

ROYAL CENTRAL

SCHOOL OF SPEECH & DRAMA

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

**DR AMANDA STUART
FISHER, BA, PGCE, MA,
PHD**

Job title

Reader in Contemporary Theatre and Performance,
Course Leader Writing for Performance

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PROFILE

I am an academic and playwright with a strong interest in new writing and verbatim and testimonial performance practices. After graduating from Middlesex University, my first job was as a teacher of dance and drama at a secondary school in Haringey, London. I then worked freelance, as an applied theatre practitioner and spent a year as the education coordinator at the Royal Court Theatre. It was the young people and the different communities I worked with during this time that ignited my passion for new writing, and my belief in its capacity to give a voice to sections of society which are often excluded or unrepresented by mainstream culture.

At Central I have continued to actively explore theatre's relationship with its wider social context. In 2010, I received funding from the Performing Arts Learning and Teaching Innovation Network to research innovative forms of collaboration between higher education and its industry partners. In 2011 I was awarded a Teaching Development Grant from the Higher Education Academy and led a project called Care and Partnership: Applied Theatre and Social Enterprise. As a result of these projects, I developed a training workshop for nurses at Kings College University London and established a long term collaboration with the social work department at Royal Holloway University of London, where I am currently leading a small-scale collaborative research project with the social work department.

In 2014, my research was selected as one of the school's impact case studies for REF 2014, with a project entitled: Breaking the Silence: Using Testimony and Theatre to improve the Practice of Care .

My research interests focus on the relationship between performance and care and verbatim and testimonial theatre. My verbatim play *From the Mouths of Mothers* (Aurora Metro Books 2013), written in collaboration with Little Fish Theatre and the charity Mosac, was performed in 2013 at The Pleasance Theatre London and I am currently working on a monograph that draws together my research in verbatim and testimonial theatre. My research has been published in journals such as: *TDR*, *Studies in Theatre and Performance*, *Performance Research*, *Performing Ethos* and *Research in Drama Education* and I regularly review articles for these and other international journals, most recently: *Holocaust Studies* and *Law Culture and the Humanities*.

Over the past fifteen years I have been working on a number of research projects which have been concerned with how testimonial and verbatim theatre responds to events of trauma and how we might interrogate and understand the relationship between truth and fiction in these modes of performance practice. My research often includes elements of performance and in 2007 - in collaboration with the charity Mosac - I wrote *From the Mouths of Mothers* (Aurora Metro Publications 2013), a verbatim theatre play which tells the stories of seven mothers whose children were sexually abused. The play subsequently received its first production at The Pleasance Theatre London in 2013 (supported by the Big Lottery Fund/ Awards for All). Another element of my research is focussed around care and was initiated by an HEA Development grant which enabled me to develop some drama

projects with trainee nurses (in partnership with Kings) and social workers (in partnership with Royal Holloway, University of London). I am now building on these experiences to develop a new research project in partnership with Professor James Thompson (Manchester University) which explores the relationship between care and performance, while also working on a monograph on testimonial theatre.

COURSES

Drama, Applied Theatre and Education, BA

Writing for Performance, BA

Applied Theatre, MA

Research Degrees (MPhil/PhD)

TEACHING AREAS

Writing for performance
Theatre and the Real
Applied Theatre Performance
Ethics and performance
Solo Performance

RESEARCH AREAS

Testimonial and verbatim theatre
Cultural memory and performance
Performance and care
Ethics and performance
Practice as Research

PHD SUPERVISION

I currently supervise PhD projects in the areas of: crip theory, blindness and acting, theatre making and unaccompanied minor asylum-seeking children and dramaturgy and trauma.

KEY PUBLICATIONS

2016. 'Imagining Theatre in Auschwitz: Performance, Solidarity and Survival in the Works of Charlotte Delbo' in Duggan, P. and Peschel, L. (eds.) *Performing (for) Survival: Theatre, Crisis, Extremity*, Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave, pp. 78-99.
2015. 'A Choreography of Words: Reflections on Justitia' in Johnson, P., Dobkowska, S. and Vardimon, J. *Justitia: Multidisciplinary Readings of the Work of the Jasmin Vardimon Company* (Bristol: Intellect), 133-143.
2015. (with Leonard, K., Gupta, A. & Low, K.) 'From the Mouths of Mothers: Can Drama Facilitate Reflective Learning for Social Workers?', *Social Work Education*, 22.10, pp.1 - 14.
2013. *From the Mouths of Mothers in Plays for Today by Women*, edited by C. Robson and R. Gillieron (London: Aurora Press), pp. 55 – 112.
2011. 'That's who I'd be, if I could sing': reflections on a verbatim project with mothers of sexually abused children' *Studies in Theatre and Performance*, 31.2, pp. 193 - 208.
2011. 'Trauma, Authenticity and the Limits of Verbatim', *Performance Research*, 16.1, pp. 112-122.
2011. with Mackey, S. 'Theatre Applications: Location, event, futurity', *Research in Drama Education*, 16.3, pp. 357-364.

PRACTICE

- 2017 – 2019 Leader Evaluator, 'Embrace' for Little Fish Theatre Company [insert link: <http://littlefishtheatre.co.uk/community-project/embrace/>]
- 2016 – present Performing Care and Social Resilience, in partnership with Cleve Jackson, Social Work Department Royal Holloway, University London.
2013. Writer and Director, *Glorious Food: A verbatim theatre play*
2012. Writer and Director, *Who Will Carry The Word, An Adaptation of Charlotte Delbo's Play*

REGISTER OF INTEREST

Little Fish Theatre Company (CIC) - Trustee