

Title: Stumbling our way through sounded and performed collaborations in the community

Abstract

This workshop looks at learnings and failures in ongoing work around performance and sound-based collaborations in different communities within and beyond the UK, where playing fields may be grossly uneven, or uncalibrated. Particularly, case studies will be made of three ongoing research-as-impact projects among [Migrant Workers in Precarious Labour](#) in Southeast Asia, [Radical Aunties](#) in the UK, and [East Asian Voices in Global Music Stories](#) more internationally. How do we establish networks and meet one another beyond transactional or extractivist contexts? How do we deal with unequal hierarchies of economic and cultural capital which we can only change in a limited way, in everyday work/play-together contexts? What if we all want different things out of the same engagement? And how do we deal with initiation and sustainability fatigue? In trying to answer some of these questions, I bring in considerations of the special challenges and affordances provided by sounded and performed activities. I will not prescribe a 'method' per se, but rather share experiences and learnings on what seemed to work, what did not work, and – drawing hopefully from audience participation - what could be done better in our shared future(s).

Shzr Ee Tan [she/her or they/them]

Shzr Ee Tan is a Reader and ethnomusicologist (with a specialism in Sinophone and Southeast Asian worlds) at Royal Holloway, University of London. She is committed to decolonial work and EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) practice in music and the performing arts, with interests in how race discourses intersect problematically with class, gender and recent debates on posthuman digitalities, climate change and multispecies thinking. Shzr Ee is also Vice Dean of EDI for the School of Performing and Digital Arts at Royal Holloway, where she has initiated campaigns including an ongoing Safe Space Discussion Series, and workshops on topics ranging from inter-ethnic solidarity to mental health and toxic masculinity. She is committed to mainstreaming EDI considerations within broader and systemic School workflows. As a steering committee member of the national sector group EDIMS, she also serves in several official and unofficial co-mentoring projects.

Nengsih Suprihatin [she/her]

Suprihatin Nengsih was born in Serang, Banten province, Indonesia. She has been working in Singapore as a domestic worker since 2007 with one employer, and is the founder of PIS NUR ASSYFA, a devotional chanting group for Muslim women since August 17, 2015. Nengsih is also an award-winning poet, author and community leader in Singapore, and a regular participant/leader of various civic events, including blood donation drives, environment-protection initiatives and public performance showcases of Indonesian pop and devotional songs. In Indonesia, she runs her own small business in egg-farming.

Bhing Navato [she/her]

My name is Bhing Navato. I was a domestic worker in Singapore for almost 29 years. I write poems and stories. I am volunteer of HOME helping in giving advice to my fellow domestic

workers. Unfortunately, I was diagnosed with Cervical Cancer last year. And now I'm back home for treatment.

Resources

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Sounds Of Precarious Labour blog: <https://soundsofprecariouslabour.wordpress.com/>

Acoustic Lives of Migrant Workers: <https://www.goethe.de/prj/nus/en/mag/dkl.html>

Radical Aunties Experience Day: <https://royalholloway.ac.uk/research-and-teaching/departments-and-schools/music/events/radical-aunties-experience-day/>

East Asian Voices in Global Music Stories: <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/research-and-teaching/departments-and-schools/music/events/east-asian-voices-in-global-music-stories-intersectional-privileges-new-minoritizations/>

Cultural Imperialism and the New 'Yellow Peril': <https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/research-and-teaching/departments-and-schools/music/events/cultural-imperialism-and-the-new-yellow-peril-in-western-classical-music/>