The Department of Employment Relations and Human Resource Management, and the Centre for Work, Organisation and Wellbeing invite you to a PhD Confirmation:

“Live Art and Performance Art Global Networks: How the Net Works”

When: 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm, Wednesday 31st March, 2010
Where: Nathan Campus, Building N72 (Business 2), Room -2.11

Abstract: As a performance artist, I have experienced a strong synergy connecting performance artists, the work they make, the network they create and inhabit, and the trust that binds them together. Consequently, this doctoral research project focuses on the question, “Within the global performance art network, how does trust operate?” Network theory forms the overarching theoretical framework, with the additional concepts of trust, community, social capital, and performance art playing a key part in the analysis. With no known research into the global performance art network to date, the research will contribute to theory development and practice.

In addressing the research question, I acknowledge my personal ontology and self-interest in the subject matter. This duality of researcher / participant has allowed for a conscious ethnographic approach to this research. I have adopted a pragmatist paradigm in approaching this research question, which encourages a mixed methods strategy, combining quantitative and qualitative research methods, allowing for triangulation of data.

The program of research contains four studies, which together will address the research question. Study One utilises the qualitative method of semi-structured interviews with members of the global performance art network. Study Two is a participant observation study that involves me reflecting upon and analysing my experiences as a performance artist over a specified time period. Study Three involves an historical/comparative cross-sectional analysis of the network from its conception through both physical and digital archival data. Study Four is the development of a network map of the performance art network as it currently exists and operates. Data will be collected through online surveys and both the analysis and visualization will be presented using online network mapping software.

The research outcomes will include theoretical development around networks and trust, the tangible result of a website containing details and analysis of the global performance art network which will be an ongoing resource for the sector, and the applicability of the findings to network development in other sectors.

Candidate: Rebecca Clunn is a PhD candidate in the Griffith Business School’s Department of Employment Relations and Human Resource Management and School of Psychology. Her supervisors are Dr Sheryl Ramsay (GBS) and Dr Arthur Poropat (PSY).

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