

*to think is to experiment*

Wednesday, April 9th, 2008, Docklands Campus, Room: BS 3.06

**ABSTRACTS:**

***Understanding Refugee Narratives, : Learning from shared experiences, a documentary film,***

Emmanuel Munyambuga : University of East London

Emmanuel Munyambuga is originally from Rwanda. He left his country during the 1994 genocide heading to Zambia where he stayed for about four years before coming to the United Kingdom. From 2003 to 2007, he worked for a London-based charity advancing human rights and social justice where he was in charge of the Refugee Community Organisations Development Project. His advocacy work on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers inspired him to enroll for the Master's programme in Refugee Studies at the University of East London. His MA thesis focused on refugee narratives. It was supported with a 25 min video documentary "*Asylum Road-Voice to the Voiceless*". This is an account of harrowing experiences of refugees, who, excluded from Rwanda, passed through difficulties and are now struggling to make a new life despite the harsh immigration regime of the UK.

**Queer like Quentin: Gendering The Naked Civil Servant.**

Mark Amstrong, Visual Arts division of Northumbria University

My proposed paper is concerned with the issues that arise in the close reading of Quentin Crisp's fashioning of gender and sexual dissidence. In terms of its particular focus on the auto/biographical texts that have defined the representations of what Crisp considered his 'androgynous anarchy', my research is both interdisciplinary and intertextual. In Crisp's autobiography *The Naked Civil Servant* and its consequent film translation, I consider the meanings of the transgressiveness he fashioned to be at once obscured and revealed. The resonance within this intertext of Crisp's gender and literary performativity allows for the consideration of how his *succes de scandale* defined the autobiographical performance of his subsequent 'celebrity' - how his extraordinary past was constantly re-written upon his present. This paper would consider how these issues have informed the direction of my research into specific thematical areas, such as the fashioning of the confessional body, Crisp's career as an art school model and its Bohemian context, and the spectre of the 'masculine' other in his writings.

## **Does 'Every Child Matter'? Social (in)justice and the education of Gypsy/Traveller children,**

Dave Cudworth: University of East London

Concerns over the underachievement of Gypsy/Traveller children in the UK educational system, and a commitment to improve provision for these children, is something that has been acknowledged across a series of reports and other documents over the last forty years. Yet despite this commitment, and the rhetoric around equality of opportunity and inclusion in which 'Every Child Matters', children from Gypsy/Traveller communities continue to experience discrimination and remain the worst achieving minority group in the UK schooling system. With the official National Curriculum of most schools often failing to recognize the particular cultures of Gypsy/Traveller children, there does seem to be a gap between policy and practice wherein some children do matter more than others.

Despite improvements in the educational participation and successes of some Gypsy/Traveller children, this paper argues that there is still a long way to go. This paper explores the difficulties that Gypsy/Traveller children experience in schools, and considers the challenges presented for those who teach them. It draws on interview material with primary teachers and education support staff in East London, and an ethnographic study in a school with a significant proportion of Gypsy/Traveller children enrolled. The paper finds evidence of prejudice, and a failure by some schools and teachers to understand Gypsy/Traveller cultures. It argues that the normative presumptions of policy and practices present certain challenges for children from these communities. It suggests that more flexibility and less emphasis on 'performance related data' could benefit those underachieving and marginalized in British education, particularly Gypsy/Travellers.

## **The Use of Information Communication Technology in Education: Implementation and Prospects for its use in Secondary Schools in Trinidad and Tobago.**

Wendy McKenzie, University of East London

The research paper will have its emphasis on an examination of the prospects for the implementation of ICT in the classroom.. There will be an identification of some of the issues as well as opportunities which may emerge. The possibilities for teachers to embrace new practices which can have positive results in the classrooms, as lessons become more evaluative and interactive with the use of ICT- related curriculum designs. The paper will also identify the need for all stakeholders of the school community to appreciate the shift in the new pedagogical approach as teachers make the necessary adjustments. As norms and routines of the traditional approaches change, the research paper will discuss the extent of the possibilities for the use of ICT .

## **Methodological analysis of a proposed mixed method approach.**

Muili Lawal, Thames Valley University

Whatever the research approach employed, the aim is either to predict, describe or explain a phenomena and therefore add to the body of knowledge within the context of a philosophical belief. There are various belief systems and each study tends to generate knowledge in line with a chosen paradigm. According to Polit and Beck (2006), paradigm is the world view about reality. There are various world views such as positivism, interpretive, critical theory, feminism, constructivism, post-positivism and so on. This presentation will examine the attitude of patients with diabetes toward self-care management within the parameters of two research approaches. Masters et al (2006) emphasized the qualitative and quantitative methodologies in research. Therefore, the main aim will be to analyse application of survey and focus group approaches to the research topic. In this context, the discussion paper will examine a range of issues applicable to the topic in relation to qualitative and quantitative methodologies and justify the decision that will be made in terms of sampling, data collection technique, and analysis.

## **Interview with Walter - Video as a medium for narrative research Barbara Droth, University of East London**

This video is an inquiry into challenges of using video for visual narrative research and is part of a written examination of that topic. ALL evidence is constructed, not just video, and the short film set out to make viewers aware of its constructs, to explore the characteristics of the medium, to openly edit my position into Walter's story and to contextualize the presence of the camera. The short film is a visual exploration of 'Auto/biography' - the role of the interviewer, my agenda and preoccupations that shape the narrative, are 'visualized'. The edited interview in a sense has become not only a summary of Walter's story but also a narrative of my own process, of changing attitude towards memory, interviewing, and Walter. Interventions of layered image, sound, text encourage multiple view-points and reveal my shaping of the narrative - I become both participant and observer. The process of filmmaking is in some way similar to remembering itself - Walter is shaping his memory into a cohesive story - I in turn edit images of his memory into some kind of coherent 18minute 'film'. Video visualizes the performance of remembering, gives presence to the non-verbal acts of shaping and internal dialogues. Ultimately the piece exists within the blurry boundary of art (drama, emotion) and science (documentary research).