

Anthropology and the Performing Arts

Moving beyond conventional textual resources

Engaging Anthropology in Practice
at the University of St. Andrews

Saturday 15th – Sunday 16th January 2011

‘Anthropology and the Performing Arts’ is EAP’s second workshop funded by the Gradskills programme at the University of St. Andrews. The event will explore a two-fold theme along with practitioners from the performing arts. The question to be addressed is: How can embodied and performative practices, that serve both as methodologies and as the subject of our research, also communicate the insights that combined anthropological and artistic practice offer? The workshop is organised in collaboration with a group of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers from across Scotland who have interests and experience in performance media. As well as the three EAP convenors, Caroline Gatt, Joe Long and Rachel Harkness, Adriana Carolina Borda, Victor Cova, Poppy Kohner, Shomik Mukerjee and Candice Rozehoy have been involved in the workshop’s inception and organisation.

The first day of the workshop will be led by Ewan Downie (Song of the Goat Theatre, Poland). Together he will lead us in exploring ways to deepen listening (on all levels), and ways of meeting: paying attention to physical, vocal and verbal ways that people can work together and support each other particularly at the levels of experience that we are not normally aware of such as status interactions. During the second day of the workshop three participants will propose their own work in this area, fostering a spirit of exchange and discussion. The second day will also include reflection and discussion on the work of the previous sessions, exploring ways to develop, carry forward and open that work up to others.

This is a two-day practical workshop open to postgraduate students and early career anthropologists.

Places are limited and must be pre-booked, so please get in touch with Victor Cova (vc84@st-andrews.ac.uk) if you would like to attend.

Anthropology and the Performing Arts is the second workshop of Engaging Anthropology in Practice, a broader project that is hosted within the network established by the Scottish Training for Anthropological Research programme (STAR). Its organizers are looking for collaborators from the other University departments who would like to be part of the next stage of the project. In 2011 we will be planning, securing funding for, and running a series of workshops which will focus upon practical means by which Anthropology can (and does!) reach beyond the academy. Workshops will explore and provide training in a variety of different media and modes of communication, creating exchanges and networks with gatekeepers and practitioners in realms such as public speaking, film and television, and education and the plastic arts.