Research Focus Conference
Thursday 21 June 2012

a place, a space
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Place and space are hard to avoid; they are universally experienced aspects of life. In this respect, they help to shape the kinds of questions we set ourselves as scholars and the methods we adopt for answering them. Moreover, place and space have themselves become hot topics for scholarly debate in recent years. Even within the host institute of Humanities and the Creative Arts, they figure in a range of investigative contexts, from Site-Specific Performance to Psychogeography, from Ecocriticism to Language Studies. In this one-day conference, we will explore the significance of these two concepts for research being undertaken across the university. The paper panels will combine researchers from different disciplines, reflecting our aspiration to foster conditions for wide-ranging dialogue, to share research horizons as well as research outcomes. The conference will also be distinguished by the opportunity to experience practice-based research, in the form of performance, and to participate in one of three site-related walks and talks. In this important respect, the events of the day will themselves be thoroughly implicated in the experience of place and space.

We hope that the day will provide the participants not only with a chance to share their personal research but also to enjoy conversations that might lead to collaborations in the future.

Dr David Arnold and Dr Jane George

Events taking place throughout the day:

Andy Stevenson: Ongoing participatory GPS artwork:
Green Room (next to Drama Studio) and various outdoor spaces

Sandra Masterson: Voices in a Landscape – film (EEG119) and other spatial experiments during the day.

Mark Ellis: creative textual interventions during the day
8.45 – 9.15am | Registration, Main Reception

9.15 – 10.30am | Welcome - Professor Antonia Payne (EE G089 Yelland Lecture Theatre)

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<tr>
<th>OPENING PANEL THEME: “WHAT DO WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT PLACE AND SPACE?”</th>
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<tr>
<td>Professor John Newbury and Dr Mike Wheeler: “Space Invaders”</td>
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<td>Caroline Rosen and Neal Johnson: “Different times, same place: An archaeological perspective”</td>
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<td>Dr James Fisher and Lee Hassall: “The Space of Painting, the Painting of Space”</td>
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10.30 – 10.50am | Tea/ Coffee (EEG119)

10.50 – 12.10pm | Panel choice. Each panel will consist of 3 papers/presentations of approximately 20 minutes, followed by 20 minutes for questions and discussion. Please choose between Panel Option A or Panel Option B.

<table>
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<th>Option A (Drama Studio)</th>
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<tr>
<td>PANEL THEME: VOICES AND SPACES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mel Shearsmith and Dr Iain Biggs: “The only thing that stops my memory from turning to ash in my mouth is…”</td>
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<td>Ruth Stacey: “A Poetic Response to Animal Characters and the Environment in Contemporary Native American Literature”</td>
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<td>Sandra Masterson: “Voices in a landscape – a discussion of a film and other creative works which explore our relationship with the soil.”</td>
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<th>Option B (EE G089 Yelland Lecture Theatre)</th>
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<td>PANEL THEME: INSPIRING PLACES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Jean Webb: “The Politics of Landscape in Australian, Russian and English Children’s Literature”</td>
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<td>Steve Arnott: “J M Barrie, Never-Landscapes and the Artistic Imagination”</td>
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<td>Dr Claire Cochrane: “Urban space and the place of performance: Coventry and the Belgrade Theatre”</td>
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12.10 – 12.50pm | Lunch (EEG119)

12.50 – 2.10pm | Participation in one of three site-related walks and talks:

| Dr Fran Leighton: “The Edge of Reason or Postcards from the Palimpsest” |
| Meshwork: “Meshworking St. Clement’s Gate” |
| Dr James Fisher and Lee Hassall: “Talk and Drift” |

Conference attendees will be allocated to one of these three walks on the day.

2.10 – 2.30pm | Tea/ Coffee
2.30 – 3.50pm
Panel choice: Each panel will consist of 3 papers/presentations of approximately 20 minutes, followed by 20 minutes for questions and discussion. Please choose between Panel Option A or Panel Option B.

**Option A (EE GO89 Yelland Lecture theatre)**

**PANEL THEME: THEORIZING PLACE AND SPACE**


Jenny Lewin-Jones and Mike Webb: “*The Ideological Function of Place Names: Metonyms within Public Discourse*”

Anthony Barnett: “*Supermodernity and the Early-Years Learning Environment*”

**Option B (Drama Studio)**

**PANEL THEME: SPACE FOR WOMEN**

Ildiko Rippel/Zoo Indigo: “*Performance extract from Blueprint*”

Dr Whitney Standlee: “*Making Rebels*: Spaces of Exile and the Fiction of Irish Women in Britain, 1890-1916”

Dr Maggie Andrews: “*Homes Both Sides of the Microphone: wireless and domestic space in inter-war Britain*”

3.50 – 4.10pm
Tea/ Coffee

4.10 – 5.30pm
Panel choice. Each panel will consist of 3 papers/presentations of approximately 20 minutes, followed by 20 minutes for questions and discussion. Please choose between Panel Option A or Panel Option B.

**Option A (EE GO89 Yelland Lecture Theatre)**

**PANEL THEME: EXTENDED ENVIRONMENTS: TECHNOLOGY, POETRY, FLEXIBLE WORKING**

Dr John Parham: “*’Flowers of Evil’: Ecosystem Health and the Punk Poetry of John Cooper-Clarke*”

Klaus Oestreicher: “*New Internet-based Technology Ecosystems*”

Sue Barnes, John Gardener, and Dr Catharine Ross: “*My Work Space: for better or worse*”

**Option B (Drama Studio)**

**PANEL THEME: SPACES OF PERFORMANCE**

Anthea Nakorn: “*Physical Thinking: Costume, the Body and the Spaces in between*”

Elizabeth Philips: “*In The Darkness, We Can See Ourselves Better: The performance of darkened spaces by Lundahl and Seitl and Ontroerend Goed*”

Dr Nicoleta Cinpoes and Dr Boika Sokolova: “*Casting the Space: The Tempest at St Giles’ Cripplegate*”

5.30 – 6.00pm
PLENARY (Drama Studio):
Dr John Hall, Professor of Performance Writing, University of Falmouth.
Dr Hall has been invited to listen to the day’s discussions and to gather threads together within a final reflection on ‘a place, a space’.