

Core Unit Seminar Two – lecture notes

BH: What is Arts Practice Research?

A way to map, frame, contextualise and understand one's practice.

A way of gaining critical and academic rigour for one's practice.

It has cultural currency in terms of academic, creative and professional contexts.

Creative Practice Research degrees have begun to define their own methodologies which are interconnected with existing methodologies.

Key Text: Graeme Sullivan Arts Practice as Research.

Methodologies of arts practice:

- **Positionality** – situating, understanding and deconstructing one's own work in relation to one's identity: race, religion, class, gender etc.
- **Relational** – education, parental influence, gender, age have all helped to construct our identity and these need to be deconstructed.

Inter-subjective/intertextuality “meaning is not contained within form itself, say a person, painting or poem, but exists within a network of social relations and discourse.”

Aspects of our identity are ‘markers’.

- **Reflective** –
 - to generate understanding to enable development of the self
 - acknowledges the positive impact of experience and is associated with self critique and personal quest.. the subjective, the experiential and the idea of empathy.
- **Transformative**- Intended to better position individuals to be able to challenge orthodoxies and inequities. This involves:
 - challenging habits of mind
 - entrenched viewpoints, opening up to different viewpoints
 - learning new frames of reference
 - elaborating existing frames of reference
 - developing a critical perspective
- **Contextual** – creative practice does not occur in a vacuum – it relates to and is constructed by the culture which informed it.
- **Critical** – application of an explanatory thesis drawn from post-modern theories to an analysis of some phenomena

Feminist theory

Feminist theory is the extension of feminism into theoretical, or philosophical, ground. It encompasses work done in a broad variety of disciplines, prominently including the approaches to women's roles and lives and feminist politics in anthropology and sociology, economics, women's and gender studies, feminist literary criticism, and philosophy (especially Continental philosophy).

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminist_theory

Post-colonial theory

Post-colonialism (also known as post-colonial theory, or post-oriental theory) refers to a set of theories in continental philosophy and literature that grapple with the legacy of 19th century British and French colonial rule. As a literary theory or critical approach it deals with literature produced in countries that were once, or are now, colonies of other countries. ...

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-colonial_theory

Queer theory

Queer theory is a theory about sex and gender within the larger field of Queer studies. It proposes that one's sexual identity and one's gender identity are partly or wholly socially constructed, and therefore individuals cannot really be described using broad terms like "homosexual," "heterosexual," "man," or "woman". It challenges the common practice of compartmentalizing the description of a person to fit into one particular category.

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queer_theory

[Queer Theory] attempts to “destabilise the entire system of sex regulation” and “binary oppositions such as gay/straight. Butler promoted the idea of gender as a “performance” or “a kind of impersonation”.

Judith Burns (b1956)

Discourse theory

The study of discourses (as opposed to languages, which are defined and categorized in problematic ways). According to these theorists, discourse is not made up of "sets of formally identified structures but a type of social action." (Grosz and Kreiswirth). Discourse theory relies heavily on ideas of social construction, and borrows the use of ethnography from anthropological study. Discourse theorists are also most often interested in analyzing issues of power (ie, Michel Foucault).

english.montclair.edu/isaacs/605LitResearch/litermFA02.htm

etc

- Qualitative methodologies include heuristics, phenomenology, ethnology

URLs:

(All accessed and working 25/10/05)

Feminist Theory

<http://www.cddc.vt.edu/feminism/>

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminist_theory

<http://www.victorianweb.org/gender/femtheory.html>

Post-Colonial Theory

<http://www.answers.com/topic/post-colonialism>

Queer Theory

<http://faculty.uwb.edu/mgoldberg/courses/definitions/queer.htm>

http://encyclopedia.laborlawtalk.com/Queer_theory

Discourse theory

http://www.press.jhu.edu/books/hopkins_guide_to_literary_theory/discourse-2.html

<http://www.gslis.utexas.edu/~palmquis/courses/discourse.htm>

Bibliography

Sim, S and Van Loon, B. *Introducing Critical Theory* pub Icon Books 2001

Judith Butler: "Imitation and Gender Insubordination" in Henry Abelove et. al. (eds.), *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader* (New York and London: Routledge), 1993, pp. 307-321.

Quoted in: Sim, S and Van Loon, B. *Introducing Critical Theory* pub Icon Books 2001