

DR SIMON JAMES HOLTON

Job title

Teaching Fellow: Experimental Arts and Performance

Email

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COURSES

Experimental Arts and Performance, BA

PROFILE

I am a researcher and producer working in live art and experimental performance. I completed my PhD at the University of Glasgow, for which I received the Doctoral Training Partnership funding award and training programme from the Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities. My thesis, *Producing Performance Collectively in Austere Times (UK 2008-2018)*, examined collective and artist-run organisations that produced performance during the most recent period of austerity. I argue that these collective practices can offer vital support to precarious practices and communities in the difficult economic conditions of neoliberal austerity. I explore how these groups can resist and rework these conditions, while at the same time being susceptible to reproducing them.

I completed an undergraduate degree in English Studies at the University of Nottingham, and an MA in Performance and Culture: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, at Goldsmiths College, University of London. My MA thesis examined the disappearing queer performance spaces of London. I have taught in Theatre Studies and Cultural Arts and Industries at the University of Glasgow, as well as teaching and supervising dissertations as a visiting lecturing at Rose Bruford College, on their European Theatre Arts Programme and their MA in Queer Performance.

Prior to my doctoral research I worked as a producer in theatre, live art, and dance. I have worked with venues such as Battersea Arts Centre and Chisenhale Dance Space, festivals such as Buzzcut and In Between Time, and as a freelance producer with artists such as Rachael Clerke and dance collaboration Project O. My teaching, research, and producing work reflect a long-standing desire to support experimental performance and organisational practice which is geared towards equity, social change, and queer joy.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Contemporary performance
- Artist collectives
- Artist-run
- Producing
- Live art
- Experimental Performance
- Austerity and neoliberalism
- Queer performance

KEY PUBLICATIONS

2024 (forthcoming), 'Cronies, Cliques and Lovers: Queer Friendship as Anti-Institutional Practice in UK Live Art Festivals', *Contemporary Theatre Review*, Special Issue - Live Art: Radicalism and Complicity in a Scene of Constraint, co-authored with Dr Phoebe Patey-Ferguson.

REGISTER OF INTEREST

Nothing to declare.