

Goldsmiths, University of London
SUPERVISION RECORD (MPhil/PhD)

This form is to be completed after each supervision

Student Name:	Katarina Rankovic	Student Reference:	33300528
Department:	Art	Date of Birth:	13/03/1994
Date of Initial Registration:	23/09/19	Expected Submission Deadline:	2022
Supervisor 1:	Michael Archer	Supervisor 2:	Grace Schwindt
Funding Status: (Self-Funded/ ESRC/AHRC/Other)	Self-Funded	Full time/ Part time:	Full time
Thesis Title:	Scripting for Agency		

Date of supervision	04/05/20
Date form completed (Form to be completed within two days of meeting)	04/05/20

Written work submitted or other purpose of supervision

Thesis chapter: *Accommodating Others: The Role of Author as Medium*

Brief comments on written work

- To consider the role of gender in the body that carries out the function of personhood (and to pick up on a point on this which I introduced but soon discarded, in the beginning of the chapter)
- To consider the wider historical moments associated to my examples, and show some awareness of the many other examples of people thinking about author-as-medium (Franz Marc, Rainer Maria Rilke, Plato's ideas about teaching which involved questions of what is 'innate'/'latent', Konstantin Raudive)
- (re: the previous point) Historical moments such as the coinciding of the spiritualist movement and the proliferation of new communication technologies and electricity
- To be wary of the potential problematics of reinvoking the tired mind-body problem which I introduce in the middle of the chapter

Topics discussed in supervision:

- The thesis chapter, modes of presenting & publishing, and whether there were any journals Michael could think of that this chapter could be submitted to?
- **Revent video works I made that straddle both academic 'explanation' and artistic performance relating to my research**

This work might open avenues to more intentional interweaving of theoretical and practice endeavours. It also opened up the question of what it would mean - in amongst all these performative alterations of myself - to be the 'normal' me. From this regard, the research question seems to be something like 'what is the normal Katarina'? How do we know when she is being normal, 'not' performing, and is there a difference? I'm interested in how a changing cultural attitude to selfhood might be emotionally grounding rather than disorientating (as in the case of personality disorders of various kinds). My 'contribution to knowledge' might end up being a way of formulating a theory and a practice of the person as a fiction - but not arbitrarily as a fiction; rather, a fiction with a very real exchange value and social currency. In this conception, personhood would be fluid, inessential and mutable; but this constant roleplay coupled with the

provisional belief in the 'normal, substantial self', might prove to be consequential to anything meaningfully 'real' to us.

- The changing research question

As touched upon in the last bullet point, the focus of the research has turned to the idea of the difference between 'performing' and 'being' a person, and whether there is a difference. This is quite shifted from the original concern, which was with the compatibility of the algorithmic model of 'code and expression' as a way of describing agency. But when I return to my artworks, whether performance or the novel, I see the design of these agency-obsessed works as algorithmic and self-aware of their latent inscriptions. I will want to see if there's a way of phrasing these different worlds of algorithms, agency and social personhood into a new research question.

- Which materials to submit to the Annual Review Panel (in particular, how to present extracts from my work which tends to be durational, relatively long-form).

I've decided to submit the first chapter of my novel, since that's what I've turned my attention to now - as well as the recent video on self-estrangement. The chapter does set the tone for much of the rest of the book, so it will be possible to use it as a talking point.

- The progress of my working novel

Over the past month, I have returned to my novel and thought about how it could be restructured to give me more experimental freedom with the themes in my research. Recently I started writing new material, and am now steadily focusing on finishing the first draft by the start of my 2nd year. The novel in particular will be key in practically thinking about the fictioning at play in 'real' personhood, through the vehicle of a fictional character struggling through an existential crisis. At the same time, the character realises, via certain loopholes, plausible avenues to agency through the temporal fabric of the narrative. The text will heavily insinuate the reader, author and protagonist into a set of mutual stakes, and I hope in this way, bring certain questions about the origination of 'agency' into view - with particular reference to 'text' as the medium/substratum for agency. As Michael rightly mentioned however, neither of my supervisors and few others have seen this text. The problem is that I can expect few people to read the whole thing, so we'll have to start with excerpts.

- To consider other notions about the everyday spectrum of personalities we inhabit, often out of social imperative (Du Bois' double consciousness, 'passing' as a phenomenon amongst minority groups (Passing, Nella Larsen)

Research Progress (*issues relating to the thesis*)

- It is a good time to try and rephrase the research question/synopsis and reorientate the focus of the research given recent developments
- The novel will be my main preoccupation until September, in which I will try to 'play out' the main themes of my research.

Research Training and Professional Development: (review of training needs, relevant conferences, funding, presentations and publication)

- I forgot to mention this in the supervision, but I am working through an online course on Neural Networks and Deep Learning (Stanford University, Coursera). Just to get a better intuition about the (AI) technologies I am sometimes referencing, and how they work.
- I am also on the Academic Practice module, due to submit a written assessment in August

Action agreed for next supervision

- Submit Annual Review Panel materials
- Reconsider research question/synopsis
- Michael to send a few articles he mentioned for me to read (and any journal recommendations if he has any)

Date of next supervision (if more than two months from now, briefly explain)

- We didn't discuss this, but maybe one more just before the summer holidays?

Declaration of confirmation: By ticking this box it is confirmed that the information above is correct and accurate according to both the student and the supervisor at the time of the meeting. All Supervision Record Forms should be stored and subsequently attached to the Annual Progress Report Form.