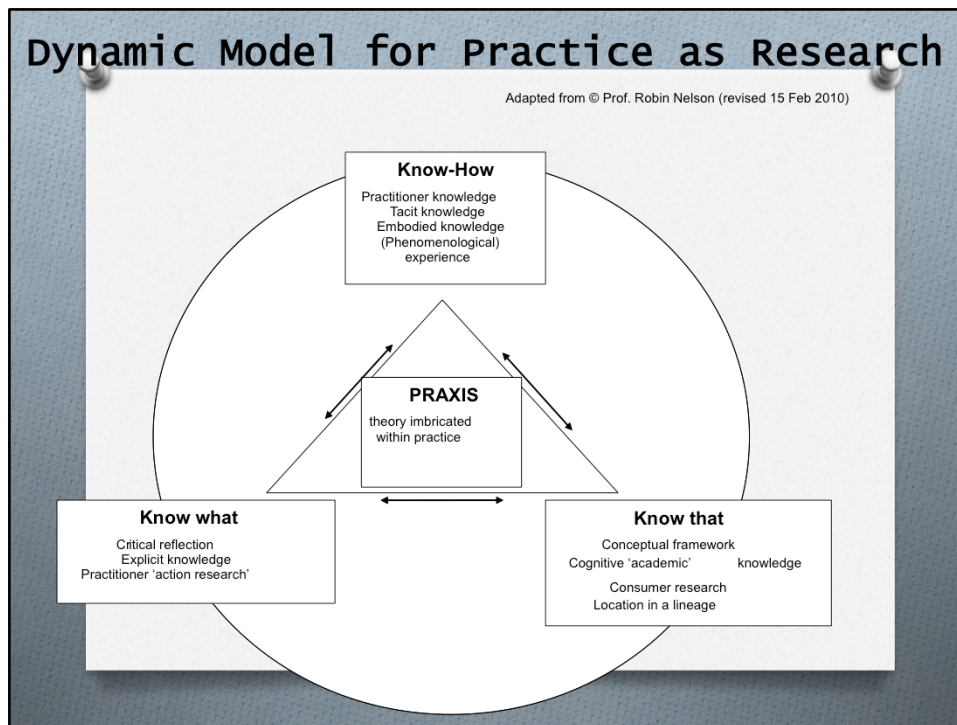


The first part of the presentation will discuss approaches to practice-as-research and how I have found PaR to be a useful methodology for my research. As part of this I will show you some of a completed PaR project and introduce a metaphor for creative practice (this is the metaphor I work with as part of my practice-as-research process – the metaphor also works as a visual archive). Then, I will introduce a research enquiry that I am currently working on called Tourist in the (K)Now: deliberate rappporter. I thought it might be useful to see this alongside a completed work so that we can visit the process within the presentation. It is also gives me an opportunity to explore my thinking with you. (*note – since this presentation I have started to write the neologism ‘rappporter’ as ‘raporter’*)



As a practitioner as well as a researcher who is interested in philosophical and interdisciplinary enquiries, I have found PaR enabling. I am particularly interested in responding to research questions using film, video, photography and performance. Robin Nelson could be considered to be the leading UK scholar in practice-as-research in performance. He is currently emeritus professor at Manchester Met. Nelson has heavily theorised the distinction between different types of knowledge, some of which is gained through scholarly modes of learning and some of which is gained through experiential, tacit and embodied knowledge. He calls these types of knowledge...know how...know that and know what. Nelson's dynamic model explains how knowing how, knowing that and knowing what is done in praxis. A relationship between practice and theory, a relationship between doing the practice and reflecting on it, a relationship between doing the reading of theory and practicing it. This continuous, reflexive, dynamic model is one that can be used across any project where the enquiry leads us between practice and theory.

Some (but not all) practice is research

Practice is research when...

it interrogates itself
it locates itself within its research context
it gives rise to other forms of discourse

(SCUDD 1998)

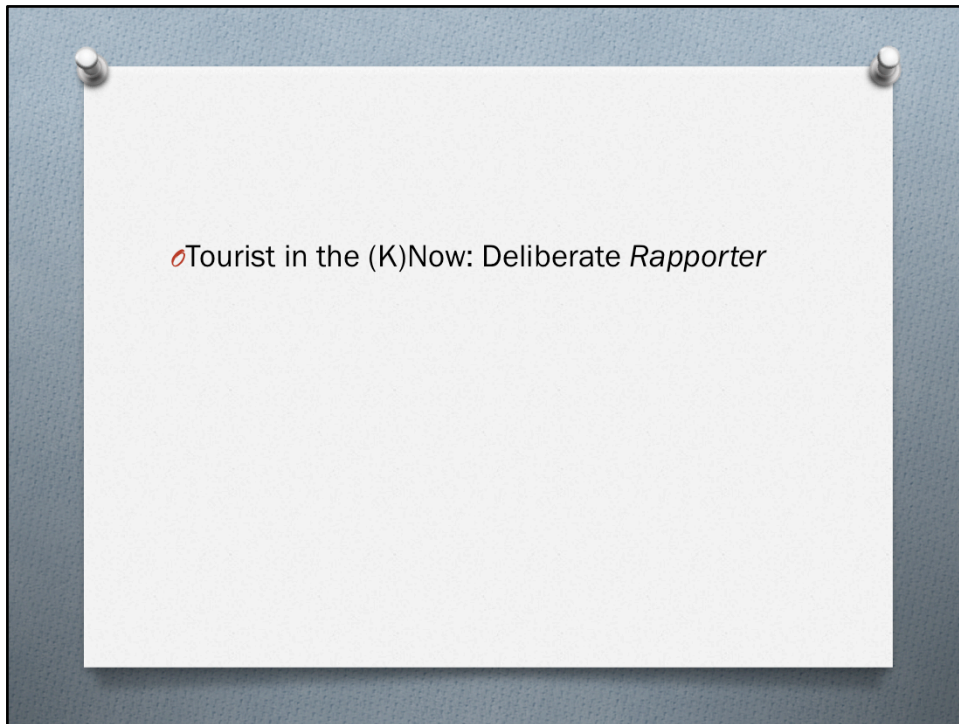
research
imperative

creative
imperative

professional
imperative

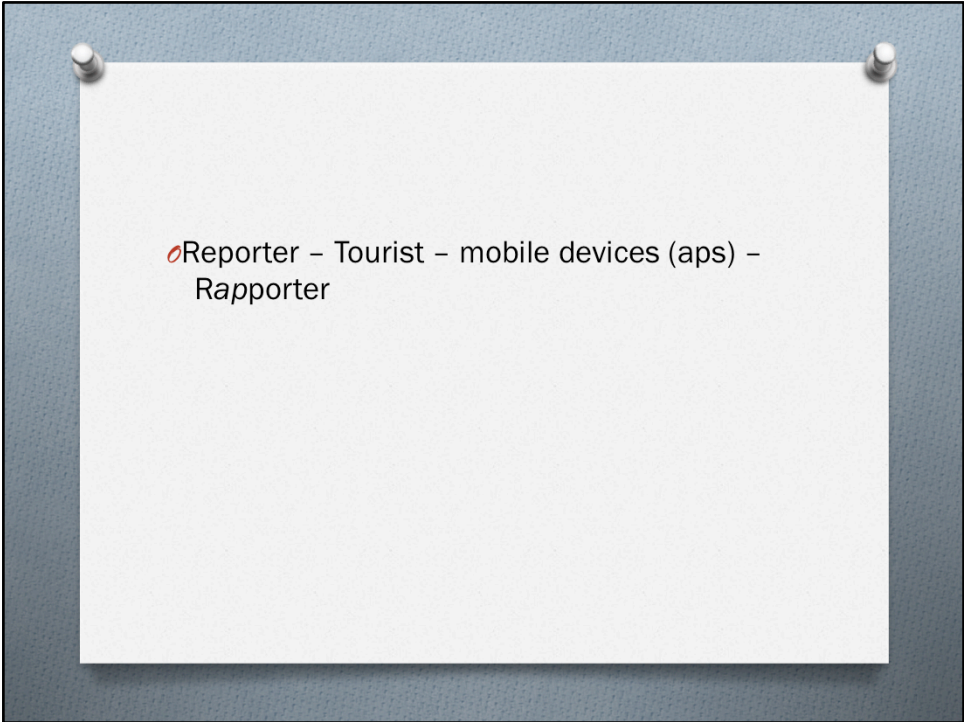


This exposition has been presented for the journal of artistic research. (exposition is the way that the work is titled when it is developed on the JAR platform). The work presented here has been developed over several years and includes essays, photographic presentations and documents, short films – experimental and documentary, a play inspired by critical theorists and philosophy, and a multimedia/intermedial performance. The research enquiry that inspired this work started as a practical enquiry into the fade, the cinematic fade, the performative fade, and then what fading might mean as a body of practice in practical, theoretical and philosophical terms. My enquiry developed into the fading space of intermediality – and this was published in an article called Black to White: the Fading Process of Intermediality in the Gallery Space. My work developing the metaphor continued and it became increasingly important that I presented the work on a platform that enabled the practice to be seen alongside the critical thinking. And other than a couple of pictures, I had had to rely on case studies to explain this up until now. So, it is here that I would like to show you how the work has been exhibited, written up, presented, displayed, published. This work is an archive of sorts and yet through the dynamic possibilities of digital publishing we can continue to evolve the project with new connections and possibilities. This presents us with the opportunity to see our practice as research as an ongoing project; at points we take stock and highlight a milestone or a pointer, but then we can continue to explore the work – sometimes with a new collaborator or from a different perspective.



So, having found a platform that enables me to explore PaR (and ultimately publish PaR) in a more dynamic way, I have started to develop my current research enquiry on this platform too. I'm not suggesting that this platform is always suitable I don't resist the more traditional text based printed journal, but for the work I have been doing, JAR has been a useful tool.

In this final part of my presentation then I would like to share my current thoughts on a project I am developing around the role of the tourist as documenter of events, documenter of place. I explore this in relation to the use of media and in particular mobile apps. I also consider this with thoughts of media convergence, and how we as citizens/tourists are often in a position to document and disseminate news-worthy events. I question the role of the tourist in a place that is being seen through the lens of the media, when a place has been saturated with interest for political and/or economic reasons. And I consider this alongside the idea that the here and now of any place and space is called into question because of the 'play' of media representation.



Reporter - Tourist - mobile devices (aps) -
Rappporter



Just a quick overview of some of the books that have been useful in my PaR enquiries.