

# INTERACTIONS WITH THE REAL



The third annual Practice-based Research Conference organised by Royal Holloway postgraduate students, this day-long, interdisciplinary event provides a space for creative dialogue between practitioners and academic researchers by foregrounding practice as a means of creative exploration and academic enquiry.

The theme for the day is INTERACTIONS WITH THE REAL.

**Venue:** Central London (t.b.c.)

**Date:** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015

**Deadline for abstracts:** 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015

*'Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.'* – Kierkegaard

*'Reality is merely an illusion – albeit a very persistent one.'* – Einstein

What is reality/real today? What has it been in the past? The popularity of social media, rise of the celebrity, resilience of reality television, and renewed interest in biopics, documentaries and historical novels bring us into daily contact with the art of 'reality' in all its forms. How might artists and artworks respond and engage with 'the real' in our contemporary world? How does your artwork, artistic practice and research (or that of others) engage with the concept of 'reality' or 'real'?

We welcome proposals for individual papers, panels, performances, screenings, workshops, installations, live events or other sharings of practice that respond to the theme and consider practice as integral to new ways of thinking the 'real'. As this conference focuses on practice-based work, we particularly welcome presentations and submissions with an audience participatory element to them, including workshops, led discussions, artwork for display or performance-based presentations. The conference is open to postgraduate students, career researchers, writers, performers and artists from all disciplines.

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Where is the real in art?
- Is research real? Is practice real?
- Where is the space of the real? What is the time of the real?
- Real narratives and memories used in practice.
- The ethical implications of using the real in practice.
- Imaginative works that relate to real history, politics and the everyday
- Practice as a basis for rethinking the real.
- The crisis of the real and the turn to the real.
- Issues of power and authorship.
- Ethics of storytelling in relation to studies including narrative studies, trauma studies, and others.
- Working with archives and source material and the value of the document.
- The promise of the real.
- Temporality and the real – issues of 'pastness', issues of futurity, art as a form of historiography.
- Embodied experience, the affect and 'telling' the real.
- Physical, mental and emotional limitations in using the real in practice.
- Changing conditions of production and the practicalities of practice-based work.
- The ways in which your everyday life impacts upon and informs your practice, or the practice of others.
- How does practice explore alternative modes of storytelling as ways of responding to the real?
- Practice as academic inquiry and practice-based research as a form of creativity.

To submit to INTERACTIONS WITH THE REAL 2015 please provide the title and the abstract (max. 250 words) of what you are proposing; your name, institutional affiliation, and email address; and a brief statement (max. 100 words) about your own work and publications. If you are proposing a panel include a statement of the panel's objectives. As this conference focuses on practice-based work, in particular we welcome submissions that are not just academic papers. If you are proposing a performance, workshop or sharing of practice please clearly indicate any technical or special requirements and the number of participants/audience you can accommodate.

Please send the proposals (PDF or Word) to [practice@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:practice@rhul.ac.uk), by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015.

### **Organisers**

The conference is organised by practice-based research students from Royal Holloway University of London studying in the English, Drama and Music Departments.

### **Contact**

Find us on Facebook ('Practice-Based Research, Royal Holloway University of London') and Twitter (@PracticeRHUL). Our conference hashtag is #practice2015. Any questions? Email us ([practice@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:practice@rhul.ac.uk)).

This conference is funded by the Departments of English, Drama & Theatre, Media Arts and Music at Royal Holloway University of London.

