

Masterclass in Theatrical Improvisation of Research Data
For researchers, film & theatre folk and citizens!



BU's *Centre for Qualitative Research* is excited to announce a two-day **Masterclass in Theatrical Improvisation of Research Data**

With Sharon Muiruri and Kip Jones
Bournemouth University
15th & 16th February, 2010

We are looking for a small group of people with some background in theatre or improvisation work or at least an interest in performance who are not shy about experimenting in front of each other! You don't necessarily need to be a researcher or a performer; rather, we are more interested in a gathering of creative people with an interest in performance as a way of raising awareness. If you are fascinated by learning about improvisation and its potential as an interpretive tool for research, then this is a great opportunity to try something cutting edge. This is definitely a new way of thinking about the interpretation of research data through improvisation.

The research material that we will be using for our improvisations comes directly from the on-going *New Dynamics of Ageing-funded Gay and Pleasant Land?* research project, a three-year intensive study of what it is like to be older and gay or lesbian and living in rural Britain. The Masterclass will provide participants with the possibility of contributing to the script for the project's final output which will be a professional short film directed by a London-based filmmaker.

Sharon has years of experience working with theatre in education; Kip is known for his work in Performative Social Science internationally. Both will work with participants over the two days of turning research data into theatrical performance using theatre-based improvisation techniques.

Contact: cqr@bournemouth.ac.uk for more information call Claire: +44 (0)1202 962179

[How will you benefit from attending the Masterclass?](#)

You will have the opportunity to spend two full days working with facilitators with backgrounds in theatre group work, film and performance. You will experiment with new ways of interpreting qualitative research data. You will form alliances with other like-minded participants for future connections. You will be contributing to an important on-going research project and its innovative output. You will gain skills to take away with you for future experimentation with your own data.

[What the Masterclass is not:](#)

This is not the time or place for long discussions, theoretical debates or rumination! It will be two days of activity and an opportunity to try out your ideas in a concrete physical way. You will be given some background and constant help and instruction along the way. This is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your own skills at interpretation through performance. The improvisations will be filmed and may contribute to the progress of the research project's script development. If you do not want to be filmed, then this Masterclass is not for you.

Sharon Muiruri, facilitator, director and actor, has years of experience using drama/ theatre with marginalised groups. In 1999 Sharon established *Vita Nova*, a community theatre group for people in recovery from drug and alcohol abuse. Their first play, *'Scratchin' the Surface'* was seen by more than 70,000 people. Sharon uses theatre to promote the Rights of the Child and works with disaffected teenagers using theatre as a tool for engagement. Her favourite quote, from a young man with emotional and behavioural problems is: *'For the first time we created something, instead of destroying things'*.

Kip Jones, Reader in Qualitative Research, School of Health & Social Care and The Media School, Bournemouth University. Kip leads the *Gay and Pleasant Land?* project. His interests include the development of tools from the arts in the dissemination of research data. He recently has been producing film and audio/visual productions for research projects. According to Kip (paraphrasing composer, Alfred Schnittke), *'The goal of my life is to unify serious scholarship and popular culture, even if I break my neck in doing so'*. Website: <http://kipworld.net>

Schedule over the two days

9.30 coffee
10.00 first session begins
12.30 Lunch
13.30 second session begins
16.00 day ends



The Masterclass will take place at Bournemouth House, Lansdowne Campus, within walking distance of the city centre, hotels and the train station (Map: <http://tiny.cc/ubpE9>)

Costs and booking information

The fee of £99.00 for this Masterclass includes two full days (15 & 16 Feb) with the course facilitators, tea breaks and two great lunches at an Italian restaurant! Cheques should be made payable to **Bournemouth University**. Invoices can only be issued on receipt of a purchase order number. Cancellations received up to six weeks before each Masterclass will be refunded less an administration charge of 25%. No refunds can be processed after six weeks have elapsed. Places are limited. **Because we want to keep the size of the group small and want to attract people with a variety of backgrounds, please do apply soon and include a bit of information for us about your particular interest in and experience with this kind of activity.**

Enquiries and registration:

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