

University College Falmouth

invites submissions for

**ENVIRONMENTAL UTTERANCE
- A Performative Conference -**

Sat 1 to Sun 2 September 2012

Submission Deadline: Saturday 31 March 2012

Across disciplines academics and artists are researching and creating practices that are highly contextual (determined by the environment in which they are located), exploring ways of articulating specific environments, spaces or places. This conference examines a specific problematic that attends the dissemination of this work: how to engage with 'being there' when 'there' is not here?

We understand environment (social, built, natural, technological) as that which surrounds and informs us. Through our practice we influence environment. Creation is determined by the materials with, and the structures within which we work. We exist in a relation of mutual exchange; making ourselves other and incorporating that which is other in turn. This conference offers a forum for academics and creative practitioners to come together and engage with articulations of mutual formation: to discuss work as environment.

Such work often relies on direct, personal experience of a particular environment. Transfer and abstraction, necessary for the communication of this work beyond the specifics of this original environment, challenge the work. Negotiating publication or conference environment, for example, necessitates reformulation of the work, engendering changes in texture and experience, in adapting to alternative structures. What do such alterations, translations or transformations, mean for this work?

This conference aims to examine these questions on a very practical level. When it comes to considering environment, what is the relationship between the structures of dissemination and the environment our work seeks to convey? What is the relationship between our academic environment and the work we (aim to) produce? How do we utter our environment?



We invite poets and writers, artists, academics, social and environmental scientists, performers and musicians, among others, to submit proposals for 20 minute papers/presentations/performances that practically consider/reflect upon/perform ways of uttering environment. We seek work that explores the phenomenological sense of speaking *with* environment. We encourage the use of a diverse range of media as part of this dialogue. Participants are invited to find new ways of expressing their research and/or artistic practice in a conference setting that reflects upon this process of adaptation as a process of practical enquiry. Instead of presenting what they already know, participants are invited to experiment with their 'potential' environment, using the space of the conference as an opportunity to learn from and with each other.

The structure of the conference is specifically designed to support such an exchange. Over the course of two days we seek to create a plastic community of practice. There will be both indoor (seminar rooms, lecture theatres, studios) and outdoor (gardens, orchard, parkland) spaces available to present your work. Your proposal will have to comply with the health and safety norms of Tremough Campus. Please refer to the [health and safety guidelines](#) before you start planning your presentation/performance.

The (types of) environments we invite participants to explore in their presentations include (but are not limited to):

natural
social
technological
digital
ideological

logical
intuitive
empathetic
linguistic
imagined

the body
the archive
the laboratory
the book
the recording studio
the gallery
the library
the seminar room
the lecture theatre
the conference

professional
domestic
specialist
private
public

visual
auditory
oral
tactile
olfactory



Those interested in participating are invited to send a summary of their 20 minute paper/performance (250 words max) along with an indication of how they wish to present this work (250 words), to Camilla Nelson, Natalia Ernstman and Jeanie Sinclair at environmental.utterance@gmail.com describing:

- How or what will you present
- The main questions & ideas you aim to explore through your presentation
- The media you will use
- What space and/or additional equipment you require

Special Call to Develop Live Exchange

This is a call for proposals to design a method of documentation to function as an integral part of this 'conference-as-community-of-practice': a method of exchange whereby ideas, insights, lessons learned, questions and connections are cross-referenced between the different times and spaces of the conference. We invite applicants to submit proposals to environmental.utterance@gmail.com detailing a process that will (effectively & inspiringly) collect, record and disseminate participants' experiences. Media and methods might include (but are not limited to) technology, social media, interactive installations, mobile performance, poetic or artistic representations, etc. Selected participants will run their activity for one morning or afternoon of the conference. *The material costs* required to realize the activity *will be reimbursed* in consultation with the conference organizers.

Confirmed Keynote Presenters & Performers so far include..

Internationally celebrated poet and artist [Maggie O'Sullivan](#)
Artist and cultural geographer, [Professor David Crouch](#) (University of Derby)
Digital cinema practitioner, [Dr Charlotte Crofts](#) (University of the West of England)
Award-winning post-acousmatic composer, [Dr Antti Saario](#) (University College Falmouth).

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For further details please visit www.environmentalutterance.wordpress.com

