

## Creativity, Performance and Education Implementation Group

### Summary and Action Points

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014, 0930-1100

**In attendance:** Jonathan Neelands (Chair, WBS), Natalie Hart (Theatre Studies, WBS) Jo Trowsdale (CES), Leucha Veneer (Computer Science), Jonny Heron (IATL), Nicholas Whybrow (Theatre Studies), Rachel King (CES), Elisabeth Blagrove (Psychology), Michael Luntley (Philosophy), Juliet Raynsford (CES), Sophie Reissner-Roubicek (CAL), Richard Sutcliffe (CES)

**Apologies:** Simon Swain (PVC Arts & Social Sciences), Sotaro Kita (Psychology), Louise Botley (RSS), Rachel Corke (IAS)

### Discussion Points:

*Centre for Theatre in Educational, Community and Social Contexts or Creative Education*

- Although originally proposed by Nadine Holdsworth in CES Working Group, any discussions around a centre would need to be preceded by a stoking of interest from within the Theatre and Cultural Policy Studies (TCPS) department
- Currently no members of staff with a specific, declared interest in Applied Theatre but many academics in the TCPS department do have interests that intersect with applied theatre: for example, Susan Haedicke, Milija Gluhovic, Yvette Hutchison, Nadine Holdsworth and Nicholas Whybrow
- There is not necessarily a need for a formal university centre in making connections and collaborations, and also there are several competitors who have made more formal in-roads into this area (e.g. Coventry, Manchester) so a centre would likely need to be more niche than 'applied theatre'
- But a new appointment could act as a pivotal uniting factor in stronger collaborations
- Historically individuals looking to study Theatre and Education choose between Warwick or London (Central / Goldsmiths). The MA in Drama and Theatre Education at Warwick offers a distinct schools focus which is not replicated elsewhere – this represents a unique offer in the market.
- Noted that Drama is no longer featuring in the English School Curriculum, so looking at creativity and drama in other contexts will be an important area to consider.
- One opportunity to widen, is in the role of Creativity in Higher Education Pedagogy. Many colleagues at Warwick are introducing creative pedagogy into their practice and coupled with the work in IATL makes Warwick a leader in this area
- Applied theatre / Creativity in HE could offer a fresh opportunity and one way to explore the opportunity is to hold a seminar series on Creativity in Higher Education
- Another option is to apply for pump-priming funding

*Shared appointment CES-TCPS*

- 70% CES 30% TCPS appointment split has been discussed previously between Joe Winston and Nadine Holdsworth; but no further progress made.

*Interconnectivity between TPS MA in International Performance Research & CES MA in Drama and Theatre Education*

- With MA International Performance Research Erasmus funding soon to end, theatre studies are considering options to continue the course in some form. Collaboration and synergy with CES MA programme is one option, given the change in funding environment (i.e. current course will become more subject to student numbers / demand).
- One current option on the table for the MA IPR is to move from 18 month delivery to 12 month delivery
- Mode of Delivery options as well as synergies between CES MA and TCPS MA programmes are worthwhile considering. For example is full time delivery necessary and could programmes be more condensed into intensive courses? What are the international options; how can links with Singapore and SE Asia be utilised?
- Shared summer school model could be explored?

*Undergraduate level connectivity*

- IATL have an open call to develop interdisciplinary modules with a deadline in December; this is a good opportunity to test / develop cross-departmental links and specifically around the role of creativity in higher education. Only caveat is that these must be open to all students across all faculties.
- The above module could feed into proposals for the new BA (Hons) Education Studies

*Broader interests / points:*

- Members of the group highlight some broader interests and projects
  - Creative coding - computer science collaboration with the arts centre. CS acting as advisors (alongside Margaret Lowe). Is there potential for Warwick to take a lead on use of digital creativity in schools?
  - Currently bidding to AHRC for Collaborative PhD studentship with the Arts Centre on arts practitioners interactions with academics.
  - Case based learning – WMS trying to continue their work in this area and has synergies with CES, CAL and others potentially
  - Centre for history of medicine often use applied theatre in their work - Medical Humanities was an area of interest being encouraged from PVC level
- Important to note the strategic opportunity of the Warwick Commission on the future of Cultural Value, whose report will be released shortly and will contain recommendations concerning higher education, cultural organisations and schools
- Links with Psychology and creativity, performance, education are underexplored. Synergies are present both in terms of research interests and teaching (e.g. creativity as behavioural differences, emotion, personal influence).

- Links used to be stronger in the past, but British Psychological Society accreditation led to joint honours courses stopping.
- The group suggested the possibility of a Global Research Priority (GRP) on Creativity. This would need representation to PVC level, or Provost who takes initiative on interdisciplinarity at Warwick

**Action Points:**

1. CES and Theatre Studies to reinitiate conversations around potential joint appointments / MA synergies – **Joe Winston & Nicholas Whybrow**
2. Establish a seminar series on Creativity in Higher Education - **All**
3. Explore options to create a GRP or equivalent mechanism for Creativity in Higher Education – **All** (following the seminar series)