

PRODUCTIVE MARGINS FORUM

27 January 2015, Pool Room 0.07, Seminar Room 1, Trevithick Building, The Parade, Cardiff CF24 3AA

Today's Forum **involves 3 main activities**: 1) a morning panel in which contributors discuss collaboration, methods and the knowledges that practice-as-research approaches can generate and contribute to understandings of regulation and related processes of marginalisation and engagement; 2) Working Group updates and short presentations; 3) individual Working Group planning sessions to explore ways to involve arts practice/research in the very earliest stages of research design.

The **aim** of this Forum is to focus on the arts within the Productive Margins programme. In March 2014, the PM Forum explored different understandings of arts collaborations in order to map our existing practices and to open out new questions. The Arts and Humanities operate in Productive Margins in many distinct and specific ways, including but not limited to the following:

- Many **community organisations** have existing collaborations with professional artists (choreographers, composers, dancers, filmmakers, theatre-makers, visual artists, etc). While this work may sit outside of 'Research' as defined by Higher Education institutions, these arts practices involve many research processes, from investigating policy to interviewing community members, etc. These arts practices are important aspects of community development and play a range of roles, from engagement to cohesion to generating community value to healing to provoking.
- Many **academics located in Social Sciences** disciplines such as Law, Sociology, Education, Policy, etc have existing collaborations with professional artists (choreographers, composers, dancers, filmmakers, theatre-makers, visual artists, etc). These arts practices sit alongside, extend, complicate, communicate and question academic research across the Social Sciences. Importantly, if these projects are funded by the Economic and Social Science Research Council then the artistic work cannot be defined as a 'research output', as such. To be recognised as 'research', these artworks require supplementary, peer-reviewed academic writing published in journals or books.
- Many **academics located within Arts & Humanities** disciplines such as History, English Literature, Film Studies, etc., have existing collaborations with professional artists (choreographers, composers, dancers, filmmakers, theatre-makers, visual artists, etc). An important difference between the Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities is that collaborations between library-, archive-, critical-theory-based arts research and arts practice can be assessed as research if funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and/or submitted as research outputs in the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF).
- Many **academics located in Arts & Humanities** disciplines such as Architecture, Dance, Design, Film, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts are also professional artists. If funded through the Arts and Humanities Research Council and/or submitted as research outputs in the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF), then the films they make, the performances they devise, the operas they compose will be assessed as a knowledge-generating enquiry equivalent to conventional academic publication. Practitioner-researchers may collaborate with other academics across Arts, Social Sciences and STEM subjects.

The broad and generalised picture sketched above does not express the many different forms of collaboration and practice. This is an area that Kate Pahl and her **Co-producing legacy: What is the role of artists within Connected Communities projects?** project explore in depth.

Schedule

9.45: Welcome & Intro

10am-11.15am

Panel Speakers: Tim Cole, Simon Pope & Nick Thornton, Inga Burrows, Simon Jones, Paul Clarke, Kate Pahl, Davis & Jones, Matt Olden, Seth Oliver, Roiyah Saltus

7-minute 'headline' statements to focus on a specific example of 1) how the presenters have framed their arts practice in terms of research questions; or as professional arts practice in collaboration with community organisations; or as professional arts practice in collaboration with public institutions; or as collaborations with academics; 2) methods of participation/engagement with communities and institutions; 3) engagement with and creative re-use of regulation/regulatory frameworks

11.15am-12.15pm

Forum discussion of the themes and issues raised in the short presentations, with the aim of identifying more clearly how arts practices will be involved in the co-production of original research on regulation and the ways in which it can constrain, enable, marginalise and produce 'communities'.

Questions we might address include:

- How might existing regulation and regulatory frameworks be used by artists as source material?
- How might participatory and/or collaborative practices produce new regulatory practices, systems, frameworks?
- What new forms of 'community' are imagined and projected through the forms of regulation with which arts practices engage across the lifecycles of projects – from the regulation of choreography through to institutional regulations around commissioning to health & safety regulation that constrains street performance?

12.15-12.45pm: Lunch

12.45pm-1.45pm

Brief Working Group updates (5 mins each) to focus on highlights from recent activities, based on reports previously circulated: Heads of the Valleys, Building the Bridge, Poverty, Isolation and Older People

Presentations:

- Food Working Group will present research summary and key research questions, for Forum approval to proceed (10 min + 5 min discussion)
- Emerging Regulation Working Group to speak to outline themes of interest and rationale for being the sixth Working Group (5min + 5 min discussion)
- Cardiff University team to speak to initial thoughts on the seventh and final Working Group, which is to be led by Wales, and which may focus on Space & Place (5 min + 5 min discussion)

1.45pm-2pm: Coffee/Tea

2pm-3.45pm

In their Working Groups, Forum members will work with artists/practitioner-researchers to develop plans for involvement of arts practice/research within projects, with a key focus being the role of art in co-producing new understandings/forms of regulation and spaces and places of engagement.

3.45pm-4.15pm: Action Points and Close