

## PROF SALLY MACKEY

**Job title**

Professor Emerita of the University of London

**Orcid ID**

0000-0003-2289-5338

**Email**

[sally.mackey@cass.ac.uk](mailto:sally.mackey@cass.ac.uk)

**Social media**

[Twitter @sallymackey1](https://twitter.com/sallymackey1)



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### PROFILE

I recently retired from Central after nearly 32 years. Having been made Professor Emerita, I retain many links with Central.

After completing a BA in English and Drama at Exeter University and a PGCE at Goldsmiths, I taught in schools (four) for several years. My MA in Arts Education and Cultural Studies and PhD are from Warwick University. I started teaching at Central in 1992 as a drama education specialist and became Professor in Applied Theatre and Performance. A key role at Central from 2006 until 2016 was as part of the senior academic management team, with responsibility for the taught courses, including quality, development and admissions. Externally, I have advised on curriculum change, practice as research and examined BA and MA courses in several universities.

I founded 'applied theatre' at Central and research predominantly in this field. I was principal applicant for Leverhulme Trust Arts Training Scholarships 2007-2023, bringing in well over £1 million for, predominantly, Central's BA and MA applied theatre students to undertake outreach placements globally. A member of the Editorial Board of [\*RiDE: The Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance\*](#), I peer reviewed for several international academic journals.

As a member of the Arts and Humanities Research Council for 12 years, I sat on commissioning panels: Landscape and Environment (2005-2006), Researching Environmental Change (2010), Connected Communities (2014) and a cross-research council panel (RCUK) for Valuing Nature: Health and Wellbeing (2016). Having been awarded an AHRC grant of £130,000 (2011-2014), I led a further AHRC funded project for follow-on impact and engagement, 'Performing Local Places' (c. £100,000, 2016-2017) and was the co-investigator on 'Performing Abergavenny' (2013-2014), an AHRC funded research project for the Connected Communities theme. All of these projects were undertaken with participant groups as *practice research*, interrogating 'performing' places and reconsidering new, embedded or temporary locatedness. Invited to speak about this work internationally, including Canada, Brussels and South Africa, I gave a keynote at TaPRA in 2017 following the 2016 [David Bradby TaPRA Award for Research in International Theatre and Performance](#). Subsequently, I worked with Bexley Council on a £176,000 award for 'Performing Places Bexley' (2017-2020).

Launched in 2020, I co-edit a book series with Professor Deirdre Heddon, [Performing Landscapes](#), bringing together thinking around ecology, performance and landscape figures - a current and critical field of debate in theatre and performance research and practice.

I am honoured that Central, on my retirement, has created the Sally Mackey Bursary fund for applied theatre students.

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## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Applied and socially engaged theatre
- Performance of place
- Practice research
- Ecological performance
- Landscape theatre
- Drama Education

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## PHD SUPERVISION

I supervised 4 PhD theses to completion and externally examined 15 more in areas including theatre and ecology, applied theatre, performance and urban space, performance of place, gendered performance. I am no longer taking PhD candidates because of retiring.

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## KEY PUBLICATIONS

2024. *Performing Homescapes*. Co-edited with Adelina Ong. London: Palgrave Macmillan. (Forthcoming).

2020. 'A Short Disquisition on Anatopia: Rethinking place and its performance', [Contemporary Theatre Review](#), 30.4: 546-558, DOI: 10.1080/10486801.2020.1812592

2016. 'Performing Location: Place and applied theatre' in *Critical Perspectives on Applied Theatre*. eds. Jenny Hughes, J. and Helen Nicholson, H. (Cambridge University Press), pp.106-126.

2016. 'Applied theatre practice as research: polyphonic conversations', [RiDE: the Journal of Applied Theatre and Performance](#), 21.4, 478-491, DOI: 10.1080/13569783.2016.1220250

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## EXTERNAL PRACTICE

The following practice comprises work arising from several AHRC grants, exploring the performance of place. Visit the [Performing Places website](#) for more information.

2018 – 2019. Project lead, [Performing Places Bexley](#), community venues and main street, Bexleyheath, Kent.

2016 - 2017. Principal Investigator, [Performing Local Places](#), Oldham external sites, Camden external sites.

2014. Co-investigator, Performance lead, [Performing Abergavenny](#), Borough Theatre and external sites, Abergavenny, Wales.

2013 - 2014. Principal Investigator, [Challenging Place](#), Half Moon Theatre, London, external sites, Oldham

## **REGISTER OF INTEREST**

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Full House Theatre (Charity No. 1165541) – Chair of Board of Trustees

## **VIDEO**

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