

Photo: Chrysoula Drakaki



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# **IMPROVISING BODIES HOW WE ADAPT TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR WORLDS MUSICAL**

By Professor Paul Stapleton  
Friday 29 September 2023 at 6pm  
Sonic Lab, SARC  
Queen's University Belfast



Photo credit: Jonny Frazer  
& The Lyric Theatre

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**Paul Stapleton** is a musician, originally from California. He began his employment at Queen's University Belfast as an RCUK Academic Fellow in 2007, and was appointed Professor of Music in 2018. Paul researches the design, adaptation and exploration of musical instruments, often in improvisational contexts. He performs with his handmade inventions and other musical collaborators in locations ranging from Echtzeitmusik venues in Berlin to the annual International Conference on New Interfaces for Musical Expression.

Paul is particularly interested in how improvising bodies (including people, places, and things) are constituted and entangled through their collaborations within musical ecosystems. While his artistic research often engages with new (and old) technologies, he adopts a critical approach to 'innovation' in an attempt to avoid techno-solutionism. He is an executive board member of the International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation at University of Guelph, and a co-investigator on the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council funded partnership grant *Improvising Futures*.

Paul has previously held visiting positions at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics at Stanford University and the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology at McGill University. He co-directed the Arts and Humanities Research Council funded network *Humanising Algorithmic Listening*, and has co-led previously funded interdisciplinary research projects on topics ranging from the relationship between music improvisation and law, to the study of ecological dynamics between musicians and virtual-acoustic instruments.

He has received critical acclaim for his sound design and composition work as part of the immersive audio-theatre piece *Reassembled, Slightly Askew*, and has published in outlets ranging from the *Computer Music Journal* and *Organised Sound* to *Frontiers in Neuroscience* and *Psychological Research*. He is also currently the director of Sonorities Festival Belfast, an international gathering of sound and music.

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**RSVP Maria Meehan** (m.meehan@qub.ac.uk)  
or book at <https://tinyurl.com/bdek9269>