The significance of the body / bodies in education is evident in particular forms of activity or subject areas. Informed by philosophical, scientific and sociological perspectives this significance is re-emerging as a focus of interest to educators. In this day event we will consider how the body, moving and making, solo and collectively, signifies through:

• (our) practical educational experiences in and beyond the classroom,
• the emerging discourses about the body, and
• both professional and academic conceptions of the value of focusing on the body as performer of intelligent actions, and not just a vehicle for an intelligent mind.

The structure of the day will be active and interactive, including provocations from:

Physical theatre artists Richard Hayhow (Open Theatre) and Highly Sprung Performance Company on the intelligence of the body, drawing on work in special and mainstream schools.

Mark Boylan (Sheffield Hallam University) on the significance of ensemble and narrative in drama for learning and maths.

Kerry Chappell (University of Exeter) advancing the significance of a ‘post-human’, ‘new materialist’ view of the body for educators, drawing on work in dance and science.

Tom Martin (University of Oxford) drawing from an ethnographic study of boat building, and vocational and community education.

The day will also offer several 5 minute / 2 slides opportunities for attendees to contribute a ‘Taster’ outline of their research ideas.

For more details or to offer to contribute contact Richard Davies, rdavies15@uelan.ac.uk

9.30 Coffee and registration

10 ‘Understanding and communicating through the body’
- Richard Hayhow (Director, Open Theatre)
Workshop and in conversation with Richard Davies
(UCLan and PESGB)

11 Break

11.15 ‘Embodied dialogue and creativity: Posthumanist-inspired conundrums’ - Kerry Chappell (University of Exeter)

12.00 ‘Ensemble, embodiment, and enchantment: arts infused relational pedagogies’ - Mark Boylan (Sheffield Hallam University)

12.45 Lunch

1.30 ‘Learning things (and other stuff): educating through the body’ - Sarah and Mark Worth (Highly Sprung)
Performance and in conversation with Jo Trowsdale
(University of Warwick)

2.15 ‘Un-bounding the body: Capturing the experience of perceiving through tools’
- Tom Martin (University of Oxford)

3 Break

3.15 Tasters (maximum 5 mins and 2 slides)
- The Imagineerium: implications of practice based learning
- plus others TBC

4 Plenary

4.30 Soft drinks and wine reception

As part of the conference there will be an opportunity to present ‘Tasters’ of your research ideas. You will have up to 5 mins to give an overview responding to the main themes of the conference. Funding permitting, we hope to stimulate a further series of seminars on this theme. The discussions throughout the day will give us a sense of the possible direction of such a series. Email Richard (rdavies15@uclan.ac.uk) to reserve a slot.


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