

Seminar: Articulations of Division and Unity: Re-evaluating Practices of Artistic Research
Séminaire : Articulations de la division et de l'unité : Réévaluer les pratiques de la recherche artistique

Organizers/Organisateurs : Natalia Esling (UBC) & Bruce Barton (U of Calgary)
Contact email/Coordonnées : Natalia Esling [natalia.esling@ubc.ca] and Bruce Barton [bruce.barton@ucalgary.ca]

Languages: The seminar will run in English. The organizers welcome participation from non-English-speaking colleagues.

Langues : Le séminaire aura lieu en anglais. Les organisateurs invitent également les participants à proposer des soumissions en français.

Focus: The focus of this seminar is on expanding awareness of, and directing attention to, traditionally marginalized or underrepresented voices whose diverse experiences and backgrounds can inevitably enrich the field of Artistic Research (AR). Part of this work involves addressing a paradox within AR—that the set of practices enabling it to transcend lines of division also often, if unintentionally, works to reinforce them. To this end, we invite proposals that query lines of separation inherent within AR and that prioritize a diversity of perspectives from a range of communities.

Issues & Goals: The aim of this seminar is to address gaps in the field of AR related to privileged perspectives/ontologies and to trouble the idea that collaborative/ensemble practices might in fact also reify certain divisions. Our goal is to tease out various assumptions inherent in practices of AR, and to more clearly understand and articulate how a focus on diversity (of cultural, language, background, and ability) can inform the development of the field.

Structure & Schedule:

- A selection of no more than 12 participants will be invited to attend the seminar in accord with the above noted criteria. We will notify those accepted by February 1, 2020.
- By March 20, 2020, all invited participants will be asked to share (electronically) with the full group an 8-page articulation of a personal Artistic Research activity that engages with the above-identified focus. (Additional criteria for these documents will be distributed to all accepted participants.)
- By April 1, 2020, co-conveners will organize participants into sub-groups.
- Between April 1 and May 1, sub-groups will be responsible for reading/experiencing each other's work and meeting (via Skype, Zoom, telephone, or email) to engage in discussion around 2-3 thematic questions (to be proposed).
- By May 1, each sub-group will submit a 1-2-page summary of their discussion and responses, and outlining key disruptions and intersections generated through their exchange. All seminar participants are asked to read/experience these materials.
- For the first 2 hours of our in-person meeting, each sub-group will present their collective ideas and responses (via traditional summary, creative/performative means and/or through a participatory activity) to inspire deeper, more focused exchange on the topic.
- The final hour of the seminar will take the form of an open discussion between the seminar participants and audience members.

- The entire seminar will be open to all conference attendees.

Please submit proposals (300 words) and a short bio (50 words) to Natalia Esling (natalia.esling@ubc.ca) and Bruce Barton (bruce.barton@ucalgary.ca) no later than **Monday, January 20, 2020**.