

supported by *AHRC, Arts Council England, DTI and ESRC*
through the “*Nature of Creativity*” scheme
presents four workshops in

Performative Social Science



Workshop 1: “Stimulating creativity”
November 24th 2006

Facilitators: Drs Fran Biley and Tris Westwood

Workshop 2: “Songs without Words”
January 15th 2007

Facilitators: Megan Long, Ted Mackney and Dr Kip Jones

Workshop 3: “Visual Ways of Knowing”
March 7th 2007

Facilitators: Drs Amanda Ravetz and Rosie Read

Workshop 4: “Rhythm and Blues: Turning to the body”
May 8th 2007

Facilitators: Profs Carol Picard and Dawn Freshwater

Social Science in Search of its Muse: Exploratory Workshops in Arts-related Production and Dissemination of Social Science Data

The Workshop Series will afford opportunities for participants to engage in hands-on experiences of working with concepts and tools from the arts and humanities in producing and disseminating research to wider audiences and/or in expanding teaching and practice—facilitated by artists, poets, performers and filmmakers. A series of four workshops over nine months will aim to expand the means of production and dissemination available to us in order to move our work to new and more creative levels.

Who should attend the workshops?

We are looking for participants from a wide range of backgrounds—from researchers, students and teachers to artists and performers. These might include post-grad students, researchers, and practitioners from both the arts and sciences and from a wide variety of disciplines, including social science, media, healthcare, social care, business, the arts and education. We are interested in cross-pollination, from discipline to discipline and forming new alliances across borders. Imagination is the only prerequisite.

How much will it cost?

The workshops are free and transportation costs will be provided, supported by the funding institutions. Workshops will take place from 10 am to 3 pm at Bournemouth, and lunch will be provided. Spaces are limited and will fill up fast! Please see the back of this brochure for more details on how to apply.

Workshop 1: "Stimulating creativity" November 24th 2006

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It could be argued that conforming to what has been interpreted as normal or standard academic processes and procedures has numerous advantages. For example, orthodox grant bids may be perceived to have a greater chance of attracting funding, PhD theses may be perceived to have a greater chance of being approved, and academic papers may be perceived to have a greater chance of being accepted for publication by the top journals. But is this really the case? And what impact does this have on our creative potential? Using a series of stimulating exercises, this highly interactive, experimental and visual workshop will explore issues related to creativity, potential threats to achieving and using creative approaches in our everyday work and lives, and, most importantly, how to prepare and present material that meets both orthodox requirements but still values and expresses elements of imagination and creativity.

Francis C Biley has a background in mental health and adult nursing that reaches back over 30 years. He believes passionately in the therapeutic potential of nursing in its own right and has explored a wide variety of often novel and idiosyncratic ways of achieving this potential.

Tris Westwood is a researcher at Bournemouth University and is particularly interested in Consciousness in relation to the arts, embodied research and non-academic existentialism; he is also interested in analytical psychology and mental health.

Workshop 2: "Songs without Words" January 15th 2007

Facilitators: Megan Long, Ted Mackney and Dr Kip Jones

Text is often only linear; meaning must be precise or risk disbelief. Moving beyond words provides opportunities for alternative ways of knowledge dissemination. The workshop will make concerted, playful and interpretive use of workshop participants' own textual data as a starting point to produce visual metaphors and bodily constructions, facilitated by artists from the world of stage/theatre/dance. This will allow participants' own data to be transformed collaboratively into physical/visual production, experimenting with dissemination as an interpretive and corporeal act.

Megan Long and **Ted Mackney** from *Leaping Deer* Forum Theatre are professional actor/facilitators of many years standing, and are the directors of Leaping Deer training and development, a company which uses the medium of theatre as a tool for learning. They specialise in interactive theatre, using forum, physical theatre, dance etc to engage the creative brain, helping to develop a deeper understanding of issues and problems encountered by people in their working life, and so facilitate better working practises. This unique approach works well within an academic environment, challenging the conventional ways data is presented with an engaging, inspiring and fun method of communicating. Website: <http://www.leapingdeer.co.uk>

Kip Jones is Reader in Health Related Social Science at Bournemouth University's Centre for Qualitative Research. Part of his work has involved developing tools from the arts and humanities for use by social scientists in dissemination of qualitative data. He moderates the online newsgroup, *Performative Social Science*. Website: <http://www.kipworld.net>.

Workshop 3: "Visual Ways of Knowing" March 7th 2007

Facilitators: Drs Amanda Ravetz and Rosie Read

Integrating creative visual methods (film, photography, fine art, etc.) into social science entails more than the introduction of new techniques and technologies, it involves a re-imagining of the research process and a re-orientation of the researcher towards the world. The workshop will develop participants' awareness of the kinds of visual concepts and practices implicit within much qualitative research. It will examine the relationships between seeing, perception, understanding and knowledge, and help participants develop new ways of thinking and knowing visually. The workshop aims to encourage collaborative and creative links across disciplines and specialisms. Integrating visual methods (film, photography, fine arts, etc.) into social science not only necessitates the introduction of new techniques, it also involves re-imagining the research process itself—a visualization. Relationships will be explored between seeing, perception, understanding and knowledge, and developing awareness of visual practices. Developing understanding of visual ways of knowing implicit to participants' research projects will encourage the forging of collaborative creative links across disciplines, "Visual Ways of Knowing".

Amanda Ravetz Amanda Ravetz is currently an AHRC Fellow in the Creative and Performing Arts at MIRIAD, MMU, researching the contemporary convergence of aesthetics and ethnography. She has lectured in Visual Anthropology at the GCVA, University of Manchester and taught video production at The Oldham College; she has also worked extensively with video with young people in community settings. Her documentary work includes the film *The Bracewells* (2001) and the installation *Clearings* (2004, with poet Stephen Watts).

Rosie Read is a researcher at the Institute of Health and Community Studies at Bournemouth University. As a social anthropologist she has conducted ethnographic research in the Czech Republic and the UK on gender, nursing, volunteering and the emotional dimensions of caring labour. She has a strong interest in documentary film and visual forms of research. She has made a prize winning documentary film, *Domov*, which explores different experiences of institutionalized care in the Czech Republic.

Workshop 4: "R & B: Turning to the body" May 8th 2007

Facilitators: Profs Carol Picard and Dawn Freshwater

Rhythm is the basic pattern of life and nature is full of rhythms. Until recently ways of thinking and knowing in Western cultures have been rigid, disembodied and hierarchical, ignoring the significance and inevitability of rhythm. This is not surprising as to live rhythmically is to live with uncertainty, undecidedness, forever open, in process and unfinished. Using a transformatory approach to performance ethnography, with movement and music, the participants will engage with culturally mediated meditative images of circularity and rhythm in order to experience ways of knowing as dynamic, rhythmical and fluid as opposed to fixed and static. Participants will have the opportunity to work with their own research to enact an embodied improvised co-performance of their symbolic representations and cultural values through a living art form. Parallels with social science research and representational methods will be drawn. Participants can expect to work with music and 'dancing the life story' through timeline work.

Carol Picard is the Graduate Programme Director, Doctoral Programme Director and Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst School Of Nursing. Her publications and presentations include areas related to the use of the arts and humanities in nursing. As a published poet and dancer, she works at bringing the arts to the arena of healing for patients and students.

Dawn Freshwater is Professor of Applied Research and Director of the Centre for Applied Research at Bournemouth; she was the lead CI in a study that utilised performative research methods to engage users and consumers in mental health research. She is a published poet and recorded musician.

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How much will it cost?

The Workshops are free, but a £10 deposit (cheque or postal order only, made payable to: *Bournemouth University*) is required to hold your place. Your cheque will be returned to you following the Workshop. If you need to cancel, you must do so seven days prior to the Workshop or lose your deposit. Transportation costs (up to £30.) will be reimbursed, with receipts. Lunch is also provided. The costs are covered by the sponsors.

Where will Workshops take place?

On the Lansdowne Campus of Bournemouth University, a five minute walk from the Bournemouth train station (see map above). The Workshops run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., allowing time for travel.

Can I apply for more than one workshop?

Yes, you can, but then you should elaborate your reasons in your description. Workshops are limited to 30 participants, but there will be a waiting list.

How do I apply?

Please write a short description (one side of A-4) about how you imagine that your experience of the Workshop might affect your own work in future. Please send your description, name, address, affiliation and email address, along with a cheque or postal order for £10 to:

Stacey Mitchell
BU Centre for Qualitative Research
Royal London House, 1st Floor
Christchurch Road
Bournemouth BH1 3LT

Email: cqr@bournemouth.ac.uk

Even if you cannot join us for the workshops, you can participate in an email discussion list, **Performative Social Science (PerformSocSci)**. The list grew out of a growing interest of a wide range of social scientists to keep up to date on activities of interest to those exploring arts and humanities-based methods for use in the production and dissemination of social science data. To join PERFORMSOCSCI go to: <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?SUBED1=performsocsci&A=1>

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