

Public Engagement & Performance Conference

March 20/21st 2015

Embracing the potential of arts-informed, autoethnographic & creative collaborations

Public engagement is becoming increasingly important and widely recognised as a way academics and universities can achieve social value and impact. Arguably, it has never been more important for researchers to recognise this and begin to explore a variety of ways to communicate research more effectively.

This conference brings together researchers and students from across the human and social sciences, as well as the arts and humanities, who are interested in finding out, exploring and developing better ways of understanding and communicating their research. We invite you to join us in the vibrant and beautiful city of York, famous for its medieval city walls, York Minster, rivers Ouse and Foss, for an unusual opportunity to explore these pertinent issues.

Keynote address:

Professor Carl Bagley, Chair in Educational Sociology & Head of the School of Education, Durham University

Workshop/clinic contributors:

David Llewellyn, Head of Drama, Liverpool John Moores University

Professor David Carless, Leeds Beckett University

Professor Kim Etherington, Emeritus professor, University of Bristol

Venues: The Early Music Centre, University of York, York YHA

Registration & Abstract submission: *Early bird registration and abstract submission will be available from the 1st January via the www.boomerang-project.org.uk website. Other important dates, costs, and a full conference programme will also be available this time. Early bird deal to include two-day conference fees, workshops & clinic, coffee/tea, lunch (Saturday), wine reception & pre-show supper (Friday), tickets to the evening performances, conference pack and accommodation will be announced in January.*

If you would like to be added to the mailing list please send your details to kitrinadouglas@gmail.com or check the website from January 1st 2015

Additional information

Background to the event:

At the Inaugural Conference of British Autoethnography in Brighton in 2014 there were three things delegates suggested would be welcome. Firstly, was an opportunity to better network with colleagues, secondly, an opportunity to gain feedback on 'in-progress' work from experienced practitioners (such as how to publish, improve or develop autoethnographic research), thirdly, conferences that weren't too expensive to attend. We hope to achieve these aims in this conference.

Draft shedule:

Day One: 2.00pm: Workshop/clinic: delegates have an opportunity to present their 'in-progress' work and gain feedback through group discussion led by a team of subject experts under two streams: (a) Narrative practice and performance, (b) autoethnography and embodiment. 6.00pm Wine reception and supper. 7.30pm Evening performance.

Day Two: 9.00am and 11.00am Parallel sessions, 1.00pm Lunch, 2.00pm Parallel sessions, 4.00pm Keynote

THERE ARE FOUR WAYS YOU CAN JOIN IN:

- **One** - present a paper or compose a panel
- **Two** - submit your 'in-progress' work to the clinic/workshop sessions
- **Three** - submit completed work for consideration for the evening of performances¹
- **Four** - you don't have to present or perform at all! You can come and learn, share, watch, ask questions, pick up tips, and become better informed.

Confirmed Speakers / subject experts contributing to the clinics/workshop:

Professor Carl Bagley, holds a Chair in Educational Sociology and is Head of the School of Education, at Durham University. He co-authored, *Navigating Borders. Critical Race Theory Research and Counter History of Undocumented Americans*, and *Dancing the Data*. He is deputy editor of the Journal *Ethnography and Education*. His research interests and publications are in the field of educational policy ethnography and critical arts-based approaches to educational research; whereby data are represented and disseminated through the medium of the arts.

Professor David Carless. David is a professor of narrative psychology who uses stories in various forms to understand human experience and behaviour. Stories are used both as a way of accessing critical aspects of human experience and as a way of sharing the understandings that ensue with others. The theoretical foundations for this work draw from psychology, sociology, and the performing arts. David is co-author of *Sport and physical activity for mental health* and *Life story research in sport: Understanding the lives of elite and professional athletes through narrative*.

David Llewellyn is Head of Drama at Liverpool John Moores University. After his first degree from Leeds University in Drama and Education, he worked as a professional actor and theatre-maker with credits both in theatre and television. Since taking up a lectureship in Liverpool in 1980, David has continued to maintain a professional profile in drama alongside his teaching/research. David specialises in teaching acting, playwriting, applied drama and theory. In recent years, he has worked in a cross disciplinary mode with Sports Social and Health Sciences, & Ethnodrama.

Kim Etherington is an emeritus professor from the University of Bristol where she worked in a part time capacity since 1992 while also working freelance as an EMDR therapist, counsellor, supervisor, consultant and trainer in voluntary and statutory organisations. She was awarded a Fellowship from the British Association for Counselling (BACP) in 2007, is author of six books including, *Trauma, Drug Misuse & Transforming Identities: A life story approach; Becoming a Reflexive Researcher: Using Our Selves in Research*, and *Trauma, the Body & Transformation*. She has delivered a number of workshops and seminars in New Zealand, Malta, South Africa, Crete and the USA - as well as across the UK.

¹Please contact Dr Kitrina Douglas kitrinadouglas@gmail.com if you would like to discuss giving a performance at the evening event.