



Improvising Across Boundaries: An Unconventional Colloquium

21-22 June, 2014

UBC Robson Square Room C400

Coastal Jazz and the International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation (IICSI) will also host a two-day colloquium on Saturday June 21 and Sunday June 22, 2014, focused on the theme of improvising across boundaries. We will be welcoming presentations from the artistic and scholarly communities as well as from the community at large, about the ways in which improvisation – in music, in theatre, in dance and in text – can offer strategies and practices to help us to negotiate with boundaries and borders. Many people must face the challenges presented by nationalism, by multiculturalism, by race and racism, or by the politics of gender, of history and of social class. How can improvisation provide performers and audiences with the means to encounter and to come to terms with the ways in which we have undertaken, historically and in the present day, various practices of inclusion and of exclusion, of community-building and of confrontation? Can improvisation enable new modes of cultural and social understanding?

Saturday, June 21

10:00-11:15 (UBC Robson Square room C400)

“Improvising and the *Komagata Maru*”

Neelamjit Dhillon, Michael Blake

Respondent: Renisa Mawani, Sociology, UBC

11:15-12:00 (UBC Robson Square room C400)

“Does Africa End Where Salt Water Licks the Shores of the Continent? African / Diasporic Identities”

Handel Wright, Educational Studies, UBC

“Improvising Difference: Afrological-Eurological Collisions in the Music of George Lewis”

Kevin McNeilly, English, UBC

1:30 [Performance Works, Granville Island]

[Neelamjit Dhillon Quartet](#) performing *The Komagata Maru Project*

This is a FREE event, part of the TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival.

Sunday, June 22

10:00-10:30 (UBC Robson Square room C400)

“Talking Improv: Removing the Civil Censor”

Lisa Cay Miller

[The [Lisa Cay Miller](#) Trio will perform on Saturday, June 28, at 1:30 at Performance Works. This is a FREE event, part of the TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival.]

10:30-11:30 (UBC Robson Square room C400)

Panel on Improvisation and Social Engagement

Tegan Ceschi-Smith

Patti Fraser

11:30-12:00 (UBC Robson Square room C400)

“Directing Immanence in Realist Drama”

Tom Scholte, Theatre and Film, UBC

12:00-1:00 Lunch [catered]

1:00-1:30 (UBC Robson Square room C400)

[Tomeka Reid](#)

Chicago based cellist, composer, educator and Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM) member.

1:30-3:00 (UBC Robson Square room C400)

Panel on Improvisation, Text and Media

Morag McGreevey, UBC, "Movement Through Music: The Relationship between Music, Disability, and Improvisation"

Brooke Heller, UBC, "The Filibuster as Improvisation"

Andrew Zuliani, SFU, "Rescuing Conceptual Writing: bpNichol's Collaborative Improvisation"

Jamey Braden, UBC, "Pop Mantra for Real? Meditation and Pharrell Williams's *Happy*"

3:30-5:00 (UBC Robson Square room C400)

Improvisation and Community Engagement

Rupert Common and the Freestyle Rap Alliance

Rhonda Shanks, Karl Manis, Douglas Guilbault, UBC

9:00 [Ironworks, 235 Alexander St., Vancouver]

[Michael Blake](#), *The Komagata Maru Blues*

This is a ticketed event, part of the TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival.

Improvising Across Boundaries is presented in collaboration with Coastal Jazz, the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada, The University of British Columbia, the Improvisation, Community and Social Practice research initiative (ICaSP), and the International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation (IICSI).