

Play Serious

<http://playserious.info/>

THURSDAY, 13TH & FRIDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER 2012, 10AM-8PM

2022, 20/22 Dale Street, Northern Quarter, Manchester M1 1EZ

Play Serious is an innovative, seriously playful and playfully serious event for practice based/led/as researchers. An explosion of art, critical insight and creative activity where participants will be encouraged to share their unresolved 'work in progress', ask each other questions, reflect critically on how practice and research inform one another, make connections with others and seed collaborations for the future.

The atmosphere will be friendly, fun and fascinating and the event will be a rare and exciting opportunity to put the practice in research to the fore. So bring your paintbrushes, modelling clay, crayons, 4b, 2b and Hb pencils or script, scores and recordings, musical instrument, camera, 16mm projector and computer and join up to play serious!

In a Nutshell

Play Serious aims to create a space in which postgraduate and early career practice based/led/as researchers can share their respective practices, connect with like-minded colleagues and explore potential collaborative opportunities in the region and beyond.

What?

A two-day event of semi-structured and informal activities which will encourage sharing, making connections and fostering collaboration between the broader creative disciplines 'on show'.

Why?

An opportunity to explore, share and focus on practice based/led/as research in an informal setting outside the scrutiny of an academic institution.

Who is the audience?

The participants... and though it's not a closed event it is designed to allow 'play' within the scope of our own fields and away from an academic setting.

Who will gain from this event?

The participants... and hopefully this will lead to exciting collaborations either through studio practice, producing new forms of academic text or more traditional academic texts, forging links to other institutions etc.

Future/Longevity of the event.

We envisage this two-day event as being the starting point for future collaborative projects and a substantial publication covering the event and future work (alongside the website).

Play Serious came about through the PARC NorthWest (Practice as Research Consortium NorthWest) 23rd May 2012 event 'Opportunities for Postgraduate Researchers and Early Career Researchers'. It's aimed at practice based/led/as early career researchers, the postgraduate community and Supervisory teams of all HE Institutions who make up the PARC NorthWest Consortium – <http://parcnorthwest.miriadonline.info/consortium/>. However, it's open to any practice based postgraduates or early career researchers and their Supervisory teams from the North, Midlands and beyond.

What are the expected outcomes?

By contributing to the event we hope that participants will be able to:

- show work in progress, as opposed to resolved and finished pieces
- discuss a wide range of aspects and permutations of practice within a research context
- raise awareness of their own and others practice for information, possible future collaboration and pairings

Play Serious will be supported by a publication created for the event including biographies and short statements from the delegates around the theme of 'Play Serious' and what practice and research means to them, with editorial from the group heading up *Play Serious*.

Play Serious will be documented and an embedded blog within the website will carry these updates, photography, video and written work, creating a springboard for future publications and collaboration.

Branding, logo and a website will be produced to act as legacy, possibly for future events.

How to get involved?

If you'd like to get involved in any aspect of planning the event then join the dialogue by either requesting to join the *Play Serious* Facebook group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/314862468595500/> (you'll need a personal Facebook account – login, browse to the link above and request to join) or if you prefer using email ask to be added to the *Play Serious* Groupmail list via contact@playserious.info.

Who's currently involved?

The organising group members include PGRs and ECRs from Glyndwr, Manchester Metropolitan (MIRIAD and Cheshire), Northumberland and Salford Universities and the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM).