

Opps for Apps Programme



Image: 'Opps for Apps Seminar Session', David Simmons (2014).

**17 June 2015,
MY120, Avenue Campus,
The University of Northampton
School of The Arts**

Opps for Apps Symposium – Wednesday 17 June 2015

- 10.00 – 10.25 **Registration and Coffee**
- 10.25 – 10.30 **Introduction: Sonya Andermahr & David Simmons**
- 10.30 - 11.30 **Panel 1: Apps in Education**
- The University of Northampton School of the Arts Opps for Apps Team
- The University of Northampton School of Education Apps for Innovation Team
- 11.30 – 12.30 **Panel 2: Creating Apps**
- Louise Rice and Selam Zeru (Touchpress, UK)
- Sabine Coady Schäbitz (Collaborative Centre for the Built Environment, The University of Northampton)
- Rob Farmer (Learning Designer, Library and Learning Services, The University of Northampton)
- 12.30 – 1.30 Lunch
- 1.30 – 2.00 Discussion Workshops
- 2.00 – 2.30 Feedback session and concluding thoughts

Speakers

Industry Representatives – Touchpress

Louise Rice is Executive Producer and oversees both the production team and the business development team. She is responsible for bringing extraordinary content to all of our apps and ensuring that each one is beautiful and inspiring. She has over 30 years of international publishing experience and spent four years as Publishing & Merchandise Director at the National Gallery in London.

Selam Zeru (New Projects Assistant) carries out Business Development at Touchpress, working with the team to develop and flesh-out creative ideas and researching the viability of new projects. She joined Touchpress in 2013, working in the marketing team and focusing on sales and user analytics data. Prior to her work at Touchpress, Selam worked with the Windsor Fellowship, an educational charity supporting funding bids and communications. She has a degree in Sociology from the University of Warwick and this remains a driver of her core interests.

School of The Arts Opps for Apps Project

The **Opps for Apps project** is lead by Dr Sonya Andermahr and Dr David Simmons at the University of Northampton School of The Arts. The Opps for Apps project has explored and evaluated the pedagogic potential of literary apps in higher education. David and Sonya have been carrying out a qualitative study of a range of apps in the academic year 2014 - 2015, collecting feedback from both staff and students about their experiences embedding and using apps in the seminar environment.

School of Education Apps for Innovation Project

The **School of Education Apps for Innovation Project** comprises the Deputy Dean for Student Experience, senior lecturers from all four Subject Areas within the School, the School's Learning Technologist and a research assistant. All academic colleagues have backgrounds as practitioners in different phases and specialist areas of education, prior to working in higher education and some are very new to working at the University. What the group shares is a commitment to developing their skills, experience and knowledge in using technology enhanced learning, with a critical lens, learning from each other and drawing on relevant research. Some colleagues are already seasoned users and makers of digital tools and resources; others are less experienced, but keen to learn more, and to enhance our students' experiences of learning in higher education, especially as many of them will become educators themselves.

At the Opps for Apps symposium, the Apps for Innovation team will demonstrate and explain how their use of apps with iPads in their teaching has enhanced the students' learning experience and enabled academics to extend their teaching "repertoire". The team will also discuss and question the use of technology-enhanced learning, based on their own experiences and taking account of relevant theoretical perspectives and current research. Students' views will also be considered. An important element of the Apps for Innovation project is that it will inform future staff development within the School and across the University; lessons learned and implications for next steps will also be proposed.

They will be represented by Helen Caldwell, Wendy Yarnall, Anna Cox, Rebecca Heaton and Belinda Green at the Opps for Apps symposium.

Sabine Coady Schäbitz

Sabine Coady Schäbitz studied Architecture and Art History, Dipl.-Ing. Arch. (MSc Architecture) at Bauhaus-University Weimar, Germany and completed the Architectural Conservation Postgraduate Certificate (ICCROM) in Rome, Italy. She has professional experience in architecture practices in Germany and England and on archaeological excavations in Egypt and Israel. She has worked as a Lecturer at the Department of Theory and History of Architecture at the Bauhaus-University, acted as a Senior Lecturer at Birmingham School of Architecture and established Architecture as a new subject at Coventry University. She is currently Founding Director of the Collaborative Centre for the Built Environment (CCBE) at the University of Northampton. She is the Programme Leader of the MSc Integrated Urbanism. She publishes and leads public engagement events on architectural history, heritage and architectural conservation and urban design. Sabine was involved in the creation of the 'Follow Northampton' app, which features audio, visual and written content to assist users to discover the history and heritage of Northampton town.

Robert Farmer

Robert Farmer is a learning designer at the University of Northampton. He is a Certified Member of the Association for Learning Technology (ALT), a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, and a member of the ALT Learning Technology Team of the Year, 2014-15. He has co-developed several MOOCs, an educational app and website, produced various OERs, and has presented at many conferences in the UK and Europe.

Organisers

Sonya Andermahr is Reader in English at the University of Northampton, UK. She has written widely on contemporary British and American women's writing. Her publications include *Jeanette Winterson* (Palgrave 2009), *Jeanette Winterson: A Contemporary Critical Guide* (Continuum, 2007) and, with Terry Lovell and Carol Wolkowitz, *A Glossary of Feminist Theory* (Edward Arnold, 2000). Her current research interest lies in trauma narratives with a particular focus on narratives of maternal loss in contemporary women's writing. She has recently co-edited (with Silvia Pellicer-Ortín) a volume entitled, *Trauma Narratives and Herstory* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), and (with Lawrence Phillips), *Angela Carter: New Critical Readings* (Continuum, 2012). She is also currently editing a special issue of the *Humanities* journal on postcolonialism and trauma.

Dr Andermahr's experience also features extensive use of digital technologies in teaching including the use of the T.S Eliot app on the Modernism module at the University of Northampton for the last three years. She delivered a paper on the usefulness of the app to the Teaching & Learning Conference in 2012. Other relevant Teaching & Learning research experience includes a paper on the use of blogs in student assessment delivered to the Teaching & Learning Conference at Birmingham City University in 2008.

David Simmons is Senior Lecturer in English and Screen Studies at the University of Northampton, UK. David has published extensively on twentieth century American literature and culture. His publications include: *The Anti-Hero in the American Novel: From Joseph Heller to Kurt Vonnegut* (2008) which was recommended by *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (July 2008) and an edited collection, *New Critical Essays on Kurt Vonnegut* (2009). He has also written on a wide range of subjects including the work of H.P. Lovecraft, the fiction of Chuck

Palahniuk and he has co-edited with Nicola Allen, *Reassessing the Twentieth-Century Canon* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).

David also possesses a wealth of experience surrounding the teaching of convergent media (including the construction of a new module on the subject that will include seminars and talks by individuals working in convergent industries). In addition, he has given papers on the subject (most recently, "They're for Who fans first and gamers second"; Narratology vs Ludology in Doctor Who: The Adventure Games" at *Doctor Who: Walking in Eternity* conference, University of Hertfordshire, 2013) and published in academic collections and journals (including "Spartacus: Blood and Sand as videogame TV" in *Of Muscles and Men: Essays on the Sword and Sandals Film* (McFarland, 2011), and an upcoming chapter on Time and Transmedia in *Time on TV* (I.B Tauris, 2015).

Larissa Allwork acts as Research Coordinator on the 'Opps for Apps' project. She researches in the English division at the School of The Arts. Having trained at the University of Oxford, she completed her PhD at Royal Holloway, University of London. Her monograph, *Holocaust Remembrance between the National and the Transnational* is being published by Bloomsbury Academic in July 2015. Larissa also participates in the Marie Curie Initial Training Network, 'Diasporic Constructions of Home and Belonging' and the University of Northampton Working Group for Interdisciplinary Research in Trauma, Narrative and Performance.



**This event has been sponsored by the
The Institute of Learning & Teaching in Higher Education.**