

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER FOR

BIBAC

**The 1st International Conference for
*'Building Interdisciplinary Bridges Across Cultures'***

It was a great pleasure to warmly welcome 90 delegates to the 1st International Building Interdisciplinary Bridges Across Cultures (BIBAC) 2014 Conference, an outcome of the interest, energies and formulation of the Intercultural Arts Network (CIAN) and public forum series held over four weeks in September / October, just a year ago. Organised in collaboration with the Centre for Intercultural Musicology at Churchill College (CIMA CC), the BIBAC 2014 Conference celebrated new interdisciplinary paths across cultures with 90 presenters, participants and performing artists-researchers-educators engaging in 3 days of paper presentations, roundtables, interdisciplinary symposia, and intercultural performances.

Delegates travelled from 10 countries and from across the UK to share in intercultural practices, research and theory building.

The conference was officially opened by Professor Geoff Ward, Principal of Homerton College, where the conference was mainly hosted.

Each day included events which we opened to the public as part of the Festival of Ideas. These included 'Performing identities, sharing liveness' on Day 1. Then on Day 2 we moved location to the Churchill College Chapel for a talk on music therapy and neuroscience followed by a concert themed 'Personifying Interculturality: Performing Research'. The 2nd day concluded with a warm reception hosted by Dame Athene Donald, Master of Churchill College.

DAY 3 witnessed a lively group of children along with their parents participate in a workshop entitled 'Gamelan Semaphores: Arts Education in Action'. The workshop was led by composer Professor Valerie Ross and Choreographer Dr. Jane Turner, in an exploration of sound and movement, leading to a performance.

The Keynote session on Day 1 commenced with Dr Alan Blackwell (Reader in Interdisciplinary Design at the University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory) who addressed 'Researching and bridging the culture of disciplinary practices: Problematizing interdisciplinary'.

DAY 2 was opened by Keynote speaker Professor Liora Bresler, University of Illinois, Champaign, USA. She addressed 'Beyond methods: The role of the arts in interdisciplinary research'. **DAY 3** featured keynote speaker Professor Jaideep Prabhu, who spoke on 'Applying frugal and inclusive innovation: Building bridges across cultures and practices'.

SOME OF THE COMMENTS FROM INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES INCLUDE:

I felt honoured and delighted to have been able to be a part of such an imaginative and fascinating day. I enjoyed every moment of it! PLEASE put me on the list for the next one!

THANK YOU for inviting me to BIBAC and for creating such an amazing event and even more amazing atmosphere - I have never given and got as many hugs at any academic conference. You and Valerie and all the girls on your team created a family-like environment. And what a wonderful group of artists, teachers and human beings.

Well done for the BIBAC conference - great organisation, ideas and lots of amazing presentations.

Thank you for a marvellous conference. It was a real privilege to be invited to speak, and I found the whole of Friday extremely stimulating. I also very much enjoyed the exciting concert on Saturday night.

Thank you for everything you did to make BIBAC so special.

THE FOLLOWING PHOTO GALLERY PROVIDES A SNAPSHOT OF EACH DAY

BIBAC 2014 Day 1



Our keynote, presenters and delegates discussed (a) when arts meet at the intersection of interdisciplinary-intercultural practices; (b) sharing dialogic approaches and conceptual frames across disciplines; and (c) methodological journeying with narratives of sensory, visual and auto-ethnographies.

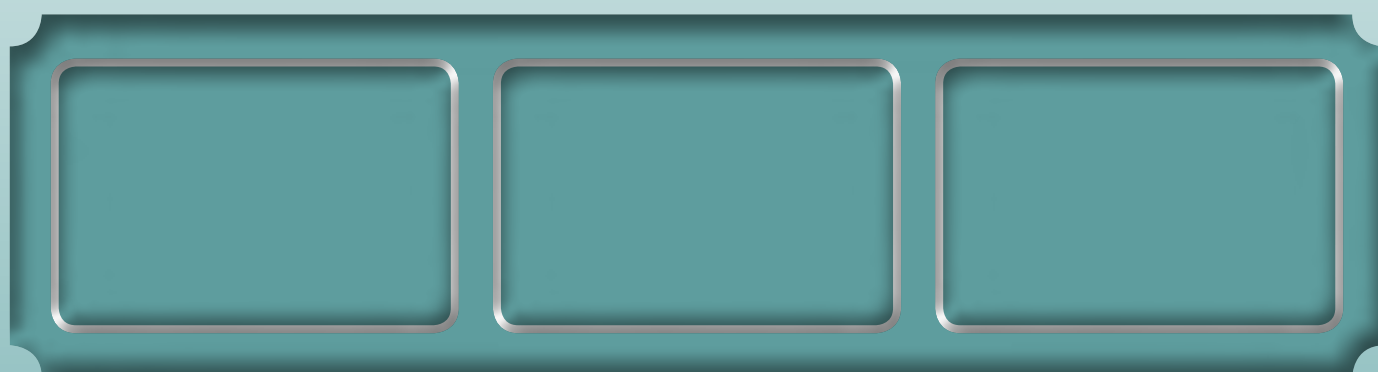
BIBAC 2014 Day 2



Our keynote, presenters and delegates discussed (a) innovative intercultural arts practices, theories and research; (b) ways of promoting and expanding professional paradigms and performance practices; and (c) performing philosophy and sociology coupled with poetic representations.



Our keynote, presenters and delegates discussed issues that focused on (a) analysing cultural products and digital processes within interdisciplinary partnerships; (b) applying interdisciplinarity to arts practices and performances and (c) the searching and researching for an interdisciplinary practice.



We are now busy planning the **2ND INTERNATIONAL BIBAC CONFERENCE**. More about this later.

A special thanks goes to BIBAC Assistants/Session Chairs Afrodita Knolova, Sumita Pujara, Frances Shih, Frances Turnbull and Marisa Cheng. We would also like to thank Technical Assistant Peter Miles, Conference funding Commonwealth Education Trust and the most heartfelt thanks to Bryony Horsley-Heather, Ruth Kuhn and Kate Jones, administrators in the Centre for Commonwealth Education (CCE), whose precious support enabled this conference to run so smoothly.

PAM BURNARD AND VALERIE ROSS (BIBAC CO-CONVENORS)

