

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: “Articulating Artistic Research 4.0: Reconciling Results”
Canadian Association for Theatre Research Annual Conference
May 28th – 31st 2016 / Calgary, AB, CANADA

Seminar Coordinators:
Bruce Barton (University of Calgary) & Natalia Esling (University of Toronto)

This year’s “Articulating Artistic Research” seminar will continue the exploration begun in its three previous incarnations (CATR 2013, 2014, 2015) with a shift in focus to the complex issue of research **results**. While the previous seminars emphasized *utility* (as opposed to “outcomes” or “products”) as a primary characteristic of artistic research practice, AAR 4.0 will expand this conversation to consider the growing demand for researcher *accountability* within academic institutions and an explicit expectation of *impact*—that is, social and/or economic consequence distinct from the traditional criteria associated with research dissemination and teaching.

As was the case in previous years, the objective of this seminar is not to establish singular definitions of Artistic Research, nor to impose specific theoretical, methodological, practical, or epistemological criteria. Rather, it is meant as a forum to explore diversity in motivation, design, execution, and documentation. However, participants in this year’s seminar are again called upon to *explicitly* articulate their practices with direct reference to the following aspects: *focus, context, participants, methodology, process design, documentation, dissemination* and *utility*. Through this process of detailed articulation, we hope to draw particular attention to the diverse and potentially liberating alternative understandings of research results that are activated within artistic research contexts and which may be transferred and adopted within other, more traditionally organized research processes.

- 1) A selection of no more than 12 participants will be selected to attend the seminar in accord with the above noted criteria.
- 2) By **March 15th, 2016**, all invited participants will share (electronically) with the full group an approx. 3000 word articulation of personal Artistic Research activity that explicitly addresses the above-identified aspects. (Additional criteria for these documents will be distributed to all accepted participants.)
- 3) Between **March 15th and April 15th**, the first stage of seminar engagement will consist of an electronic forum, in which participants of the full seminar group will discuss a selection of published articles addressing the theories and practices of Artistic Research internationally. The focus of this exchange will be issues of *process design, methodology, epistemological orientation, and results* assessment and dissemination.
- 4) After **April 15th** the invited participants will be organized into two or three sub-groups (depending upon the number of participants), according to shared interest/focus, and tasked with a structured pre-conference exchange leading to in-conference collaboration.
- 5) The actual seminar will involve two or three workshop-style Artistic Research exercises designed and facilitated by the sub-groups, involving the participation of other members of the full seminar and attending conference participants.
- 6) The final hour of the seminar will take the form of an open discussion between the seminar participants and audience members.
- 7) The entire seminar will be open to all conference attendees.

Seminar proposals should be sent to Bruce Barton (bruce.barton@ucalgary.ca) and Natalia Esling (natalia.esling@mail.utoronto.ca) no later than **15 January 2016**.