

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	28/01/20
Date form completed (Form to be completed within two days of meeting)	25/02/20

Written work submitted or other purpose of supervision

To discuss CHASE application

To discuss a new methodological approach I was taking in my performance work involving psychometrics

Brief comments on written work

Michael was overall supportive of the CHASE application draft which I sent to the art department. After I was selected at departmental level to go forward to the second round of the process, I received feedback from Kristen Kreider, who worked on preparing that feedback with Michael Newman and Edgar Schmidt.

Whilst the feedback was overall positive, I was told that my writing style was engaging but possibly risky in the sense that my use of terms like 'ghost', 'personhood', 'agency', 'character' might be mistaken as naive understandings of those terms, and that my desire to question their very relevance and distinctions in my project may go unnoticed. I was also told to reconsider my proposal to write a novel, as this kind of outcome might more readily be favoured for applications from the literature department. On the back of that I was also encouraged to argue why the art department is specifically the best environment in which to conduct my research. Michael Newman left further comments throughout my application, which mostly encouraged me to show that I was aware of how philosophy as a discipline has treated the subject of personhood by including more references, as well as to disambiguate terms which may have different meanings from the point of view of different disciplines. I discussed all these comments individually with Michael Archer, and later acted on each point.

Topics discussed in supervision:

We generally both agreed with Michael N's written comments and I explained two cases where I disagreed: my use of the term 'ghost', which I don't think would be taken too literally given Derrida and other's similar use of the term in trying to account for those aspects of selfhood which *seem* to us ephemeral and immaterial, yet which I fully expect might be described and engineered in mechanical terms. I also disagreed with the suggestion to include a discussion of a 'glitch' in the code that scripts for personhood - as I think to fully consider the self-making potential of text, one must consider a script without mistakes - otherwise the reliance on a glitch pivots once again to the understanding that life-likeness must be a

spontaneous accident, a model that avoids taking into account the role of scripting in agency and thus doesn't get us further in understanding the role of automation in autonomy. My hypothesis is that you don't need a glitch to get the code to perform 'ghostly' outcomes.

Michael warned me that this kind of application might demand a more concrete presentation of ideas and approach than what I had demonstrated.

Then we turned to discussing my recent Art Research Installation, where I asked audience members to fill out a personality questionnaire after I performed a character for them (and then did this three times, with three different characters). I gathered questionnaires from 7 participants on 3 different characters and have data on their collective impressions of these characters as if they were persons. While I was still unsure what to do with the data, I was perhaps equally or maybe more interested in the process the participants underwent when filling out the forms. It seemed like a good occasion to open a dialogue with the authors of the questionnaire, two reputable personality psychologists based in Canada. We discussed me getting in touch with them, and I also had in mind to share my experiment with a psychologist who was giving a talk at Goldsmiths the next day. Since then I have managed to introduce myself to the authors of the questionnaire, and had a more in-depth discussion with the other psychologist, with whom I am now planning a joint experiment.

We also discussed my recent performance at Elephant West, which was not very successful given the poor environment - it was far too noisy for a performance which relies so much on storytelling.

Research Progress (*issues relating to the thesis*)

The Art Research Seminar I presented in November and the more recent Art Research Installation have allowed me to develop two distinct areas of research which might form two chapters of my thesis. I have gathered notes, documentation from the events and further research pertaining to the first theme (the artist as a medium and the spatiality of personhood) and the second (using psychometry on fictional characters as a performance practice). These give me enough material to start a first draft of these two chapters and will be my focus over the next couple of months.

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

I have applied for the ScienceHumanities Summer School (June) to explore methodologies in the space between literature and science

I am taking online courses in Machine Learning to allow me to understand how machine learning works and how to use it without much knowledge of a programming language.

Action agreed for next supervision

Get in touch with authors of questionnaire with the hope of initiating collaboration or discussion
 Get in touch with Sylvia Terbeck (psychologist, Liverpool Uni) for Skype session to discuss my use of psychometry
 Set up a supervision with both Grace and Michael
 Write a draft of thesis text based on my two presentations over the last two terms.

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

Probably after the Easter holidays, given the UCU strikes.

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.