

The Faculty of Arts & Design,
Tshwane University of Technology (TUT)
invites you to our **A Re Bueng Seminar Series.**

NAME: Dr Mienke Fouché, Lecturer, Department of Performing Arts
DATE: Monday, 29 May 2023
TIME: 12:00 - 13:00
VENUE: Building 25 - Room 25 (Visual Communication Lecture Studio),
24 Du Toit Street (corner Du Toit & Struben Streets), Arts Campus.

AFFECT AND AGENCY IN ANTHROPOMORPHISING OPERATED PERFORMING OBJECTS: A PRAGMATIC TECHNICIAN'S MODEL.

Operated performing objects (OPOs) are remotely operated machine performers dually situated between the technical and the performative. These objects are animated asynchronously through a technological playback system or synchronously through live operated control. Due to their technical construction these objects are not operated by trained performers yet are expected to perform as effectively as any performing object. This research developed a model to assist the anthropomorphisation of remotely operated machine performers to avoid soulless mechanical performance. Where anthropomorphisation is understood as the attribution of human qualities to non-human entities to make sense of them. The influence of imagination is strongly favoured in this process as performance relies on providing approximate cues rather than overt representation to stimulate the imagination of the audience. The approximate cues that the audience are provided with need to be recognisable otherwise the communication is lost.

The OPO character model is informed by the pragmatic perspective of the technician and the lens of affect theory. Design science research process (DSRP) underpinned by pragmatism was used with the design and development of the model identified as the research entry point. The DSRP involved delineating the phenomenon of OPOs, applying affect to the process of anthropomorphisation, analysing the purposefully selected OPOs of artist and theatre maker William Kentridge using the Degree of Agency Tool (DoAT).



Biography

Dr Mienke Fouché is a lecturer in Technical Theatre and Design in the Department of Performing Arts at Tshwane University of Technology. With over seven years of teaching experience, Fouché focuses on the design, construction and management of performance objects and performance spaces. Fouché was awarded the NRF innovative master's scholarship for her Magister Technologiae Performing Arts Technology study entitled: *Adapting marionette movement through a physiological study of animal motion*. Fouché recently obtained her Doctor of Performing Arts degree. Her dissertation is entitled: *Affect and agency*

in anthropomorphising operated performing objects: A pragmatic technician's model. Fouché is currently chair of the Faculty Research Ethics Committee, which she has served on for the past year. She is also an emerging researcher who has already published three articles and a book chapter and presented at three international conferences. In addition to her professional achievements, Fouché designs and makes kinetic wooden sculptures of animal skeletons. She has participated in several group exhibitions and had a solo show at Longstreet Art Lovers gallery in Pretoria in 2015.

Everyone is welcome to attend, including fourth-year students and beyond. **Limited seats available.**

If you wish to attend, please confirm attendance at botesjc@tut.ac.za, not later than 25 May 2023 by 14:00.

To join us online, [Click here to join the meeting](#)