



'Sounding Conflict' Symposium
28th and 29th November 2019
Programme Brochure



Contents

Symposium Programme Timetable Day One	3
Symposium Programme Timetable Day Two	5
Symposium Session Abstracts Day One	6
Symposium Session Events Day Two	8
Participant Biographies	9



'SOUNDING CONFLICT' SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME 2019

DAY ONE

Thursday 28th November 2019

Location: Sonic Arts Research Centre, 4 Cloreen Park, Belfast, BT9 5HN T: (0)28 9097 4867	
9.15am – 9.45am Foyer	Registration and Coffee
9.45am – 10.00am Sonic Lab	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Sounding Conflict
10.00am – 10.45am Sonic Lab	Keynote Speaker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Olivier Urbain (Director, Min-On Music Research Institute) Chair: Professor Fiona Magowan
10.45am – 11.00am Foyer	Coffee Break
11.00am – 12.15pm Sonic Lab	'Sounding Conflict: From Resistance to Reconciliation' Presentations - Project Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Fiona Magowan • Professor Pedro Rebelo • Dr Stefanie Lehner
Location: Queen's Film Theatre (QFT), 20 University Square Belfast BT7 1PA	
12.15pm – 1.15pm Queen's Film Theatre Café	Lunch Break
1.15pm – 2.45pm Brian Friel Theatre	Challenges in Arts and Social Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Darren Ferguson (Founder & Director, Beyond Skin) • Elaine Forde (Producer, Derry Playhouse) • Farah Wardani (Director, 'Laban' - Lebanese Theatre) • Laura Hassler (Founder & Director, Musicians Without Borders) Chair & Respondent: Dr Katy Radford (Vice Chair, Arts Council Northern Ireland and Project Manager with the Institute for Conflict Research)

<p>2.45pm – 3.00pm Queen’s Film Theatre Café</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>3.00pm – 4.15pm Brian Friel Theatre</p>	<p>‘Together in Pieces’ Screening with Eileen Walsh and David Dryden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and Screening – 35mins • Audience Q&A’s with Eileen Walsh and David Dryden – 25mins
<p>4.15pm – 4.30pm Brian Friel Theatre</p>	<p>Reflections and Closing</p>
<p>6.00pm – 7.30pm</p>	<p>Drinks/Finger Buffet Reception Queen’s Film Theatre Café area</p>

DAY TWO
Friday, 29th November 2019

Location: Queen's Film Theatre (QFT), 20 University Square Belfast BT7 1PA	
10.30am – 10.45am	Arrival & coffee Brian Friel Theatre Area in Queen's Film Theatre
10.45am – 12.30pm Brian Friel Theatre	Theatre Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by Orla McKeagney Chair: Dr Stefanie Lehner
12.30pm – 1.30pm Queen's Film Theatre Café	Lunch Queen's Film Theatre Café
2.00pm – 3.45pm Brian Friel Theatre	Performative Audio Journey Screening 'So I can Breathe this Air' written by Shannon Yee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Niall Rea, TheatreofPluck • Shannon Yee • Dean Lee, The Rainbow Project • Isaac Gibson, Queen's University Panel Discussion and Q&A's Chair: Dr Stefanie Lehner
3.45pm – 4.15pm Screen 2, Queen's Film Theatre	Behind a Performance: Tufo da Mafalala Screening A film by Professor Pedro Rebelo, Dr Matilde Meireles and Dr Iñigo Sánchez
4.15pm – 4.30pm Brian Friel Theatre	Symposium Reflections & Closing



Symposium Session Abstracts

DAY ONE

Thursday 28th November 2019

Part 1 Symposium Location in Sonic Arts Research Centre (SARC), 4 Cloreen Park, Belfast, BT9 5HN

9.15am – 9.45am	Registration and Coffee
9.45am – 10.00am	Welcome Introduction to 'Sounding Conflict'
10.00am – 10.45am	Keynote Speaker Dr Olivier Urbain (Director, Min-On Music Research Institute)

Musicking from Empathy to Global Justice Sound & Proactive Peacebuilding

Can we change the world through music? Is there any connection between music and the major threats confronting humanity today, such as climate change, species extinction, rising nationalism and populism, and the rise of artificial intelligence?

The Min-On Music Research Institute (MOMRI) was established in 2014 in Tokyo, Japan, to investigate the potential application of music in peacebuilding activities. I will highlight some of the achievements and findings of our institute as we celebrate our fifth anniversary.

Music and Conflict Transformation (2008) was the first academic book on the topic. Since its publication, the theory and practice of music in peacebuilding has grown and matured, learning how to avoid several traps in the way we think about music and peace, for instance:

- music has no special power for peace, it is *ambivalent* and can be used for good or evil.
- music is far more than sounds and rhythms, *musicking* is about how we treat each other.
- music can be effective as an *amplifier* for other activities, but not all by itself.

At the micro-level of one individual, can music enhance empathy? At the macro-level of global justice, can music have any impact? Can we connect empathy and global justice, and what steps can we take to do so? Recent research on these topics will be presented:

- recent experiments that show links between *music and empathy*,
- *sound & proactive peacebuilding* as a way to connect the individual and global levels,
- the concept of *the work of global justice* and how it can be illustrated through music.

Music in peacebuilding will not solve all our problems, but it might enhance our capacity to change a small corner of the world through musicking.

Chair: [Professor Fiona Magowan](#)

10.45am – 11.00am Coffee Break

11.00am – 12.15pm 'Sounding Conflict: From Resistance to Reconciliation'

Research Project Presentations

[Professor Fiona Magowan](#)

[Professor Pedro Rebelo](#)

[Dr Stefanie Lehner](#)

**Part 2 Symposium Location in Queen's Film Theatre (QFT)
20 University Square Belfast BT7 1PA**

12.15pm – 1.15pm Lunch Break

1.15pm – 2.45pm Challenges in Arts and Social Practice

This panel brings together practitioners working in the arts in conflict and post-conflict contexts to discuss the challenges they face, and especially to ask what role universities and social researchers might play in overcoming these challenges.

The participants come from backgrounds in theatre- and music-based initiatives aimed at reconciliation. Our two participants based in Northern Ireland are **Elaine Forde, Producer at Derry Playhouse Theatre** and **Darren Ferguson, Founder and Director of Beyond Skin In Belfast** and **Farah Wardani of the Laban Theatre Group** who joins us from Lebanon.

The panel chair and respondent is **Dr Katy Radford** (Vice Chair of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Project Manager with the Institute for Conflict Research), who will bring a critically-informed funder's perspective to the discussion.

Format: 15-20 minutes per speaker, 30mins for respondent/chair liaising with speakers. 30 minutes for audience questions from the floor.

2.45pm - 3.00pm Coffee Break

3.00pm – 4.15pm 'Together in Pieces' Film Screening

- Introduction with film makers Eileen Walsh and David Dryden
- Film Screening 25 mins followed by Q&A's with Eileen Walsh and David Dryden – 25mins

4.15pm – 4.30pm Reflections and Closing

6.00pm – 7.30 pm Symposium Drinks/Finger Buffet Reception in QFT Café Area

SOUNDING CONFLICT SYMPOSIUM

DAY TWO

Friday, 29th November 2019

Venue: Queen's Film Theatre (QFT), 20 University Square Belfast BT7 1PA

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10.30am – 10.45am | Arrival and Coffee |
| 10.45am – 12.30pm | Theatre Workshop
Presented by Orla McKeagney |
| 12.30pm – 1.30pm | Lunch Break |
| 2.00pm – 3.45pm | Performative Audio Journey Screening
'<u>So I can Breathe this Air</u>' written by Shannon Yee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Niall Rea, TheatreofPluck• Shannon Yee• Dean Lee, The Rainbow Project• Isaac Gibson <p>Introduction by Dr Niall Rea (10 minutes), Screening 55minutes,
followed by Panel discussion and Q&A's from the floor.</p> <p>Chair: Dr Stefanie Lehner</p> |
| 3.45pm – 4.15pm | Behind a Performance: Tufo da Mafalala Screening
A film by Professor Pedro Rebelo, Dr Matilde Meireles and Dr Iñigo Sánchez
(Venue Screen 2 Queen's Film Theatre) |
| 4.15pm – 4.30pm | Symposium Reflections & Closing |

Participant Biographies

Dr Olivier Urbain

Director of the Min-On Music Research Institute, Tokyo



Olivier Urbain, PhD is the director of the Min-On Music Research Institute (MOMRI, Tokyo), which focuses on the application of music in peacebuilding activities, in short, Music in Peacebuilding. A pioneer in this emerging field, he is the editor of the first book on the topic, Music and Conflict Transformation (2008), as well as co-editor of Music and Solidarity (2011) and Music, Power and Liberty (2016).

MOMRI is currently building a resources and networking online hub offering an open space for musicians, researchers, teachers, activists and all others who want to explore and develop the potential of Music in Peacebuilding: <https://institute.min-on.org/newsandtopics/>. He is co-editor of the series "Keywords for Music in Peacebuilding" available here: <https://institute.min-on.org/newsandtopics/item/keywords-for-music-in-peacebuilding/>. He is Visiting Research Professor at Queen's University Belfast since 2015.

Professor Fiona Magowan



Fiona is the Principal Investigator of the project Sounding Conflict: From Resistance to Reconciliation (2017-2021). She is Professor of Anthropology, Fellow and Research Theme Lead at the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice at Queen's University Belfast, where she is also the coordinator of a research stream focusing on Art, Performance and Cultural Heritage in Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding.

Fiona has worked with [Musicians without Borders](#) on the [Music Bridge Project in Derry/Londonderry](#), Northern Ireland together with Jim Donaghey, evaluating the effects and impacts of sound and music in different styles of creative practices and environments. She is working with Prof. Pedro Rebelo, revisiting the [Museu da Maré](#) exhibition in Rio, to analyse its ongoing role in transforming memories of and socio-political responses to conflict among youth in the favela. This research between Northern Ireland and Brazil will lead to a sonic arts exhibition, which examines participatory music-making across project streams.

Fiona's research spans issues of movement, music and the senses in Anthropology and Ethnomusicology from Australia to Northern Ireland. She has published widely on sound and emotion in ecological, ritual and musical experience; intercultural value conflicts; and empathy and reconciliation in art and identity politics.

Professor Pedro Rebelo



Pedro is a composer, sound artist and performer working primarily in chamber music, improvisation and sound installation. In 2002, he was awarded a PhD by the University of Edinburgh where he conducted research in both music and architecture.

As a co-investigator his [Brazil Project](#) addresses the lasting effectiveness of participatory sound art projects which reflect ideas of both resistance and reconciliation. One of the outputs of the Sounding Conflict research project is a [Sound Installation](#) (which will be shown in Derry/Londonderry then taken to [Museu da Maré](#) in Rio de Janeiro). Curated by Pedro Rebelo with Matilde Meireles, the installation aims to juxtapose experiences and insights arising out of fieldwork across the various work streams.

Dr Stefanie Lehner



Stefanie is Lecturer in Irish Literature at Queen's University, Belfast, and Fellow at the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Security and Justice. Her current research explores the role of the arts, specifically performance, in conflict transformation processes, with a focus on the Northern Irish context.

Steffanie also researches and teaches on representations of trauma and memory in (Northern) Irish drama, fiction, film, and photography. She is author of *Subaltern Ethics in Contemporary Scottish and Irish Literature* (2011) and her work has been published in *Contemporary Theatre Review*, *Irish Review*, *Irish Studies Review*, *Irish University Review*, and *Nordic Irish Studies*. She is Co-Investigator on two PaCCS projects: 'LGBTQ Visions of Peace in a society emerging from conflict' and the [Sounding Conflict Storytelling in Northern Ireland Theatres Project](#).

Darren Ferguson
Founder and Director, Beyond Skin



Once described as a radiant obstacle in the path of the mundane, Darren born in Belfast is a musician, community worker and peace activist. In his teens having cut his cloth in humanitarian work through volunteering in Romania and The Gambia Darren worked as a fundraiser for Concern Worldwide.

Influenced by the activism spirit and music of Peter Gabriel, Nitin Sawhney and 1 Giant Leap Darren set up an organisation to use Music and the Arts to address rising issues around sectarianism and racism. Taking the name from a critically acclaimed Nitin Sawhney album "Beyond Skin" a registered charity, has influenced the life of over 50,000 people who have taken part in projects over the past 15 years.

Having gained a reputation for bold creative innovation and playing a key role in nurturing intercultural arts in Northern Ireland, Beyond Skin have also developed international programmes with flagship projects in Sri Lanka, Colombia and more recently new collaborations with Min-On Music Tokyo and Afghan Women's Orchestra in Kabul. A project funded by Peter Gabriel's foundation, WOMAD.

"People always ask how many people work FOR me. I always say none. But there are scores of people who work WITH me - and that is the heart of Beyond Skin - relationships that enable shared innovation and creativity making the real difference where it counts".

Elaine Forde
Producer and Director at Derry Playhouse



After completing a Masters in Fine Art from London's Chelsea Art College, Elaine curated projects for London's Chisenhale Gallery, Unit 2 Gallery and the Royal Institute of British Architects. At this point she knew she wanted to devote her career to arts engagement working between artists and communities.

At The Playhouse she has directed and managed several highly innovative, significant, socially engaged arts programmes that have enabled artists and communities to collaborate by exploring social and political problems.

**Farah Wardani
Director of Laban**



Farah is the Director of Laban (a Lebanese theatre-based NGO). She has been a Playback practitioner since 2011, working as a trainer, actress and conductor. She is a faculty member of the Arab School of Playback Theatre, an affiliate school to the Centre of Playback in NY. Farah also trains and uses Theatre of the Oppressed, Drama Therapy techniques among many others in Lebanon and the region within different communities and contexts.

Farah started using theatre as a medium for social change and political activism during the July 2006 Israeli war on Lebanon. As a theatre student, drama was her only tool to support her community, and the journey started from there. She is a theatre actress (improvised and scripted), clown doctor, puppeteer, drama trainer and applied theatre practitioner. Farah is a theatre graduate with a diploma of high studies from the Lebanese University, and a BA in psychology.

**Dr Katy Radford
Vice Chair, Arts Council Northern Ireland and Project Manager with the Institute for
Conflict Research**



Dr Katy Radford worked in international film production for fifteen years before turning to study. She was awarded a PhD from QUB in Ethnomusicology that considered Women and music making on the Belfast Shankill Road at a time of a loyalist feud. She works at the Institute for Conflict Research, a Belfast based charity working internationally that uses the arts as a key method for community engagement and development with combatants and other victims of armed conflict.

Katy is the Vice Chair of the Arts Council for Northern Ireland. Her other Ministerial Appointments are to the Commission for Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition and to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. She was given an MBE in 2011 for her role in advancing Good Relations in Northern Ireland.



**David Dryden and Eileen Walsh
Together in Pieces Interactive**



David Dryden and Eileen Walsh are the creative team behind Together in Pieces Interactive, developing stimulating arts events with a big social conscience in both the digital and physical realms. They are the creative team behind, a community interest company that aims to stimulate social change through the exploration of Hip Hop culture.

Eileen is an award-winning broadcaster, journalist and film maker. Producer of the Weekly Arts Show on Drive 105 radio in Derry-Londonderry, Eileen specialises in writing for children, and has written, produced and directed two radio drama series for children for broadcast on Irish radio. As Creative Director of Together in Pieces Interactive, Eileen has produced numerous Hip Hop-related events including the biggest B-Boy (breakdancing) event on the island of Ireland last year in Belfast and the Hip Hop Comedy Gameshow, a 'surreal, side-splittingly funny' gameshow which examines stereotypes about rappers and Hip Hop culture.

David Dryden is an award-winning artist, director, animator, editor and film maker. An audio engineer with technical and classical qualifications in music, David is also an accomplished Flamenco guitarist. An experienced educator and creative digital media trainer

David was responsible for delivering and editing 'The Digital Book of Kells' animation project for display on the BBC Big Screen as part of 'The Return of Colmcille' UK City of Culture celebratory events in June 2013 in Derry-Londonderry. A visual FX and graphic designer, David currently specialises in directing and producing short form content.



Dr Niall Rea



Niall received his AHRC funded doctorate from the Brian Friel Centre for Theatre Research Queen's University in Belfast. His practice-based research explored the performance of queer identities in Northern Ireland through the conflict and post-conflict periods. He is especially interested in the disruptive agency of 'queer' in that it destabilises both gender and sectarian binaries in society and proposes an alternative reparative structure of identities. He has published in *Deviant Acts* (Carysfort Press, David Cregan ed.), and in *Irish Masculinities* (Irish Academic Press, Caroline Magennis ed.).

He is artistic director of Theatreofpluck, Northern Ireland's first publicly funded gay theatre company. Theatreofpluck were in residence at the MAC, Belfast's modern contemporary arts centre, when it opened in 2012/13, preparing four productions all of which examine LGBT people in society, and all either world or Irish Premieres.

As a designer, Niall has worked extensively all over the UK and Ireland, as well as in the rest of Europe and the USA. He has designed over one hundred productions in Belfast for companies such as Tinderbox, Lyric Theatre, G.B.L. Productions, Replay, Greenshoot, Aisling Ghear, Theatre at the Mill, Brassneck. Some of his other favourite credits include *Ghosts* [Fru Emilia Theatre, Iceland], *La Dispute* and *Kiss of the Spiderwoman* [Crucible Theatre, Sheffield], and *Sweet Charity* [B.A.C., London]. He is associate designer of Rawlife Theatre company having designed all their productions since 2006. The European companies he has worked with include Michel Laub/Remote Control Productions and Company RAZ; designing for *Planet Lulu*, *Daniel and the Dancers*, *Frankula*, and *Angelo senza Angelo*, often collaborating with Marina Abramovic, the renowned international performance artist. Niall also works with choreographers to stage experimental dance pieces; including the Puerto Rican National Ballet, Melanie Stewart Dance, Philadelphia and Theatre Encorps in London.

Shannon Yee Playwright and Producer



Shannon Yee (Sickels) is an award-winning playwright / producer. Her perspectives as an immigrant, ethnic minority, queer, disabled artist-parent are embedded in her work (www.s-yee.co.uk). Most notably, her *Reassembled*, *Slightly Askew* (created with Anna Newell, Paul Stapleton, Hanna Slattne & Stevie Prickett) aurally immerses audiences in her experience of nearly dying and subsequent acquired brain injury (www.reassembled.co.uk).

Dean Lee**The Rainbow Project**

Dean Lee is a Counsellor and accredited member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, delivering and co-managing the Rainbow Project's co-cultural counselling services to people across the minority sexual orientation, gender and relationship spectrum in Northern Ireland.

Before joining Northern Ireland's largest LGBTQ+ support organisation in 2010, Dean worked in various voluntary, education and health organisations concerned with anti-racism and anti-sectarianism and was also instrumental in the establishment of the Northern Ireland Health and Social Services Interpreting Service. During his time at The Rainbow Project Dean has established a number of innovative projects including the Befriending Service and Gay Ethnic Group (GEG) which has now merged into the LGBTQ+ arts and social activities group Culture Club.

From 2016- 2018 Dean facilitated GEG members and coordinated a series of creative arts workshops for the Arts Council NI Project, Multiple Journeys of Belonging which culminated in the production of *So I Can Breathe This Air*. Dean continues to coordinate Outwrite, an LGBTQ+ Creative Writing group and is an aspiring poet and writer himself. His most recent collaboration is the Peace by Peace initiative which is a series of LGBTQ+ led conversations that seeks to explore the cross roads where the march for true and lasting peace meets the march towards a truly equal, diverse and inclusive society.

Isaac Gibson**DJ, Producer and Sound Designer**

Isaac Gibson is a Northern Irish, award-winning DJ, Producer and Sound designer. He's had over ten years' experience in the music industry and is currently studying a PhD in Music Technology & Sonic Arts at Queen's University Belfast.

Over the last few years, he has worked on the scores and sound design of many short films and theatre productions that have been featured in the Lyric Theatre, MAC and various other renowned establishments across Ireland."



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**

**THE SENATOR
GEORGE J. MITCHELL
INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL PEACE,
SECURITY AND JUSTICE**



**Partnership for
Conflict, Crime &
Security Research**



**THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES**
For Merit and Achievement
2015



**Athena
SWAN**
Silver Award