical contexts, as well as providing an historical analysis of the United Nations policies on intervention. Whilst there is a substantial literature on United Nations intervention and the Responsibility to Protect from the perspective of international law or politics, it remains understudied in Sociology. This project aims to address this gap and locate debates around responsibility and selectivity within the context of society and the social, providing an historical background that aims to understand the ways in which contemporary understandings of responsibility are shaped by historical events. The project will use archival materials in order to provide an historical context to the Responsibility to Protect principle, grounded in an historical sociology approach, as well as providing contemporary illustrations of issues of selectivity and global politics.

#### **Qi Chen: Criminal justice in China**

Chinese penal system has long been criticised for its inhumane treatment of offenders in prisons and labour camps. However, in 2003 the Chinese government launched a new legal reform, making it possible for the petty offenders to be supervised in the community instead of going to prison or labour camp. It also covers prisoners released to community on parole. These offenders will be supervised by social workers or police officers, performing community services, cooperating with mental health counsellors, and wearing electronic tags if necessary.

The empirical study explores how this reform has been operating within the existing criminal justice system and how the stakeholders react to it in practice. A qualitative approach is adopted to generate a rich description of the practice and a solid empirical basis for later analysis and evaluation. Semi-structured interviews are used to gain insights from offenders, judges, prosecutors, grass-roots supervisors, government officials and legislation lobbyists. By the end of the empirical work, forty interviews have been done in eight subdistricts of two major sites.

Based on the qualitative data, I try to attain a socio-legal interpretation of the underlying problems in the criminal justice of China: how the way of managing court system denies the judges' independence in sentencing; how the

undermined role of criminal court has influenced the management of offenders; and lastly, how these features of criminal justice have influenced social control in the increasingly polarised Chinese society.

### **Raquel Bezeza Pereira da Silva: Terrorism in Portugal**

Despite the considerable research and policy attention that terrorism has generated (Schmid and Jongman, 2005; Crenshaw, 1990), so far it has been little analysed in Portugal. My research aims to gather empirical data about the experiences and perspectives of the individuals engaged in terrorism pre and post 1974 period in Portugal, shedding some light upon the social and political factors involved in why individuals carried out acts of violence and what their objectives were. Also, given the lack of consensus over terrorism definitions, this study explores actors' own understandings of their violent acts. This is important because terrorism studies has traditionally lacked empirical data generated by those carrying out acts of violence (Breen Smyth, 2007) and because this study will help explore the socio-political conditions in Portugal that helped create and sustain terrorism in order to try to prevent the creation of such conditions in the future through policy recommendations.

### **SESSION 3, PANEL B (Room R1.13)**

#### **Xian Li: Mandarin teaching in Chinese supplementary schools**

Chinese Supplementary Schools aim to preserve Chinese language, transmit Chinese culture and enhance confidence in ethnic identities for Chinese heritage children in Britain. The existing research about Chinese supplementary schools (Francis et al., 2005) focused on schools teaching Cantonese, because previous Chinese communities originated in Hong Kong. However, in the last five years there has been a dramatic shift to Mandarin in Chinese supplementary schools, which has gone unresearched. This change has a huge impact.

I aim to examine: 1) Why do Chinese parents send their children to learn Mandarin? 2) What are the common teaching approaches used by the teachers in Chinese supplementary schools at the moment? 3) What are the difficulties or problems perceived by the teachers and parents in their children learning Mandarin? 4) What are the children's views of difficulties in learning Mandarin in supplementary schools?

To address these questions I aim to conduct a survey of supplementary schools and follow this with in-depth, qualitative studies of a small number of Chinese supplementary schools. These case studies will involve interviews with children, parents and teachers.

My study shows that the background of children in Chinese complementary schools has changed, the materials and expertise necessary have changed, the demands and difficulties are unknown. My PhD research aims to explore the situation supplementary school participants face and ultimately hopes to be able to offer a holistic, theoretical and practical picture of the situation, constraints and possible avenues for Mandarin teaching in supplementary schools.

#### **Huaxing Liu: Public trust in local government in China**

The public's trust in government has long been a topic that arouses intense interest and debate. In China, at least since the 1980s, a trust crisis has haunted many local governments, although in some contrast, the national government seems to have fared better and managed to consolidate a more trusted relationship with the public.

My research aims to address the apparent weakness of public trust in local government in China and seeks answers to the following questions: Why is the level of public trust in local government in China lower than in central government? What are the key drivers influencing public trust in local government in China as viewed by both ordinary people and public officials? Through what mechanisms and processes might public trust in China's local government be reshaped and strengthened?

In addressing these questions, I am adopting a mixed-research methods approach. I am first using regression analysis of the secondary data to analyse the determinants of trust in local government. The total sample size here is 5500 citizens. The results will provide insights on trust at several different levels of local government and what the key drivers at work here.

The research is then to be supplemented by empirical study and primary data collection to be undertaken by the author, whom is to be conducted in Qingdao and which will involve some 30 semi-structured interviews with local officials. Through this interview research, I intend to develop a trust model of local government and to understand how public officials perceive and react to a context of distrust in local government on the part of many citizens.

### **Shasha Zhang: Cross-class families**

Cross-class families refer to families that consist of a couple occupying different social class positions. This notion emerged three decades ago. The conventional wisdom did not believe that there were any cross-class families. In contrast, the adherents of the joint-classification approach believed that there are substantial amount of cross-class families. The debate of cross-class families was at the centre of the stage in 1980s. Nowadays, this debate is almost forgotten, while the puzzle remains unsolved.

This research picked up this debate again and took a creative approach, social capital, to make sense of the issue. The British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) 2008 was used to examine the three assumptions in contemporary Britain. The latest class scheme, National Statistics Socio-economic Classification 2005, was applied in the measurement of cross-class families. The results point to the opposite direction compared to the three assumptions of the conventional approach. (1) A substantial amount of families in contemporary Britain was heterogeneous in terms of not only the occupational level but also the social capital level. (2) Sharing resources did not necessarily mean class homogeneity. Cross-class couples also influenced each other significantly in terms of their social capital. (3) The occupations of women had significant or indirect impact on their own social positions and the male partners social positions. An accurate measure of social class should not overlook the contribution of women. These findings uncovered the problems of the conventional wisdom, and suggested that 'cross-class families' might be a better solution.

### **SESSION 3, PANEL C (Room R1.03)**

#### **Jessica Mason: Relationships between different reading experiences**

My research explores the relationships between different reading experiences. I am particularly interested in the continuities and divergence of students' narrative experiences inside and outside the English classroom, both in terms of the types of books and films they encounter in different contexts and how that context affects the way in which they read. I'm interested in whether studying a text in school resembles how kids read when left to their own devices.

This paper presents my on-going project mapping different reading experiences of *Holes* by Louis Sachar, a very popular text studied in English at Key Stage 3 (ages 11-14). My data includes transcripts and observations of *Holes* studied as a 'class reader' in school, readers in online messageboard discussions, teacher and student learning resources, a reading group of 'highly skilled' readers and reader generated 'fanfiction'.

I will share the initial findings from this project revealing how individuals read *Holes* in different contexts. For example, in the classroom and in study guides there is a heavy emphasis on plot-salient features and main protagonists. However, given free reign over what they attend to and focus on, many readers like to hone in on particular minor characters even if they have no integral role in the plot. I will discuss the potential implications of such differences and consider whether these variations between reading and studying a text in school are positive or negative and explore how this type of study could potentially contribute to practice.

#### **Cheryl Cane: The Art of the Lesson – Traversing methodological oxymorons'**

In many ways the concept of 'lesson' has become a neglected aspect within educational research. Understanding of, and expectations for, 'lesson' underpin most aspects of today's schooling systems in the U.K, from timetable structure to classroom design, and yet understanding of the concept itself is often seen as fixed and largely unchallenged. This research explores the artistry of the lesson for English teachers' within a U.K secondary school. Recent literature relating to 'lesson study' has focused on refining practice and providing continuing professional development for teachers. In contrast, this research reconsiders the lesson as an artistic endeavour



and considers the various influences and epistemologies that act together to enable artistry. This research comes at a time when teachers have emerged from highly prescribed pedagogy linked to National Strategies and at a point where a new national curriculum is being introduced. It questions whether artistry and artistic processes are indeed features of today's English lessons.

This conference session will explore the methodological choices and difficulties that have presented themselves during the early stages (Year 1) of this research project. It will explore the challenges inherent in attempting to construct a methodological framework that is rigorous. In combining methods and incorporating aspects of quantitative and qualitative measures, the intention is to express a narrative that equals more than the sum of its parts. This methodological patchwork appears contradictory but, just like the literary function of the oxymoron, the narrative is richer because of it.

**Andis Sofianos: Understanding the existence of variation in personality traits within the human population**

My research project aims to try and understand the existence of variation in personality traits within the human population. I will be building a model that will try to show whether the existing continuum of personality traits that exists is an evolutionary stable strategy. More specifically I will be applying personality trait theories and empirical findings within an evolutionary game theoretic framework to build a model of the evolution of extraversion. Within this model I will also be borrowing from search and matching models of employment, to explain the process in which individuals are matched and form relationships.