Professor Lisa Blackman


This keynote will present some innovative propositions and ways of thinking about bodies, what count as bodies, and how we might rethink representational approaches to bodies in light of arguments being made within body studies, the field of affect studies and radical approaches to mental health and voice hearing. The author will draw out some approaches to phenomena often associated with psychopathology, including voice hearing, to explore how we might work with what Grace Cho (2008:174) has called an “assemblage” of body. She will draw on personal experiences of growing up with a Mother who hears voices, as well as her collaborations with the Hearing Voices Network to explore voices as potential modalities of communication. The critical question becomes how can we listen and hear with and through another’s voice, another’s voices? What role might art, film, music, performance, fiction and other forms of creative and critical practice play in the invention and shaping of a collective storytelling project?