

Professor Lisa Blackman

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Speculative Science, Threshold Experiences and Transsubjectivities

This lecture will re-move (that is, put back into circulation) ways of experimenting with experiences at the edges of consciousness that open up to more speculative, inventive and creative ways of engaging with science. Focusing on practices, archives, and experiences often discarded from the history of *straight* science, it will illustrate the value of working with what is often considered odd, bizarre, peculiar, strange, anomalous and even as having an “alien phenomenology”. These threshold experiences reveal the indeterminacy of the human and the importance of approaching such phenomena as transitive and contiguous with the technical, ecological, historical, political, material and immaterial. Putting the milieu and “arrangements of forces” back into the experimental, the lecture will argue that it is important for artists to help proliferate new visibilities to help shape archives of the future. The lecture will draw from Lisa Blackman’s longstanding research into voice hearing, suggestion and a range of entities, practices and processes often associated with weird science. She will also draw examples from her new book, *Haunted Data: Transmedia, Affect, Weird Science and Archives of the Future*, to be published by Bloomsbury Academic Press in 2018.

Lisa Blackman is a Professor of Media and Cultural Studies in the Department of Media and Communications, Goldsmiths, University of London. She works at the intersection of body studies, affect studies, and media and cultural theory and is particularly interested in subjectivity, affect, the body and embodiment. She has published four books, most recently *Immaterial Bodies: Affect, Embodiment, Mediation*, (2012, Sage). Her other books include *Hearing Voices: Embodiment and Experience* (2001, Free Association Books); *Mass Hysteria: Critical Psychology and Media Studies* (with Valerie Walkerdine; 2001, Palgrave); and *The Body: The Key Concepts* (2008, Berg). Her work in the area of embodiment and voice hearing has been recognised and commended for its innovative approach to mental health research and it has been acclaimed by the Hearing Voices Network, Intervoice, and has been taken up in professional psychiatric context. She is the co-editor of the journal, *Subjectivity* (with Valerie Walkerdine, Palgrave) and the Editor of the journal *Body & Society* (Sage). She is particularly interested in phenomena which have puzzled scientists, artists, literary writers and the popular imagination for centuries, including automatic writing, voice hearing, suggestion and automatism. Lisa is part of a Wellcome-funded project, "[Hearing the Voice](#)" and will be specifically collaborating on a sub-project "Voices Beyond the Self" to run from 2017-2020.