

# Transforming Encounters? Racism and the Sonic Representation of Stephen Lawrence's Story

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**ARTS COUNCIL  
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# 1. The Sonic Artwork and Audience Experience

[re]locate



Entrance to Otter Gallery with aerial photograph of Well Hall Road



Well Hall Road photograph mounted outside installation space, near the entrance

*'never ~~to~~ take the tedious task of  
waiting at the bus stop for granted'*

*What Stephen Lawrence Has Taught Us* by Benjamin Zephaniah



Audience member inside installation, a darkened space approx. 5 x 8 m in dimensions



Accompanying visual display available as part of the exhibition

## 2. Brief Background to [re]locate

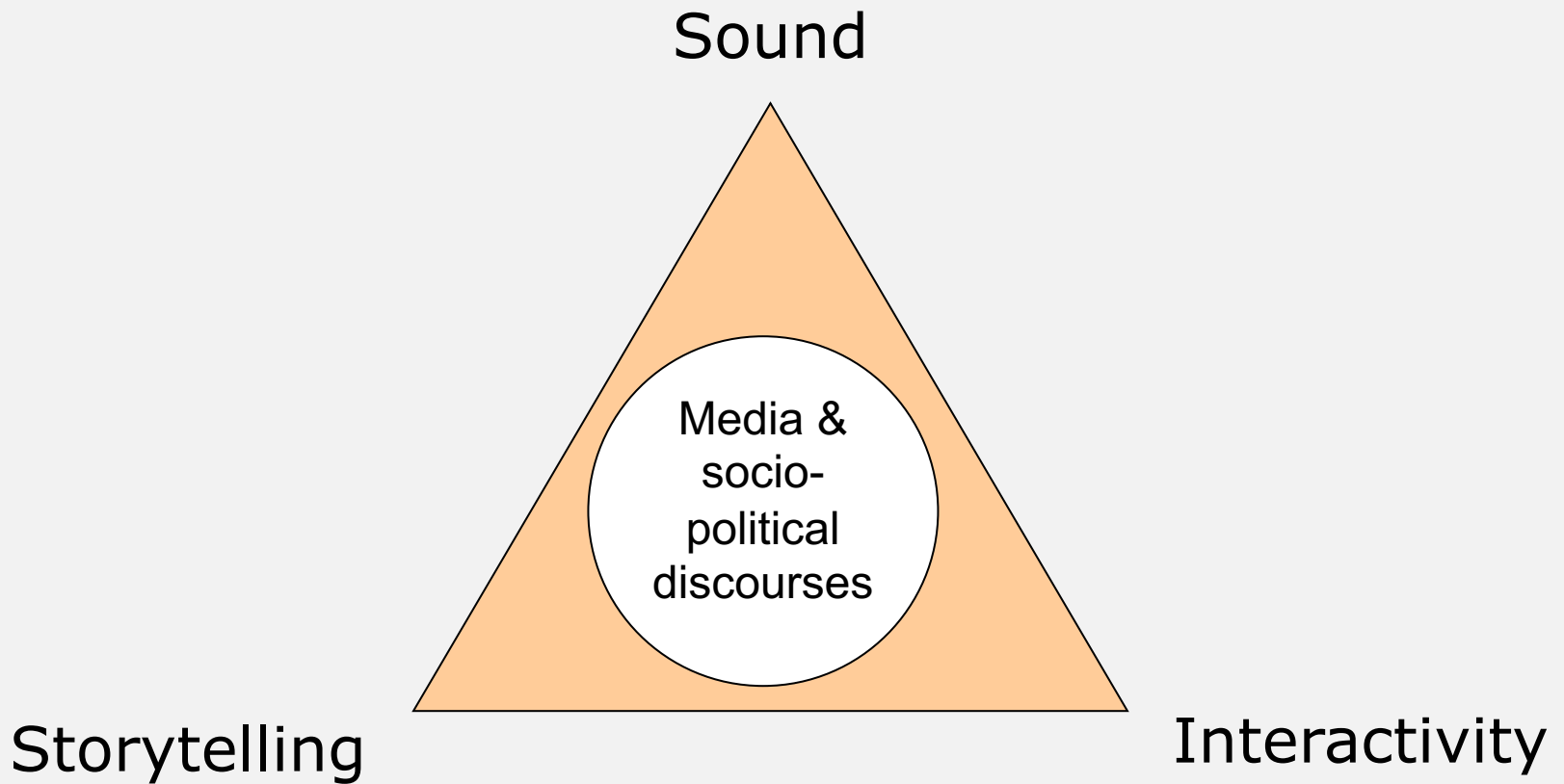


# Artistic Vision (and Experimentation)

On entering the space, the audience assume the role of 'pedestrians' or 'passers-by' but depending on their location and number they are confronted by 'recovered' fragmented memories associated with the aforementioned event that has long since passed. It is the spatial relationship of 'key' members of the audience that determines where and how these multi-layered fragments, which comprise sound, image and text, are experienced. Essentially, the audience interact within the space to trigger fragmented 'recollections' that bear witness to the event.

Extract from Artist Diary

# AHRC funded Practice-based Research



# The Act of Witnessing



# Sound Design and Point of Audition

## **‘Spatial’**

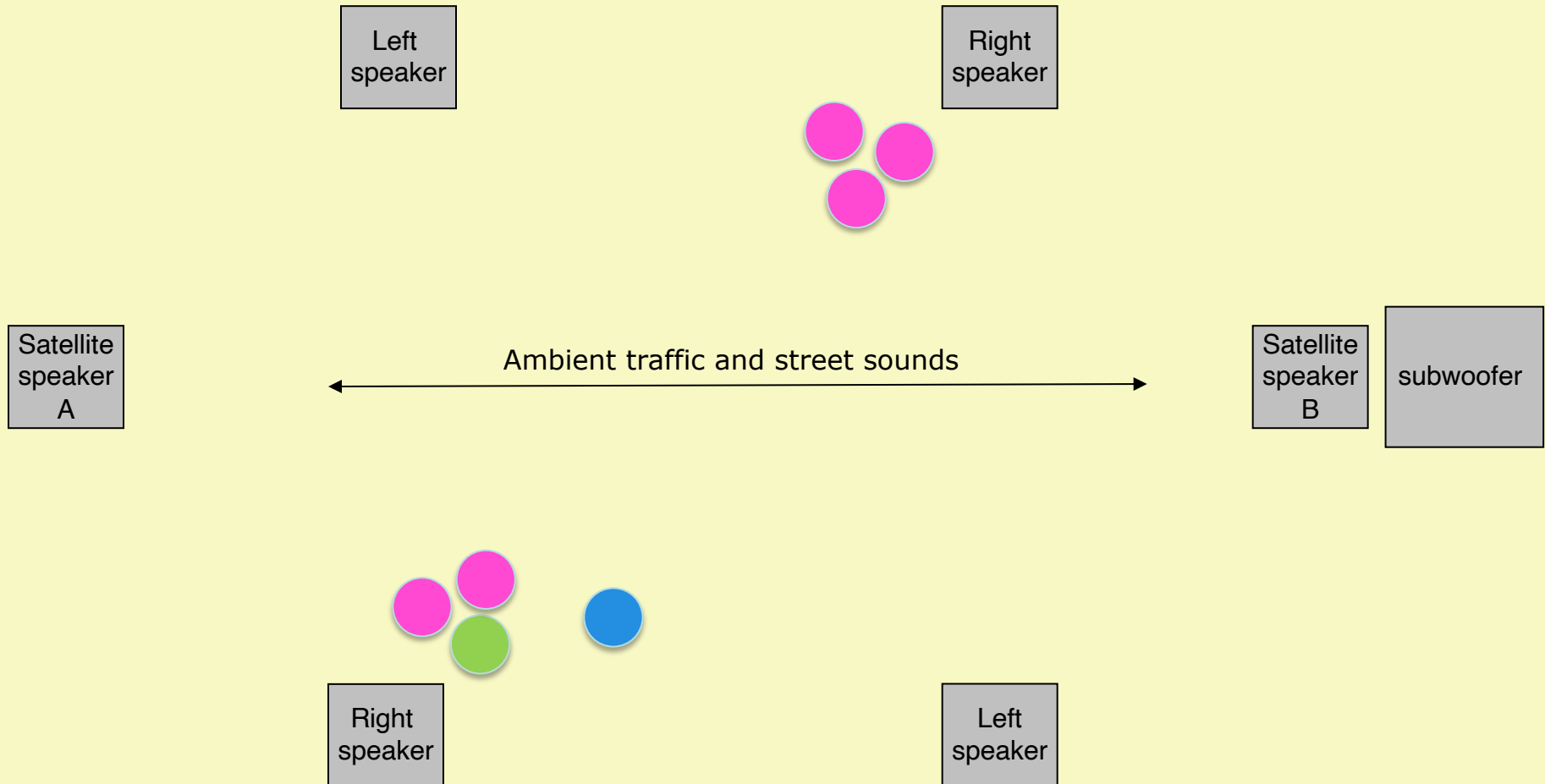
The position from which the audience member hears the story ‘action’

## **‘Subjective’**

The character, at any given moment in the story, who is hearing what the audience member hears.

(Chion, *Audio-Vision: Sound on Screen*)

# Sound Design and Multi-channel Spatial Arrangement



# [re]locate (binaural version)

Fixed works (available all day)

**Binaural Listening Rooms TC103A/B**

### 3. Transformative Encounter?

# Audience Feedback

‘Enormously powerful and moving piece which expands our understanding of the event, brings us back as if it’s happening in the present, making us feel part of the events as if witnessing and feeling first hand – overwhelming – would be very useful tool to share as widely as possible – young people in schools, wider community – about our roles in society and our duty of care for each other.’

*Catherine Miller-Bassi, Former Head of Lambeth Arts*





Students viewing and discussing the accompanying visual display

# WE NEED ACTION NOW

#UKIsNotInnocent

#BlackLivesMatter

#SayTheirNames

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