

# Creative-Critical Methods For(u)m

October – December 2022


University of Cambridge





## FOR(U)M WEBINARS

Webinars are open to all. Prior booking required.

For a Zoom Link, email [PoeticJusticeValues@educ.cam.ac.uk](mailto:PoeticJusticeValues@educ.cam.ac.uk).

<b>Webinar 1</b>	<b>Publish and Flourish?</b>	
Thursday October 13th 4-5pm   Online	We have heard 'publish or perish', but is it possible, given the pressures of neoliberal academia, to find joy in publishing? In this webinar, Asiya will draw upon her experience of exploring (with others) 'alternative' paths in academic publishing, ranging from efforts to run a journal – <a href="#">Feminist Review</a> - with feminist ethos of care, developing an ECR writing support group - <a href="#">Opening Lines</a> - and working with a magazine – <a href="#">Otherwise</a> - to publish ethnographic 'excesses'. Together we will consider the following question - is it possible to publish not under the threat of perishing, but with the promise of flourishing?	<b>Dr Asiya Islam</b>
<b>Dr Asiya Islam</b> is a Lecturer in Work and Employment Relations at the University of Leeds. A sociologist with an interest in gender, class, and work. Prior to joining Leeds, Asiya was based at the University of Cambridge as Fellow at Newnham College, where she completed her PhD - Gates Cambridge scholarship. Her doctorate ethnographically explored the experiences of young lower-middle-class women in service work in Delhi, India.		

<b>Webinar 2</b>	<b>How to Thrive in 2050? Going Places via Tentacular Pedagogies, Word-play, Jump-Cuts &amp; Neuro-Futurism</b>	
Thursday October 27th 4-5pm   Online	What could or should the year 2050 look like? What changes can we make in what and how we work to realise a more equitable future? What's wrong with now – why the need for bang on about 'adult themes' like anti-colonialism as we traverse to the future? Through clips from a commissioned film about a 'neuro-futuristic' 2050, How to Thrive in 2050? Playing on BBC iPlayer, we will discuss neurodiversity and how that relates to creativity, and creative approaches for academic publishing in the immediate and longer-term future of the neoliberal university. We will discuss ways to push back the various forms of pushback as we seek to move forward beyond multiple crises.	<b>Dr Kai Syng Tan</b>
<b>Dr Kai Syng Tan</b> FRSA SFHEA is Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University, and Programme Leader for the Creative Arts Leadership MA (10/2023). The MA reimagines 'leadership' as a co-creative, decolonised, inclusive intervention, and is the first of the Department of Art & Performance with the triple accredited Business School. Founder and co-chair Neurodiversity In/And Creative Research Network.		

<b>Webinar 3</b>	<b>Staging &amp; Publishing Prejudice Research with Autoethnographic Spoken Word &amp; Poetry</b>	
Thursday November 10th 4-5pm   Online	In this webinar, Helen will discuss a new method, <a href="#">collaborative poetics (CM)</a> , and its role in innovating publishing drawing on the research-based poetry anthology "You Kind of Have to Listen to Me", featuring social scientists and poets who also performed at a spoken word show 'The Struggle Is Real' at Montreal's Mainline Theatre. CM combined arts-based and autoethnographic methods with collaborative research principles and practices. Helen developed CM in a pilot study with seven young spoken word artists explore their lived experiences of discrimination and privilege.	<b>Dr Helen Johnson</b>
<b>Dr Helen Johnson</b> is a Principal Psychology Lecturer at School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Brighton, and Co-Director for the Centre for Arts and Wellbeing. A leading voice in spoken word/poetry slam scholarship, and expert in creative research methods, she explores intersections of the arts, community, social justice, and individual/collective wellbeing. She is an established spoken word poet, educator and curator across Europe, North America and Japan.		

<b>Webinar 4</b> November	<b>Social Justice &amp; Spiritual Methods - Poetic Call &amp; Response</b>	Details TBC
<b>Webinar 5</b> December	<b>Creative-Critical Interventions</b>	Details TBC

# For(u)m Workshops

Apply for a workshop place via email [PoeticJusticeValues@educ.cam.ac.uk](mailto:PoeticJusticeValues@educ.cam.ac.uk).

Please write why you wish to take part & how the for(u)m links to your research/interests.

## Workshop 1 Lived Experience, Hybrid Playwriting & Grime Poetics

Date & Time  
TBC  
October

The current education system doesn't work for everyone. Grime-poet Debris Stevenson poetry takes us back to her experience at school when she was labelled as someone with dyslexia and a failure moving towards personal empowerment through grime in her play Poet in da Corner. The play, inspired by Dizzee Rascal's seminal album, Boy in da Corner, is a coming-of-age story in a strict Mormon household between East London and Essex. In this workshop Debris will share her experiences across grime, poetry, academia, TV and film, with opportunity to try out creative techniques, and neurodivergent approaches to writing research. Debris will invite embracing disruption as opportunity, and centring individual and group immersion in the multi-sensory.



Deborah Stevenson

**Deborah Debris Stevenson** is a dyslexic educator, Grime-poet and Dancehall raving social activist. Debris explores the intersectional, unexpected and unjust - ideally whilst making you laugh and/or dance. Debris has worked in 30 countries, raised over £300,000 with her company The Mouthy Poets to develop young talent, designed foundation performance poetry modules at Nottingham University and had her poetry pamphlet, Pigeon Party, by Flipped Eye. Debris' debut show, Poet in da Corner, saw Debris nominated for an Emerging Talent of The Year Award (Evening Standard Theatre Awards). Poet in da Corner toured the UK early 2020 alongside the release of the album (Accidental Records).

## Workshop 2 November Social Trauma, Communal Healing, Digital Experiments

Details TBC

## Workshop 3 "At Risk of Being Excellent"

Time TBC  
December 2nd

"Going Places"  
Conference

Shirley and her team of young writers and mentors 'Young Identity' believe that the voice of young people in writing is as valid as adult writers. Drawing on her long-standing career as poet and 'Young Identity' mission to empower young people 'at risk of being excellent', Shirley's workshop will offer a tender, incisive and compassionate look at how writing can destigmatise young lives and, drawing on her poetry collection, explore experiences of displacement to make new communities on strange soil, hold stories kept, told and shared, their wisdom, memory, future and hope.



Shirley May

**Shirley May** is a poet from the Speakeasy Collective in Manchester. She co-managed the collective for five years and was a member of Commonword's writing development agency. Shirley writes from a Caribbean diaspora reference point and her writing includes her expression of being part of the Black British Canon. Shirley believes her role is to make both performance and page poetry accessible to young people having worked for 25 years to promote a culture around performance poetry mentoring new writers and performing widely, such as the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in New York and the Calabash writing festival in Jamaica. She is a Visiting Fellow at MMU and author of the poetry collection She Wrote Her Own Eulogy.

## Workshop 4 "Create to Transform"

Time TBC  
December 3rd

"Going Places"  
Conference

There's a lot of talk out there. Talk is professionalised, academicized, monetised, yet most of us seek ways to see how we can be enlightened and invigorated to action. How do we connect better with others? How do we listen in ways that we retain information and know what to do next. Zena Edwards' method Create to Transform (C2T) will curate a dialogue space for coming together to innovate, create and cultivate by doing things differently. Some of these approaches are rooted in indigenous and ancient models. C2T aims to nurture communal and individual care, reconnecting urban environments to well-being, belief in the integrity of the artist, and the Power of Creativity, to produce new narratives that counter violent structures of dehumanisation.



Zena Edwards

**Zena Edwards** is a performance poet, vocalist and creative project developer. She was raised in Tottenham, North London, and graduated from Middlesex University. Since 1998 she has been active as a performance poet and has been running poetry workshops since 2002. She has written and performed two one-woman shows "Security" (2009) and "Travelling Light" (2011) and has toured extensively in the UK and continental Europe thanks to the support of the British Council, UK Arts International, Apples and Snakes Poetry Organisation and 57 Productions.

## Workshop 5 December Collaborative Feminist Zine-making

Details TBC

Send enquiries to: [PoeticJusticeValues@educ.cam.ac.uk](mailto:PoeticJusticeValues@educ.cam.ac.uk). Follow project on Twitter: @PJV\_project

