

Ethical approval form - Department of Art

APPLICANT:

Please note that the Chair of the Departmental Research Ethics Committee should be notified of any adverse or unforeseen circumstances arising out of this study. If there are significant changes to the research design regarding research ethics, please notify the Chair immediately.

Name: Katarina Rankovic

Signed:

Katarina Rankovic

Date: 11.05.2020

Location: SW14 8HH, London

Tel. No: 07810026237

College email: krank001@gold.ac.uk

Title of Proposed project:

Scripting for Agency

TUTOR / SUPERVISOR:

Please note that the Chair of the Departmental Research Ethics Committee should be notified of any adverse or unforeseen circumstances arising out of this study or of any emerging ethical concerns that the Supervisor may have about the research once it has commenced.

Has the student read the Goldsmiths College Code of Practice on Research Ethics? <http://www.gold.ac.uk/research/ethics/>
[Approval will not be granted unless the student has demonstrated to the supervisor that they have read such documents.]

Yes

Has there been appropriate discussion of the ethical implications of the research with yourself and the Student?

Yes

Are the ethical implications of the proposed research adequately described in this application?

Yes

Name of Tutor/Supervisor: Michael Archer

Signed: Michael Archer (digitally)

Date: 30 June, 2020

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<p>1. Brief outline of the project, including its purpose. (You should use this section not only to describe physically what will occur in your project, but also use this as an opportunity to articulate some of the issues and motivation behind it.)</p>	<p>My practice-based PhD research in Art explores the extent to which personhood is encoded in 'character', and whether fictional characters can be reverse engineered into something approximating persons; perhaps as a kind of literary prototype of general artificial intelligence. The project thus explores the self as a fiction, whose reality manifests as 'exchange value' rather than essence. It also enquires about the role of text (code, alphabet, genes) in the coding of character, and thus how creative writing can be used as a tool to directly probe personhood. I approach this overlapping space between fictional characters and 'real' persons through a number of 'art experiments' involving my own person and the fictional characters I write.</p>
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<p>2. Description of Methods of Research or Display</p>	<p>Since my methods (the ‘art experiments’) will also be my outcomes, the project will result in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A novel (<i>Anomaline</i>) 2. A series of performances (live and video) 3. Creating a cross-disciplinary forum throughout my research for convening certain ideas with researchers from AI, philosophy and psychology, which are fields the project speaks to. 4. A written dissertation <p>Therefore, all but the third point will be realised by me alone.</p>
<p>3. Specify the number of and type of participant(s) or subject(s) likely to be involved.</p>	<p>My artwork and thesis will be realised by me alone. I hope to use this work to prompt collaborative exchanges with other researchers within a research group comprised of 12 researchers), and with other researchers at Goldsmiths.</p>
<p>4. State where the research or display will be undertaken or exhibited.</p>	<p>I hope to publish chapters from the thesis in peer-reviewed journals and exhibit artwork at galleries/screenings (whether off/online) throughout my PhD. I do not yet know specific locations, but most of this likely to occur in London or online.</p>
<p>5. State the potential adverse consequences to the participant(s) or subject(s), or particular groups of people, if any, and what precautions are to be taken.</p>	<p>I can’t imagine that my research or art would offend or harm anyone in its making or display. In only two cases am I hoping to involve participants in a performance/experiment. These performances present extremely low risk of harm/offence to participants, and will only be conducted or documented with verbal consent.</p>
<p>6. State any procedures which may cause discomfort, distress or harm to the participant(s) or subject(s), or particular groups of people, and the degree of discomfort or distress likely to be entailed.</p>	<p>The two aforementioned activities are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A filmed performance in which 2 participants read out a short text (the text has no defamatory/offensive content). This performance is repeated with 2 different participants each time. 2) Asking participants to try a specific performance method relevant to my research and documenting this as a text transcript, video or sound recording according to which medium the participant prefers - or no documentation at all if they wish.
<p>7. State how the participant(s) or subject(s) will be recruited or sourced. (Please attach copies of any recruiting materials if used).</p>	<p>The participants will be researchers from a research group I’m part of at Exposed Arts (gallery). Participants will also be sourced from my acquaintances and contacts from Goldsmiths and other institutions.</p>

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8. State if the participant(s) or subject(s) will be paid, and if so, provide details and state reasons for payment.

Participation will be voluntary, but where possible (if I acquire funding for the first activity), funds would go participants as performance fees. I will also use some RSA funding to pay three translators to translate the text used in that activity from English into three different languages.

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<p>9. State the manner in which the participant(s) or subject(s) consent will be obtained (if written, please include a copy of the intended consent form).</p> <p>a. Will the participant(s) be fully informed about the nature of the project and of what they will be required to do?</p> <p>a. Is there any deception involved?</p> <p>b. Will the participant(s) be told they can withdraw from participation at any time, if they wish?</p> <p>a. Will data be treated confidentially regarding personal information, and what will the participant(s) be told about this?</p> <p>a. If the participant(s) are young persons under the age of 18 years or 'vulnerable persons' (e.g. with learning difficulties or with severe cognitive disability), how will consent be given (i.e. from the participant themselves or from a third party such as a parent or guardian) and how will assent to the research be asked for?</p>	<p>I will respond to this section in relation to the two activities above (1. And 2.)</p> <p>1 a) Participants will be fully informed about the project and what they will be required to do. They will read a text aloud. It is important, however, that they do encounter the text before the experiment begins. For this reason, they will be reassured that the text contains no defamatory/offensive passages and will not reflect on them in any averse way. Participants will further be asked (verbal) permission to document their performance by video, and further (verbal) permission to share the performance on a project website and YouTube, with proper credits/descriptions attached.</p> <p>1b) No</p> <p>1c) Yes</p> <p>1d) Participants's personal information will not be shared, other than their first names and video documentation of their reading (with verbal permission). They will be informed about this.</p> <p>1e) No persons 'vulnerable persons' or persons under the age of 18 will be invited to participate.</p> <p>2a) Participants will be fully informed about the project and what they will be required to do. They will be asked to watch a tutorial video I made about a certain performance method, which is a technique for generating improvised speech by altering voice, mannerisms and other superficial features, such as makeup. Then they will be asked to try the method for themselves, in a private space (e.g. at home) and be offered the choice to document their speech, or not. This can take the form of a video, sound recording or text transcript, depending on what participants feel more comfortable sharing. I will encourage participants to document the performance for their own curiosity - but at that stage they can decide whether to share it with me or not. In either case, participants will report back to me on their experience of using the method. With prior verbal consent, documentation will be shared on a project website and YouTube channel.</p> <p>b) No</p> <p>c) Yes</p> <p>d) Participants will be made aware that none of they personal data will be shared to third parties.</p> <p>e) No persons 'vulnerable persons' or persons under the age of 18 will be invited to participate.</p>
<p>10. Will the research or display involve the investigation of illegal conduct? If yes, give details</p>	<p>No</p>

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and say how you yourself will be protected from harm or suspicion of illegal conduct?	
11. State what kind of feedback, if any, will be offered to participants.	As any documentation (video, performance transcript, sound recording, interview transcript) returned to me with verbal consent for online presentation will be displayed online, all participants will be able to access the results of the research and documentation.

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<p>12. State your expertise for conducting the research or display proposed.</p>	<p>I have already conducted and presented performance-experiments as in activity 1, with positive feedback from all participants and no negative feedback. The project website can be found here. I have had extensive experience exhibiting, performing and screening works in galleries and theatre venues over the past 7 years and am acquainted with writing risk assessments associated to the institutions I work with. Whenever I have worked with other people on an artwork or experiment in the past, all parties involved were always informed of all aspects of the activity.</p>
<p>13. Will the research or display place you in situations of harm, injury or criminality?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>14. Might the research or display cause harm to those represented in it? If so, how?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>15. Will the research or display cause harm or damage to bystanders or the immediate environment?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>16. Are there any conflicts of interest regarding the investigation and dissemination of the research (e.g. with regard to compromising independence or objectivity due to financial gain)?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>17. Is the research or display likely to have any negative impact on the academic status or reputation of the College?</p>	<p>No</p>

All students should have read the BSA guidelines on ethics (or equivalent ones, such as the AAA or ASA) and the ESRC Research Ethics Framework Document.

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When you have completed this form you must pass the form to your Tutor / Supervisor and if the Tutor / Supervisor supports your project then the Tutor / Supervisor will complete their section of the form on page 1.

You must then submit the form to Nick Grimmer in the Studios and Exhibitions Office.

You may not commence the project until you have written approval to do so from the Chair of the Departmental Research Ethics Committee.