



**Arts and Humanities Research Council:
Beyond Text Workshop Programme**

**The performance of disability histories: remembrance
and transmission**

September 2008 – August 2009

**Workshop 2:
Revising texts, devising histories
Nottingham Playhouse**

This pack will include:

- 1. Introduction letter**
- 2. Life Story Snapshots**
- 3. Agenda for Nottingham workshop with times, address etc**
- 4. Map and directions for Nottingham Playhouse**
- 5. Profiles of Key Speakers, Theatre Workshop Leaders & Documenting Artists**
- 6. Final workshop @ Leeds University**

Dear Key participant

Thank you for accepting the invitation to be a key participant in the exciting new seminar/ workshop series, *The Performance of Disability Histories*, recently funded under the Arts & Humanities Research Council's Beyond Text Programme. You have been invited to the second workshop because we believe that your involvement (as an arts practitioner, academic or student) will make a significant contribution to the development and success of the workshop programme.

This project was born out of a larger project, 'Time of our Lives' involving a collection of life stories of disabled people born in the 1940s, 1960s and 1980s. The aim of the workshop programme is to inspire academic-practitioner collaboration towards the transmission of disabled people's history to today's young audiences, using devised performance based on biographical research.

The programme will bring together academics [from different disciplines], performing arts practitioners [actors, choreographers, writers, dancers etc], and students/trainees in three themed events to explore issues around life stories, disability history and culture through the relationship between performance and text.

The objective of the whole series is to generate ideas, through the innovative collaborations (between students, academics and practitioners), that can be used to explore how research about disabled lives and social change can be transformed into performance for new generation audiences.

All three workshops will be documented, for the project and AHRC website, by either video, still photography or audio recording. If you have any objection to being recorded on any of these media, please let me know by e-mail.

Best wishes,

Sonali Shah
Principle Investigator
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Tel: 07932 642960

LIFE HISTORY SNAPSHOTS – FAMILY STORIES

'my dad was from a very, how can I put it? it was quite Victorian well to do family, where as my mum was from a working class family' (Daisy, 1940s).

'...had an outside toilet in the house, down the garden, we had um, a big Yorkshire stove, you know the oven and things on the side, and a big fire, and a big sink, I always remember the big white porcelain sink in the corner with a cold tap, because you had to boil water' (Dan, 1940s).

'growing up as an only child, in a lot of ways I managed to get a lot of attention and especially when you were younger er, I spent a lot of time with my grandma when my mum went back to work' (Kay, 1980s).

'when it come to hospital appointments and stuff like that, mum would take us for – to those and you know, be there after school... so I suppose you know, in terms of relationship I was slightly closer to me mam 'cos I spent more time with her' (Steve, 1980s).

'My Dad would've been in the Second World War, yes. He was at Grass Bay, the Battle of, on a cruiser. Yeah. But um, I think what I can remember of it, like the '40s or the late '40s and '50s, was that um, it seemed to be pretty basic life, you know what I mean? We didn't have... of course, I don't think anybody had telly's or things in those day, but we was always listening to the wireless as we called it, on the radio, the wireless' (Dan, 1940s).

**WORKSHOP 2:
REVISING TEXTS, DEVISING HISTORIES**

Date: 11th February 2009 Time: 10am-5pm

Venue: Nottingham Playhouse
Wellington Circus,
Nottingham
NG1 5AF

Programme of the day:

10am-10.15am:

Brief introduction of seminar series & proposal for Special Issue of
Review of Disability Studies

Mark Priestley

10.20-11.05

Re-presenting identities: The use of composite and performance
pieces in community critical psychology and disability studies

*Professor Dan Goodley and Dr Rebecca Lawthom, Manchester
Metropolitan University*

11.10-11.40

Time travel with life histories

Diverse City

11.45-12.30

How change occurs through embodied performance

Isabel Jones

12.30-1.00

Questions, Comments, Open discussion

1.00-2.00pm

LUNCH

2.00-5.00pm

Creative devised performance workshop family life stories (images,
text, and audio extracts of life histories from different generations)

Diverse City (working with participants and students)

VENUE DETAILS FOR NOTTINGHAM WORKSHOP

ROOM: Playroom,
ADDRESS: Nottingham Playhouse
Wellington Circus
Nottingham NG1 5AF

ISABEL JONES

<http://www.myspace.com/salamandatandem>

Isabel Jones is a dancer, singer, composer, choreographer and director with 18 years experience of making arts work with people. She is Artistic Director and founder of Salamanda Tandem in Nottingham. Her work brings together disabled and non-disabled sensory experts, dancers, sensory artists, writers, visual artists, and musicians, to research and redefine the boundaries between people and art forms.

Salamanda Tandem is a UK based dance / music ensemble established in 1989, and produces bespoke, contemporary, multi media art events. These can include; performances in unusual spaces; visual/sound installations; and creative environments, where the audience can choose to observe or become part of the artwork itself. Its work tours regionally, nationally and internationally, developing audiences through access to high quality art works, training in creativity, and participation.. As you've probably realised ...on reading our blog etc that we're also keen yoga practitioners - yoga helps us to stay fit mentally and physically.

DR REBECCA LAWTHOM & PROFESSOR DAN GOODLEY

<http://www.rihsc.mmu.ac.uk/research-centres/scwb/criticalstudies/>

Dr Rebecca Lawthom is Principal Lecturer in Psychology and Co-convenor of Social Change and Well Being Centre, Manchester Metropolitan University. She was previously researcher fellow at the University of Sheffield, Institute of Work Psychology. Her research combines interests in critical community psychology, feminisms, organisational theories and disability. She established the Postgraduate course in Psychology and Disability Studies at Manchester, She has published widely in the areas of community, feminism, organisational psychologies, employing a host of quantitative and qualitative methodologies and analyses. Currently she is working with colleagues on funded research projects on diverse issues of inclusion including promoting responsive forms of pedagogy and teaching in the area of community psychology and assessing the healthcare needs of Asylum seekers in the UK. These diverse areas inform her current theoretical work on interconnections in disability and women's studies.

Dan Goodley is Professor of Psychology and Disability Studies at Manchester Metropolitan University. He has held posts in Sociology and Social Policy (University of Leeds) and Education (University of Sheffield). He has been director of the Centre of Applied Disability Studies (Sheffield), currently directs Social Change and Well Being Research Centre (Manchester Metropolitan University) and has close research links with disability scholars and/or disability groups in Iceland, Malaysia, the States and Australasia. He has a degree in Psychology (Manchester Metropolitan University) and completed his PhD in the Department of Sociological Studies (Sheffield).

ABSTRACT

The first two projects, funded by the ESRC, exploring the experiences of parents, professionals and disabled babies and the interconnections of disabled childhoods. Through these projects we have used a host of narrative methods. For the paper we focus specifically on the (mis)uses of themed compositive narratives, which hold the potential for re-presenting the theoretical and activist work of parents and children. Composites include: 'the disabled child as Deleuze'; 'mother as Foucault' and 'disabled child as Butler' The third project, funded by Research Capability funds, employed visual methodologies using the experience

sampling method, to capture meaning and insight into everyday lives. With reference to visual representations, gathered through the use of mobile camera phones, we explore the contribution of such a methodology to non-linear conceptualizations of self and other.

Resources

<http://www.rihsc.mmu.ac.uk/postblairproject/>

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/disabledbabies/>

CLAIRE HODGESON – DIVERSE CITY

A trained actor, dancer and director Claire has worked in higher education for the last 12 years as a senior lecturer in performing arts. As a university subject leader for the last six years, Claire has designed, developed and managed performing arts courses at degree and access level and has extensive experience coordinating both the admission and assessment processes.

Claire has always strived to enable under represented groups to access higher education, particularly in performing arts training, and she is a specialist in the field of disability and performance. Claire initiated, with Graeae Theatre Company, The Missing Piece: a unique training course for adults with physical and sensory impairments based at London Metropolitan University .

Claire has published work on disability and performance and the contemporary British identity in theatre, and in the last year she has been invited to speak about her work in Poland, Washington DC and throughout the UK.

JAMIE BEDDARD – DIVERSE CITY

Jamie Beddard is an actor, writer and director. His TV and film credits include Skalligrigg, Quills, I.D., Carrie's War and The Egg. He was formerly Associate Director at Graeae Theatre Company with particular responsibility for the company's education and new writing work - teaching on the 'Missing Piece' course, leading workshops and writing/developing forum projects. His disability-inspired piece *The Last Freakshow* was widely acclaimed. He is Associate Artist of Diverse City.

NICK MERWITZER

A professional musician and composer for the last fifteen years, Nick has recorded for major record labels and composed music for BBC and Channel 4 network television programmes, as well as for leading British and international theatre and dance companies. Nick has also written music for a number of independently produced short films and worked as a university lecturer in music technology.

For the last five years Nick has worked in higher education as a designer and manager of widening participation projects. Nick has developed and managed various schemes designed to promote higher education to young people from ethnic and socio-economic groups under represented in post - 18 education.

During this time Nick has also worked on a number of arts projects developed for various groups including, refugees; young offenders; people who are HIV positive; the elderly and the terminally ill.

JONATHAN LEGGE – PHOTOGRAPHER

Jonathan Legge is a photographer and university lecturer in the East Midlands. He also designs and facilitates participatory arts workshops. His previous clients include The Arts Council, Disabled Parents Network, Loop System Architects, RMS Engineering, Nottingham County Council, New Perspectives, Creative Partnerships and The National Children's Bureau.

Jonathan will be documenting Workshop 1 using still photography.

FORTHCOMING WORKSHOPS

Workshop 3: Performing lives, live performance

Date: 6th April 2009

Venue: Stage@Leeds, University of Leeds

Brief aim:

- Will conclude the series by examining connections between the lives 'performed' in disability research interviews and techniques of live performance capable of transmitting such remembrances to a new generation.
- The culmination in this final day will include performance of a proto-play.