

Royal Holloway Travel Award 2019/20 - Report

II Eastap Conference Lisbon 23,24,25 September 2019

Universidade de Lisboa, Dona Maria II National Theatre

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In September 2019, with the support of the Travel Award (Una Ellis-Fermor Award), I attended the *Shared Memories* Eastap Conference in Lisbon, Portugal, held at the University of Lisbon and the Dona Maria II National Theatre in Lisbon, Portugal.

Eastap (European Association for the Study of Theatre and Performance) hosts two annual international conferences each year providing an opportunity to discuss theatre and performance and share good practice. I presented a paper at the *Shared Memories* conference, exploring memory and archival documentation of performance and contemporary theatre. The conference brought together a diverse cohort of (inter)disciplinary participants and perspectives, with attendees including academics and guest artists from around the world. The opening of the conference was held in the Dona Maria II National Theatre. The keynote speech was delivered by Maxim Gorki Theatre Director Shermin Langhoff, commenting on the personal nature of memories, stories and making history.



I was selected to speak at the panel considering archive and creative processes. My paper: “Archive and Asylum – experiential memories of Kneehigh’s performance venue and theatre archive”, presented work conducted on my doctorate. My research explores the Cornish based Kneehigh

theatre company, in light of their ambitions for brand identity, globalisation and cultural identity. This conference (and particular panel), discussed theatre archives and was highly pertinent to my experiences with the Kneehigh theatre archive at Falmouth university. During my paper and in post-panel discussions I was able to comment on archival use within the study of theatre and consider an 'experiential' element to memory and performance documentation. The other panellists shared similar experiences and observations; Ana Tamen and Isabel Bezelga described their performance archival research in museums, while Maria Helena Werneck presented her work on performance mementoes. My research and my notion of 'experiential' artefacts share some commonalities with Werneck's work, with objects provoking memories of performance.

The opportunity to share my research at this international conference, provided an exciting opportunity to meet leading scholars and artistic practitioners within my field. It was an additional benefit to hear about the range of research and performance projects happening around Portugal and Europe, and feel part of this innovative community of researchers and artists. The experience will contribute to my development as an early career researcher, and I am extremely grateful for Travel Award, enabling me to attend and participate in this conference.