

CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Canadian Association for Theatre Research Annual Conference
1 – 4 June 2013 / Victoria, BC, CANADA

Seminar Topic:
‘Talking *and* Walking’: PBR/PaR Design, Methodology, Articulation
Seminar Leader: Bruce Barton, University of Toronto

It has become a familiar understatement that “Practice-Based Research” (PBR) and “Performance as Research” (PAR) are highly elastic – and occasionally contentious – categorizations. The early, high profile initiative at the University of Bristol, PARIP (Practice as Research in Performance, 2001 – 2006), remains a conspicuous touchstone in the Artistic Research discussion, given its pronounced emphasis on issues of methodology and documentation/dissemination. In the decade since the launching of PARIP, the number of Artistic Research practitioners, projects, and programs has increased substantially, on this continent and internationally. However, this expansion has, not surprisingly, further complicated efforts to effectively identify, describe, and communicate – both on the level of generalized, shared priorities *and* on that of specific, widely differentiated efforts and activities.

The objective of this Seminar is not to establish singular definitions of Practice-Based Research or Performance as Research (or any of their multiple variations), nor to impose specific theoretical, methodological, or practical criteria. Rather, it is meant as a forum to explore diversity in motivation, design, execution, and documentation. However, what participation in the seminar *will* emphasize is pronounced rigour, reflection, and detail in the articulation of the process(es) examined, across the following aspects: *focus, context, participants, methodology, process design, documentation, dissemination* and *utility* (as opposed to “products” or “outcomes”).

- 1) A selection of no more than 8 proposals (and possibly fewer) will be chosen to participate in the seminar in accord with the above noted criteria.
- 2) All invited participants will share an Artistic Research document electronically with the full group by **March 15th, 2013**.
- 3) The invited participants will be organized in sub-groups according to shared interest/focus and tasked with a structured pre-conference exchange leading to in-conference collaboration.
- 4) The first part of the 3 hour seminar will involve short presentations by individual participants.
- 5) The second part of the seminar will involve workshop-style PBR/PaR exercises designed and facilitated by each of the sub-groups, involving the participation of other members of the full seminar (and, possibly, the audience).
- 6) The seminar will conclude with an open discussion between the seminar participants and audience members.
- 7) The entire seminar will be open to all conference attendees.

Seminar proposals should be sent to Bruce Barton at bruce.barton@utoronto.ca by 14 January 2013. Proposals should be 250 words in length and identify any anticipated technical requirements.