

North West Symposium on Landscapes of Identity 2014 (LOI14)

LANDSCAPES OF IDENTITY Manchester

"Landscapes of Identity" – multi-dimensional, fluid, temporal characteristics of place and society

Wednesday 9th April 2014 16.15 – 20.00

BZ403 (4th Floor), Benzie Building, Manchester School of Art, Manchester
Metropolitan University, Higher Ormond Street, M15 6BR

Free admission

Programme

- 16.15 Arrival and registration (tea, coffee and cakes)
17.00 Welcome: Yatie Aziz – Postgraduate researcher MIRIAD MSA
Introduction: Professor John Hyatt – Director of MIRIAD
Chair: Emma Anderson – Director of The Atkinson
Presentations:
- Tom Bloxham MBE
 - Chris Woodworth
 - Dave Haslam
 - Paul Harris
 - Jason Prior
- 18.15 Debate
18.45 Vote of thanks: Professor David Crow – Dean of Manchester School of Art
19.00 Networking (wine and canapés)
20.00 Close

This student – led symposium is for postgraduate researchers and their supervisors, and early career researchers. It will present different approaches to the identity of the ethnically diverse city of Manchester. The symposium is based on a transdisciplinary approach to landscape: analysing and integrating ideas, theories and techniques, which originate in various cultural and scientific disciplines. Leading experts who have made their mark on fields such as architecture, urban landscape design, arts and media, popular culture, music and animation will present their diverse perspectives on the *identity of place and society*.

Chair:

Emma Anderson – The first Director of *The Atkinson*, Southport's newly developed integrated arts and heritage venue. The Atkinson project will be complete when the new museum opens later this year; a museum that focuses on the history of Sefton's extraordinary, dangerous and mysterious coastline, from the docks in Bootle to the faded elegance of Southport.

Bio: Emma Anderson trained as an art historian specialising in 15th century European art. She is passionate about making a difference to arts, culture and heritage in the North West. Emma has spent most of her career in Manchester and Lancashire working in places such as Manchester City Galleries, the Harris Museum & Art Gallery, Preston, and Arts Council England's Manchester offices. After working at the South Bank Centre, she became the Senior Keeper of Exhibitions and Programmes at The Lowry, Salford Quays, and Partnership Manager for The Manchester Partnership. In the latter post, she was responsible for the Renaissance museum development programme, which included the strengthening of museum and galleries' involvement with regional cultural tourism, developing the Wonder Women festival and supporting the Manchester Histories Festival.

Guest Speakers:

Tom Bloxham MBE – Chairman of *Urban Splash* and *Manchester International Festival*, Trustee of *Manchester United Foundation* and *TATE*, Chancellor of the *University of Manchester*

Topic: *Identity through Urban Regeneration*

“The big difference between Manchester and London, is that if you're successful in Manchester, you get to meet everyone; you meet the politicians, the artists and musicians, and because the city is that much smaller you're at the heart of the business world and the social community at the same time” (Bloxham, 1998). From *Afflecks Palace* to *Urban Splash*, Tom Bloxham tells his story of the remarkable transformation of his own identity leading to his role in the urban identity renewal of Manchester and the North West.

Bio: Tom is the co-Founder and Chairman of *Urban Splash*, a property regeneration and development company that initially converted redundant properties, mainly formerly industrial buildings, in North West England into city centre residential loft apartments. To date Urban Splash has over 300 awards for their architecture, designs, regeneration and commercial successes. An Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), in 1999 Tom was awarded an MBE for Services to Architecture and Urban Regeneration.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Bloxham

Chris Woodworth – Character Animator at *Travellers' Tales Warner Bros*

Topic: *Virtual Identity*

With reference to his work on *GTA4*, *Lego Marvel Superheroes*, and the upcoming *Lego the Hobbit*, Chris Woodworth illustrates his methods for inventing and projecting a character's identity. He evaluates the growing animation and gaming industry in Manchester, including its impact on the identity of global online and retail communities.

Bio: Chris graduated from Bournemouth University with a Masters in Computer Animation and has worked as a Facial Animator at Cubic Motion (formerly *Image Metrics*) in Manchester, where he created facial animation for titles such as *Killzone 2*, *Topspin 3*, and *GrandTheft Auto 4*. He is currently a Character Animator for the award winning video games company *Traveller's Tales (Warner Bros)*, which is responsible for Lego titles console games. Chris has animated movie segments for:

Lego Indiana Jones, both of the *Lego Batman* games, both of the *Lego Harry Potter* games, *Lego Pirates Of The Caribbean*, *Lego Star Wars III: Clone Wars*, *Lego Batman: The Movie*, *Lord Of The Rings*, *Lego Marvel Superheroes*.
<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm2774339/>

Dave Haslam – Author, Broadcaster and DJ

Topic: *Representation of Identity through Nightclubs and Music Venues*

Dave Haslam uncovers and celebrates the social, musical and cultural significance of clubs and venues in Manchester, going back to before the *Jazz age*, then through *Northern Soul*, *Punk* and *Rave*, and into the *Modern age*. For generation after generation, nightclubs and music venues are where sexual and social conventions have been tested and where music and fashion, creativity and commerce collide; and where individual identities are nurtured and communities and new social formations are created.

Bio: Dave Haslam is a writer, broadcaster and DJ who DJ'ed at The Hacienda club in Manchester through the late 1980s and has since played worldwide, including Berlin, Chicago, Detroit, Paris, Reykjavik, Cleveland and Lima. He has appeared on radio and TV on dozens of occasions, from fronting a three-minute film about the *Beetham Tower* for *BBC* online, to discussing *the Smiths of VH1*. Dave has written three books of cultural history; lectured on *Joy Division* at the *Middle Tennessee State University*; chaired a symposium on urban futures during the *Manchester Architecture and Design Festival*; sits on the Board of the *Manchester Histories Festival*; and writes book reviews for *The Guardian*.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dave_Haslam

Paul Harris – Choreographer and Movement Director in film, television and theatre

Topic: *Identity through Movement*

Born and educated in Greater Manchester, Paul Harris describes how movement and dance has shaped his identity. He provides creative insights into the making of the *Harry Potter* movies and franchise where his work as the choreographer has in turn shaped the identity of popular culture – at a local, national and international level.

Bio: Film credits include the laser scenes for Catherine Zeta Jones in *Entrapment*, the wand combat sequences in *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, and creating the physical language for the wand for the Harry Potter franchise. An interactive station featuring a hologram of Paul is part of *the Warner Bros Studio Tour - The Making of Harry Potter*. Television credits include – *Great Expectations*, *Bleak House* (BAFTA Winner), *Sense and Sensibility*, *Jane Eyre* and *The Way We Live Now* (BAFTA Winner). Theatre credits include – *The Entertainer* (Old Vic), *Liberty* (Globe), *The Importance of Being Ernest* (Theatre Royal Bath) *Romeo and Juliet* (Oxford Shakespeare Company). Paul is currently choreographing a film – *Far From The Madding Crowd* and a choreographer/dance consultant on the current television series – *Call The Midwife*.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Harris_%28choreographer%29

Jason Prior – Chief Executive, *Buildings + Places*, AECOM, Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment *Commissioner*, MMU Landscape Architecture Alumnus

Topic: ***Place Identity***

Jason Prior, who spearheaded the rebuilding of Manchester city centre after the 1996 IRA bombings, evaluates changes in the identity of Manchester. Through his work on the London Olympics Park 2012 and Rio Olympics Village 2016, he draws comparisons between the three most ethnically diverse cities in the world – Manchester, London and Rio. In these cities, placemakings, and the development and regeneration of public realms are carefully planned in relation to their social, cultural and economic attributes.

Bio: Jason is Chief Executive of *Buildings + Places* where he has completed many award-winning large-scale and complex projects, which create new communities and regenerate towns and cities. His vision is to encourage economic, environmental and social sustainability to promote a better quality of life. He is a chartered member of the Landscape Institute; his honours include Groundswell: Constructing the Contemporary Landscape” (2005), The Civic Trust Award Commendation (2004 and 2005), London Planning Awards Commendation (2004), Landscape Institute Design Award (2004), Best Practice in Urban Regeneration (2000), Royal Town Planning Institute, Silver Jubilee Cup (1998), Winning entry Manchester City Center International Design Competition (1996), Town and Country Planning Association, Settlement for 21st Century Waterfenton.

http://investors.aecom.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=131318&p=irol-govBio_pf&ID=205283