

## **STUART SIMPSON - CV**

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### **EDUCATION**

Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Art from Nottingham Trent University, UK 2003 – 2008  
Post-graduate Certificate in Research Methods, Nottingham Trent University 2003 – 2004  
MA in Contemporary Arts (Distinction) Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham 2000 – 2002  
BA (Hons.) in Performing Arts (First Class) DeMontfort University, Leicester 1996 – 1999

### **PhD RESEARCH**

Supervised by John Newling and Johannes Birringer and funded by the AHRC (Sept 2003 – April 2008)

*The Artist in the Field: Investigating tourist performativity and ethnographic methodology through art practice*

This research centred on an artistic exploration of ethnographic methodologies whilst investigating tourist performativity and the presentation of self within tourist documentation. Central to this presentation was the performance of the documented smile. The materiality of this research came from documentary evidence (video, sound, photography, interviews, fieldnotes and diaries) recorded during a fieldtrip around popular tourist destinations in Europe. Data gathering methods, such as participant observation, reflexive writing and informal interviews with tourists, were employed not just to capture the tourist experience of others, but also to explore the multiplicity and variability of the researcher self within the field. The representation of the researcher within the research findings was one of the issues that the project sought to address. A reflexive autoethnographic approach to writing the thesis was utilised to validate my personal narrative as a line of inquiry.

### **OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Research and documentation for CAPE UK / Creative Partnerships (Sept 2007 – June 2008)

*Investigating the impact of the neutral space on the transference of skills and knowledge between pupils*

One recent professional research experience was for CAPE UK; a project investigating creative learning in schools. An analysis of the working relationship between the pupils and the space resulted in a research area to be studied. My time was then spent observing peer to peer learning in a radio station existing within a secondary school. Ethnographic data collecting methods were used and a relationship established with a group of pupils, school management and an external practitioner. Documentation came in the form of interviews, diaries, fieldnotes and photography. My analysis of the data came in the form of a report and a powerpoint presentation. Key outcomes were the positive effects of peer to peer learning; an understanding of the effects of teaching approaches (teacher v external practitioner); an understanding of school spaces (appropriation, pupil ownership and acquired responsibility) and non-curricular programmes as catalysts for cross-curricular learning. The research was freelance and managed by myself. Support came from inductions into data collecting within the educational setting provided by CAPE UK and Creative Partnerships

### **RESEARCH AND ART PRACTICE**

My recent interests have been in the artistic use of digital technologies for presenting research findings. In most of my work, audio-visual databases form the central component in the creation of randomly configured semi-immersive environments. Computer network systems, surround sound technology and digital projection are the means through which my work has been realized and experienced.

My art practice weaves into it a research methodology that draws from ethnography – the praxis of anthropology. Three recent projects (*Smile: Formaggio con Queso*, *4Walls*, and *The Slide Show*) involve the participation of others. Communities such as neighbours, tourists and spiritualists have been directly involved in the projects. The raw material for these projects is collected through recorded interviews which are then edited to form databases of narratives. All my projects contain a written element; a contextual essay which allows anyone who experiences the work to have an understanding of the artistic processes involved. Transparency and accessibility, through the use of a different languages (visual, sonic & textual) and communication tools (interactive technologies), are integral to my work.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS

As an administrator within the Digital Research Unit I managed a number of research websites and on-line databases; several academic discussion lists; assisted in the digitization of the liveart video archive; organised and documented the research symposiums initiated by the unit. My administrative skills are of a high standard, particularly with regards to writing grant applications. In the last five years I have been awarded four grants from ACE, two grant awards from local councils, a development award from Creative Leicestershire and an AHRC award. These awards, and the work these grants have supported, are evidence of my skills for managing and administering projects: from planning, to fund raising, implementation, and budgetary management and finally evaluation report writing.

## RECENT EMPLOYMENT (2000 – 2008)

FROM	TO	EMPLOYER	POSITION	DUTIES / ROLE
Sept 08	ongoing	Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham	Photography lecturer (part-time)	Teaching on the Dissertation Module as part of Critical Practice. Marking Dissertations.
Sept 08	ongoing	Leicester College, Leicester	Part-time lecturer	Teaching design in performance HND Performing Arts and Music Technology OND Interactive Arts
Jul 08	Jul 08	Largescale, Leicester	Artist	Working with year 11 pupils on a video documentary investigating Islam.
Jan 08	April 08	Nottingham Trent University	Sessional Lecturer	Leading seminars in the critical practice of photography with year 2 students.
Feb 08	On-going	The University of Warwick	Technical	Website maintenance and administration for Performance Studies international
Sept 07	June 08	CAPE UK / Creative Partnerships, Leicester, LE1 1RE	Researcher / Documenter	Freelance researcher / documenter investigating the effects of creative learning on secondary school pupils.
Jul 07	Nov 07	Roehampton University, London, SW15 5PU	Technical / admin	Performance Studies international membership secretary / manager of Psi discussion lists / website maintenance and administration.
Oct 07	Nov 07	Creative Partnerships, LCB Depot, 31 Rutland Street, Leicester	Practitioner	Facilitating creative learning of numeracy using sound and music with secondary school pupils.
Mar 07	Mar 07	Nottingham Trent University	Visiting Lecturer	Tutorials with MA Fine Art students
Feb 06	April 06	Researchers in Residence, Sheffield Hallam University	Researcher in Residence	Residency in a secondary school which explored research within art practice.
Feb 06	Feb 06	Leeds Metropolitan University	Visiting Lecturer	Lecture and tutorials with Contemporary Art Practices BA students.
Jun 05	July 05	Nottingham Trent University	Visiting Lecturer	Year 2 fine art students' artist book project / group tutorials.
Nov 00	July 07	Nottingham Trent University	Technical / admin	Website design, maintenance and administration for Digital Research Unit. Archive assistant for research archives. Manager of several online discussion lists.

## REFERENCES

Prof. John Newling  
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Nottingham NG1 4BU

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