



British Association of Film,
Television and Screen Studies

Troubling Time: An Exploration of Temporality in the Arts

Programme Description

Troubling Time was a two-day interdisciplinary conference focusing on the multifaceted ways in which time manifests in and structures the arts. The panels included such diverse topics as jazz improvisation, the rupturing of capitalist time in video games, and queerness and Afrofuturism in African film.

The conference welcomed an innovative methodological approach, with some speakers adopting a more performative delivery style and one panel offering delegates the opportunity to work together on a collective piece of art.

Venue

The Graduate School, Ellen Wilkinson building was the venue for this conference. The facilities provided were appropriate to our needs; the atrium was used for registration and refreshments, the conference room above this was used for the keynote talk and some of the panels, and seminar rooms 1 and 2 were used for parallel panels. With the exception of one minor sound problem and some issues with Mac adaptors which were quickly resolved, the equipment within the rooms worked well and facilitated all the papers. For future events in the Graduate School, it would be useful to have access to a Macbook and adaptor owned by the School which we know works with all of the projectors – this would minimise uncertainty and reduce the need for tech support.

Expenses

We received £750 from manchester@artsmethods, £300 from BAFTSS, and £5000 from AHRC. In total, we received £6050 for the conference. £1269.50 was used to provide refreshments for the delegates: at registration, refreshment break and lunch. £428.05 was used for a conference dinner at KRO Bar. In addition to these, we used £149.79 for the transport and accommodation of our key note, Prof David Wiles. £104.40 was also used on acquiring a website domain for 2 years, as we plan to start a research group on time and temporality in the arts, and the delegates were interested in this proposal. Finally, the remaining £4098.26 was used on providing travel bursaries to the delegates. These funds were really important and made a large contribution to creating a diverse and international environment in which to share research.

Outcomes

The Troubling Time conference achieved our primary aim of facilitating a conversation between students, academics and industry professionals on a topic which is of international significance. Delegates attended from a range of different countries worldwide and our funding happily enabled us to support people's travel costs, opening up the reach of the conference. Troubling Time ran smoothly without any major setbacks and more than 50 people attended on both days.

Discussions with the delegates in refreshment breaks and after the event were wholly positive. Several attendees commented on the warm and supportive environment where they felt confident sharing their research, and one student in particular said it was the best panel she had ever participated in. Some speakers shared with us the observation that Troubling Time had attracted the optimum number of delegates, creating a lively atmosphere, whilst allowing everyone to get to know each other. Two delegates from the fields of French and the visual arts said that the interdisciplinary nature of the conference was bold and that it was well curated to achieve coherence across a variety of topics. Our senior colleagues, such as Prof David Ian Rabey (author of *Theatre, Time and Temporality*) and the keynote speaker Prof David Wiles (author of *Theatre & Time*) congratulated us on a successful event and expressed a desire to stay in touch.

We are excited about the ongoing potential for collaboration following the conference, and in a follow-up email we began to gather interest in a new research network on the subject of time in the arts. We received a number of positive responses, including indications of productive overlap with other time-based associations.

You can also find a delegate's reflections on the conference here:

<http://annbarrass.blogspot.co.uk/2017/06/ma-week-71-troubling-time.html>.