

making connections



"People who spent most of their natural lives riding iron bicycles over the rocky roadsteads of this parish get their personalities mixed up with the personalities of their bicycle as a result of the interchanging of the atoms of each of them and you would be surprised at the number of people in these parts who are nearly half people and half bicycles...when a man lets things go so far that he is more than half a bicycle, you will not see him so much because he spends a lot of his time leaning with one elbow on walls or standing propped by one foot at kerbstones..."

— from *The Third Policeman* (Flann O'Brien 1939)

Introduction

Welcome to module two "Making Connections" in which we will examine forms of *making* as primary ways in which humans engage with the world. We will experiment with a variety of practices, performing every step of production from first principles to finished product, so as to explore and reflect upon the many ways in which making entangles us with materials, place, and our human and more than human kin -- *making as an ecology*.

The intention is to empower us to reflect critically upon our direct experience, paying particular attention to how this experience might reveal entanglements which might ordinarily be invisible, hidden or obscured. While our focus will be primarily craft-based and analogue, our conversations will inevitably also reach out toward the digital, and such reflections are welcome and encouraged.

Our learning will largely be practical and workshop based, with external tutors who are specialists in their craft. Alongside this will be spaces for reflection and discussion, inspired by weekly readings.

Module lead: Dr Sarah Elisa Kelly sarahelisa.kelly@dartington.org

Office: Higher Cross House - rear servant bedrooms (left)

Key dates:

Term dates: w/b 19th April – w/b 21st June

Assessment date (presentations): Wednesday 23rd June and Thursday 24th June

Assessment feedback: No later than 22nd July

Module aims:

- To experiment with a range of making practices.
- To consider critically the myriad ways in which making entangles the human with the world at large.
- To evaluate how theories of aesthetics, craft, materials, and production situate us in our relationships.
- To consider making as a reflective practice that might be in dialogue with both place and the sacred.

SUMMARY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING		
Scheduled Activities	Hours	Additional Information
Lectures	20	
Demonstrations	8	Library induction, engaged ecology practice workshop introductions
Practical classes and workshops	6	Essay writing skills, research methods, documenting skills
Seminars	12	
Peer to peer	8	Reading and other learning
Fieldwork	12	Two field trips
Tutorials	1	Face to face tutorials on assignments
Independent study	233	
Total	300	(NB: 1 credit = 10 hours of learning; 10 credits = 100 hours, etc.)

Module assessment

The assessed module assignment is 100% coursework to be submitted in Week 11 in the form of an individual oral presentation to the module leader and module peers. The presentation should consist of a completed artefact and a critical reflection on the making process and its significance in terms of entanglements with the world at large. The artefact may be from one of the workshops or may be something else made in your independent study time.

The assessment will be made based on:

Presentation of completed artefact (50%). Presentation of critical reflections on the making process and its significance (50%).

Assessed module learning outcomes:

Your assignment should meet the following learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate an ability to engage with materials through various stages of production.
2. In light of theory, reflect **critically** upon and evaluate select making practices as forms of entanglement.
3. Articulate and assess **some** of the relationships between making, materials, place, spirituality, humans and more than humans.
4. Present a completed artefact, and a reflective rationale, in front of an audience.

Penalties for late submission apply, please see below.

Late Submission/Extenuating circumstances

If your participation in assessment has been affected by an extenuating circumstance, then you can ask the University to take this into consideration. You can submit a claim for extenuating circumstances to cover late submission of work, non-submission of work or non-attendance at a time specific assessment.

Information regarding the Extenuating Circumstances policy and how and where to submit Extenuating Circumstance Claims below:

- <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/exams/exam-rules-and-regulations/extenuating-circumstances>

Where there are no valid extenuating circumstances, the following regulations will automatically apply:

- Work submitted after the deadline date/time but within 24 hours of it, will be capped at the pass mark of 50%
- Work submitted 24 hours after the deadline will receive a mark of zero.

It is your responsibility to inform the module leader and programme leader of any extenuating circumstances as soon as possible.

Please also inform the module leader and programme leader of any modified assessment provision that you may require as soon as possible.

Further information, guidance and support

Please familiarise yourself with the following information on plagiarism and what constitutes an "academic offence":

- <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/regulations/plagiarism>
- <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/essential-information/exams/exam-rules-and-regulations/examination-offences>

Please also familiarise yourself with the Personal Tutor Information guidance sheets detailing personal tutor roles, and other learning support you are entitled to, both at the Dartington Trust and at Plymouth University.

Module Feedback

We value what our students say: you share your feedback we act upon it. Part of the feedback process includes Module Evaluation. A link to the form and details of where to submit can be found here: <https://open.schumachercollege.org.uk/course/view.php?id=211>

Provisional timetable

* some sessions may begin earlier/later in day e.g. workshops

19.04
 week 1

	morning 10.00-13.00 (approx.)	afternoon 14.15-16.30 (approx.)	additional info
mon	Welcome session "Engaging with Ecology"	Seminar: What is the Anthropocene?	Weather & Climate study ongoing project
tues	Deep Time Walk (Dr. Stephan Harding)	Deep Time Walk continued.	
wed	"Making Connections" What matters?	Materials against materiality.	Internal weather & body scan project
thurs	Unmaking: carrying stories & practicing relationships.	Orienting practice: becoming-with things.	
fri	Independent study	Independent study	

26.04
 week 2

	morning 10.00-13.00	afternoon 14.15-16.30	additional info
mon	Goethean observation of plants (Stephan)	Seminar: Introduction to phenomenology	
tues	How to conduct a literature search.	Reflection on Goethean Method (Stephan)	
wed	Making gestures: clay workshop (Lou)	Tacit and haptic geographies	
thurs	Outdoor session collecting wood (Duncan)	Independent study	
fri	Independent study	Independent study	

03.05
 week 3

	morning 10.00-13.00	afternoon 14.15-16.30	additional info
mon	Bank holiday, no classes	Bank holiday, no classes	
tues	Seminar: What is ecology?	Practice: outdoor sit spots How to do reflective writing.	
wed	Outdoor session: Flax (Simon & Ann)	Outdoor workshop continued.	
thurs	Making threads: practice & reflections	Independent study	
fri	Formative reading response due at 11.00am	Independent study	1 st reading response

10.05
 week 4

	morning 10.00-13.00	afternoon 14.15-16.30	additional info
mon	Seminar: Systems theory	Seminar: Gaia Theory (Dr. Stephan Harding)	
tues	Independent study	Independent study	
wed	Outdoor session: Cordage (Linda)	Outdoor workshop continued.	
thurs	Knot making	Making tangles: entanglement and meshwork	
fri	Independent study	Independent study	

17.05
 week 5

	morning 10.00-13.00	afternoon 14.15-16.30	additional info
mon	Fire by friction (Jessie Watson Brown)	Workshop continued.	
tues	Reflection: What have we learned about climate?	Independent study	
wed	Outdoor session: Making spoons (Alex)	Outdoor workshop continued.	
thurs	Tutorials **group divides for this week	Tutorials	
fri	Independent study	Independent study	

24.05
 week 6

	morning 10.00-13.00	afternoon 14.15-16.30	additional info
mon	5.00am dawn chorus walk (Tony Whitehead)	Anthropology and birdsong (Dr. Andrew Whitehouse)	Birds & birdsong ongoing project
tues	Seminar: Science, music and birdsong	1 st reading response feedback session	
wed	Outdoor session: Making baskets (Linda)	Outdoor workshop continued.	
thurs	Tutorials **group divides for this week	Tutorials	
fri	Independent study	Independent study	

31.05
 week 7

	morning 10.00-13.00	afternoon 14.15-16.30	additional info
mon	Bank holiday, no classes	Bank holiday, no classes	
tues	Listening Workshop (Tony Whitehead)	Tutorials	
wed	Making space & time: revisiting a practice	Independent study	
thurs	Independent study	Reflection session	
fri	Tutorials	Tutorials	

07.06
 week 8

	morning 10.00-13.00	afternoon 14.15-16.30	additional info
mon	The Language of Birds (Robin Bowman)	Workshop continued.	
tues	Seminar: Animism	Birds & Birdsong in Indigenous Southern Africa (Colin Campbell)	
wed	Outdoor session: Smelting (Duncan)	Outdoor workshop continued.	
thurs	Outdoor workshop continued.	Outdoor workshop continued.	
fri	Outdoor workshop continued.	Outdoor workshop continued.	

14.06
 week 9

	morning 10.00-13.00	afternoon 14.15-16.30	additional info
mon	Birdsong and mimesis in art & culture (Hanna Tuulikki)	Workshop continued.	
tues	Seminar: What is nature?	Summative reading response due at 15.00	2 nd reading response
wed	Reflection session	Independent study	
thurs	Practice: the urgent slow	Independent study	
fri	Independent study	Independent study	

21.06
 week 10

	morning 10.00-13.00	afternoon 14.15-16.30	additional info
mon	Seminar: What is place?	Reflection session	
tues	Independent study	Reflection session	
wed	Assessment: presentations	Assessment: presentations	Final assessments
thurs	Assessment: presentations	Reflection session	
fri	Independent study	Independent study	Final assessment due Tues 29 th at 11.00am

reading list

*please complete week one reading prior to the first week of class

** texts beneath "see also" are not required but are additional recommendations

week one – unmaking

- 1) Jack Halberstam, *The Queer Art of Failure* **please read only subsections, "What's the alternative?", "Undisciplined" and "Failure as a way of life". No need to read "Low Theory" or "Pirate Cultures". p. 1-25
- 2) bell hooks, *Critical Thinking* p. 7-11
- 3) Ursula K Le Guin, *The Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction* p. 149-154
- 4) A. David Napier 'Things in Themselves' (extract) from *Making Things Better: A Workbook on Ritual, Cultural Values, and Environmental Behavior* p. ix-xiii p. 15-20

see also

- 1) A. David Napier, Exercise 1 Shaping Behavior from *Making Things Better* **no need to read in advance
- 2) Tim Ingold, 'Materials Against Materiality' from *Being Alive: Essays on Movement, Knowledge and Description* p. 19-32 **no need to read in advance

week two – making gestures

- 1) Mark Paterson, 'Haptic Geographies' from *Progress in Human Geography* Vol 33 p. 766-788

see also

- Richard Sennett, 'The Hand' from *The Craftsman* p. 150-178

week three – making threads

- 1) Susan Luckman, 'Material Authenticity and the Renaissance of the Handmade' from *Craft and the Creative Economy* p. 68-87

week four – making tangles

- 1) Tim Ingold, extracts from 'Telling by hand' and 'The Meshwork' p. 117-124

week five – making spoons

- 1) Tim Ingold 'Walking the plank: Meditations on a process of skill' from *Being Alive: Essays on Movement, Knowledge and Description* p. 51-62
- 2) Soetsu Yanagi *The Unknown Craftsman: A Japanese Insight into Beauty* p. 11 (Plate 1) & p. 190-197

see also

- 1) Wille Sundqvist, *Swedish Carving Techniques (Fine Woodworking)* p. 94-100

- 2) Jögge Sundqvist, *Sloyd in Wood* - p. 8-14
- 3) Barn the Spoon, *Spon: A Guide to Spoon Carving and the New Wood Culture* p. 172-174

week six – making baskets

- 1) Robin Wall Kimmerer, 'A black ash basket' and 'The makings of grass' from *Braiding Sweetgrass* p. 141-166

see also

- 1) Vandana Shiva 'Development as a new project of western patriarchy' from *Ecofeminism: Reweaving the world* p. 189-200
- 2) Robin Wall Kimmerer "The Intelligence of Plants" podcast
<https://onbeing.org/programs/robin-wall-kimmerer-the-intelligence-of-plants/>

week seven – making meaning

- 1) Jane Bennett, 'The Force of Things' *Vibrant Matter: A political ecology of things* p.1-19
- 2) Jane Bennett, 'The agency of assemblages' *Vibrant Matter: A political ecology of things* p.20-38

see also

- 1) Jane Bennett, 'Political Ecologies' *Vibrant Matter: A political ecology of things* p. 94-109
- 2) Jane Bennett, 'Vitality and Self Interest' *Vibrant Matter: A political ecology of things* p. 110-122

week eight – making residues

No reading this week.

week nine – making time and space

No reading this week.

see also

- 1) The Nap Ministry <https://thenapministry.wordpress.com/about/>
- 2) Erdem Gündüz 'Standing Man' - Gezi Park protests
- 2) Jenny Odell https://medium.com/@the_jennitaur/how-to-do-nothing-57e100f59bbb

week ten – making connections

No reading this week (presentations)