



centre for
Transcultural Research and Media Practice

Symposium on Lens-Based Research Practice Training:



New Directions

Date: 30-31 March 2007

Venue: Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice, Dublin Institute of Technology, Aungier Street, Dublin 2

Symposium co-funded by the AVPhD Network (supported by the UK Art and Humanities Research Council) and the Faculty of Applied Arts, Dublin Institute of Technology. Co-organised by the Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice, Dublin Institute of Technology and the Media Research Institute, University of Ulster.

Registration: To book a place, email your name and institutional affiliation to:
dwallace@dit.ie

Aims:

The aim of the symposium is to facilitate critical exchange and comparative debate on lens-based research practice training for both research supervisors and postgraduates and to build cross-border partnerships with educational, media and research agencies, associated with the expanding field of practice-based research in film, photography and multimedia.

Objectives:

The symposium will examine how research is methodologically conducted through lens-based media practice. It will identify the merits of lens-based practice in social research and its contribution to the production of new knowledge across transdisciplinary fields of study.



The symposium is designed according to three core thematic presentations, with the aim of outlining key theoretical, historical and conceptual problematics, which are instantiated through a series of case studies across photography, film and multimedia. The thematics include:

- the politics of representation and material cultures
- the construction/exploration of archival formations
- the epistemological challenge of representing embodied knowledge, memory and the senses

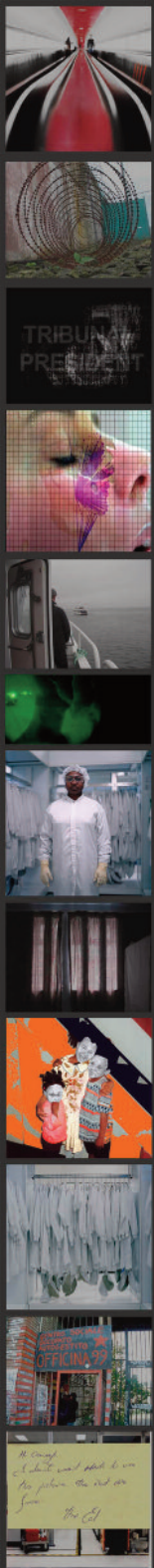
A guiding principle throughout the two days (to be explored/contested) is that practice-based research has the potential to engage critically and politically with public/private fieldsites; that theory is negotiated in and through its mediated entanglement with diverse publics and cultures.

The newly formed cross-border Consortium on Creative and Critical Practice (CCCP) will be launched on the Friday evening of the symposium at the Irish Film Institute, Dublin.

Consortium Partners: Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice, Dublin Institute of Technology; Media Research Institute, University of Ulster; Film and Imaging Studies, Queens University, Belfast; Huston School of Film & Digital Media, National University of Ireland, Galway.

The Consortium Aims:

1. To provide a forum for discussion of the appropriate methodologies that might inform the conduct of the PhD via creative practice in the lens and screen-based field;
2. To suggest models of good practice in this area for both students and supervisors;
3. To run training workshops aimed at both students and supervisors where research skills and supervisory competencies might be acquired;
4. To promote curricular exchange at the postgraduate level between institutions throughout the island, including research methods training for the creative disciplines;
5. To provide conference and exhibition opportunities for doctoral candidates to present their work and have it critiqued;
6. To encourage cross-border collaborative project work by PhD candidates and their supervisors;
7. To provide a web site with a bulletin board and an archiving section hosting examples of PhD practice both written and image based;
8. To seek to secure support, both within participating institutions and from external funding agencies for our work including: the running of symposium and workshops, cross-border curricular exchange and collaborative project work, web site and publicity activity, and scholarship support for doctoral candidates in the field.



PROGRAMME

Friday 30 March:

9:30–10:00

Registration/Coffee

10:00–10:15

Welcome – Introduction to Symposium Thematics

Áine O'Brien, Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice, Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT); Cahal McLaughlin, Media Research Institute, University of Ulster (UU)

10:15–10:30

AVPhD Network, London

Tony Downumt: Media and Communications, Goldsmiths University of London

10:30–11:00

Cross-Border Institutional Partnerships

Consortium for Creative and Critical Practice (CCCCP): An All-Ireland Network

Panel: Alan Grossman, Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice, DIT; Cahal McLaughlin, Media Research Institute (UU); Desmond Bell, Film and Imaging Studies, Queens University, Belfast; and Rod Stoneman, Huston School of Film & Digital Media, NUI, Galway

11:00–12:00

Building Partnerships: The Development of Lens-Based Research Practice

Speakers Invited From: The Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS); Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK (AHRC); British Council; Irish Arts Council; Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC)

Chair: Brian O'Neill, Head of Research and Postgraduate Studies, Faculty of Applied Arts, DIT

12:00–12:15

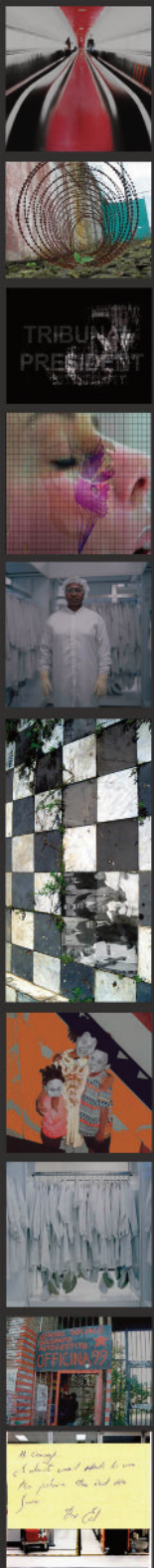
Coffee

12:15–1:15

Thematic Presentation I: An Anthropology of the Senses – Memory, Materiality and the Archive

Nadia Seremetakis: 'The Antiphony of the Senses', Independent Cultural Anthropology Scholar, editor of *The Senses Still: Perception and Memory as Material Culture in Modernity* (1996)

Chair: Áine O'Brien, Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice, DIT



1:15–2:15 pm

Lunch

2:15–3:15

Thematic Presentation II: Embodied Knowledge: The Construction of Archival Formations through Practice-Based Research

Roberta McGrath: 'History Embodied: Visual Knowledge and Archives', School of Creative Industries, Napier University, Edinburgh

Chair: Martin McCabe, Course Leader, BA Photography and Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice, DIT

3:15–3:30

Coffee

3:30–4:30

Two Case Studies: Film, Photographic, and Installation Research Projects

Ann Burke: 'Responding to Ethnographic Photographs of the Aran Islands', PhD Student – Media Research Institute, University of Ulster

Mark Curran: 'The Breathing Factory: A Globalised Evocation' (2005 MPhil graduate from Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice, DIT), Institute of Art Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire and Dublin Institute of Technology

Chair: Martin McCabe, DIT

4:30–6:00

Thematic Panel Discussion:

Panel: Seremetakis, McGrath, Burke and Curran

Chair: Justin Carville, School of Creative Arts, Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Dun Laoghaire

6:30–8:00 pm

Venue: **Irish Film Institute, Temple Bar**

Reception and Launch of Consortium for Critical and Creative Practice (CCCP)

Desmond Bell, Film and Imaging Studies at Queens University, Belfast



Saturday 31 March:

10:00–11:15

Thematic Presentation III: Public Cultures and Action Research – Methodological Anxieties, New Challenges and Professional Futures

Allen Feldman: 'Cultural Anesthesia: From the Sensory Stratification to the Criminalization of Visibility/Invisibility', Department of Culture and Communication, Steinhardt School of Education, New York University

Presentation will address PhD Case Study from the Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice (2005): Rossella Ragazzi's Film Fieldwork in Paris and Dublin Schools: 'The Transcultural Experience of Migrant Children'

Chair: Desmond Bell, Film and Imaging Studies, QUB

11:15–11:30

Coffee

11:30–1:15

Three Case Studies: Film, Photography and Multimedia

Anaele Diala Iroh (Adis): 'The Living Archive and Acts of Secrecy: Memorialising Everyday Transnational Nigerian Familial Life in Ireland', PhD Student – Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice, DIT

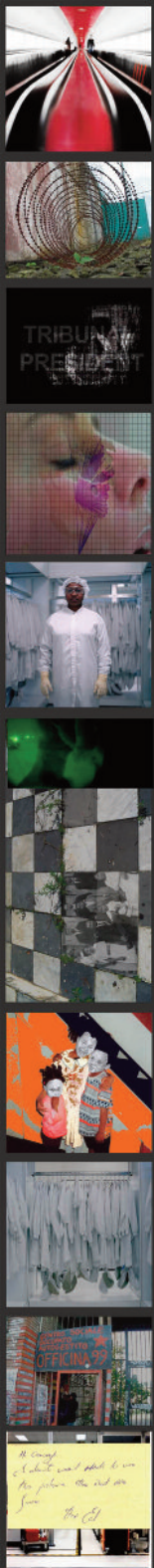
Eamon Crudden: 'Auto Documentary Film Practices in the New Social Movements: Focusing on the Anti-capitalist Movement', PhD Student – Film and Imaging Studies, Queens University Belfast

Ronnie Close: 'Responding to the Notion of Place in the Historical Construction of Identity in the Northern Ireland Conflict', Senior Lecturer and PhD Student – Newport School of Art, Media and Design

Chair: Cahal McLaughlin, Media Research Institute, University of Ulster

1:15–2:30

Lunch



2:30–4:00

Writing Practice: Multiple Genres and Narrative Possibilities

Tony Downumt: ‘An Autobiographical Voice: Confession and Reflection in Video Diary Practice-Based Research’, Media and Communications, Goldsmiths

Roshini Kempadoo: ‘Research as Critical Mediations: Writing and Producing the Creole in the Archive’, School of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies, University of East London

Chair: Alan Grossman, Centre for Transcultural Research and Media Practice, DIT

4:00–4:30

Future Directions

4:30

Closing Wine Reception