
Plan Overview

A Data Management Plan created using DMPonline

Title: Intercultural Physical Theatre: Stylization with Improvisation

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Project abstract:

This project explores intercultural theatre drawing on traditional and contemporary Chinese and contemporary UK and European approaches to theatre, including what is termed 'physical theatre'. The practice research will amalgamate Western physical theatre elements with Chinese traditional stylized performance elements (Classical dance, Kung Fu, Chinese opera, Nuo) for performances in the UK at the University of Birmingham (including two theatre pieces). Practice research questions include 1. How does "physical theatre" in China, as demonstrated by Theatre San TuoQi, emerge as a distinctive and innovative dramatic form within Chinese culture, setting it apart from contemporary Western physical theatre? 2. How do the improvisational techniques of Western physical theatre, as demonstrated by Jacques Lecoq, DV8 Physical Theatre Company, and Frantic Assembly, contribute to the evolution of this intercultural theatre endeavour? 3. What does a comparison of Western and Chinese ideas of the universal poetic sense (Lecoq, 2007: 47) reveal within the context of this intercultural theatre project and why is it important? How does the concept of 'the xiqu body' connect with Lecoq's concept? 4. How can the development of 'the poetic body' in workshops be used to help create intercultural theatre? 5. How does my project embody and develop the characteristics of 'Young' Theatre (Lecoq, 2007: 16), as defined by Lecoq? 6. How can the adaptation of a traditional Chinese text be understood by contemporary audiences in the UK?

In summary, my practice-based research adopts an interdisciplinary approach, drawing from the developmental history of Chinese physical theatre, contemporary performance practice, and intercultural theatre research. Research methods include text-based research, participation in workshops led by Jacques Lecoq school and Frantic Assembly and practice-research, as well as interviews with performers and audience questionnaires.

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Intercultural Physical Theatre: Stylization with Improvisation

Data description

What types of data will be used or created?

I utilize a digital audio recorder to capture performer interviews, which are transcribed into text by myself. Additionally, I gather text questionnaires from the audience. Formal rehearsals and performances are recorded to aid in research, along with collection of rehearsal photos, stage photos, and posters. Two scripts are developed, and analysis includes studying videos of Frantic Assembly's and DV8's plays, as well as Theatre San TuoQi's videos. All data, including archival photos (in .jpg, .png, or .pdf format), performance videos (.mp4), marketing materials such as posters and social media posts (.pdf and .docx), and performance programs (.pdf and .docx), are compiled for analysis.

How will the data be structured and documented?

I attended two training workshops (Frantic Assembly and Jacques Lecoq school), during which I recorded materials using written text in DOC format. Posters, stage photos, and theses are stored as PDFs, while performances and rehearsals are saved in MP4 format.

I maintain a file called "PhD Materials" to gather all documents throughout my doctoral studies. Depending on the various productions, relevant documents are organized into separate folders for each production. Similarly, documents related to the thesis are structured according to the chapter names.

Data storage and archiving

How will your data be stored and backed up?

The University of Birmingham provides a Research Data Store (RDS); access to the RDS is restricted to project members. Backup copies of data are taken on a daily basis and data is stored in separate buildings from the live data. The RDS has a backup and retention policy on how it looks after the data including archiving of primary data here :

<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/it/teams/infrastructure/research/bear/research-data-service/RDS/BackupRetentionPolicy.aspx>

Is any of the data of (ethically or commercially) sensitive nature? If so, how do you ensure the data are protected accordingly?

Question not answered.

Where will your data be archived in the long term?

All data generated in this project will be shared in accordance with BBSRC's Data Sharing Policy, meaning it will be made available to the scientific community with as few restrictions as possible in a timely and responsible manner

Data sharing

Which data will you share, and under which conditions? How will you make the data available to others?

After finished my PhD, the data can be shared and found through the University of Birmingham's eData repository (<https://edata.bham.ac.uk/>) which makes the datasets discoverable through search engines like Google.