

International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation (IICSI)  
McGill Institute for the Public Life of Art and Ideas (IPLAI)

**“If you have to ask”: Cultural, Cognitive and Neural  
Underpinnings of Improvisatory Behaviour in the Arts and  
Beyond**

May 27-29, 2016

La Sala Rosa  
4848 Boul. St-Laurent, Montréal, QC H2T 1R5  
Free and open to the public

**Day 1: Friday May 27, 9:00 – 16:00**

- 9:00-9:15 Introduction: **Eric Lewis**
- 9:15-10:00 The Madness Hotel and Street Theatre  
**Dr. Vitor Pordeus**, *Rio de Janeiro*
- 10:00-10:45 Sounding the Discomposed: Approaching Embodied Cognition Through the  
Music of Vijay Iyer and Wadada Leo Smith  
**Kevin McNeilly**, *University of British Columbia*
- 10:45-11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00-12:00 **Keynote:** The Ensemble as Plural Subject: Jazz Improvisation,  
Collective Intention and Group Agency  
**Gary Hagberg**, *Bard College*
- 12:00-1:00 Lunch
- 1:00-1:45 From Evaluating to Appreciating a Jazz Solo: Notes on an Embodied  
Aesthetic Stance  
**Kevin Ryan**, *Univ. of Memphis*
- 1:45-2:30 Improv, Hermes' Farts, and the Arts  
**Dr. Randy Fertel**, *Fertel Foundation*
- 2:30-2:45 coffee break
- 2:45-3:45 **Keynote:** Chivalry and Balance  
**Dr Stephen Nachmanovitch**, *Freeplay Productions*

3:45-4:00 Summary Remarks: **Ian Gold, Laurence Kirmayer and Eric Lewis**

**Day 2, Saturday, May 28, 9:00 – 17:30**

9:00 -9:45 The Purpose of Playing: Neocybernetics and Improvisation in the Stanislavski System of Acting  
**Tom Scholte**, *University of British Columbia*

9:45-10:30 Dancing and Improvising with Parkinson's  
**Joanabbey Sack, Maura Fisher, Zuzana Sevcikova, Tania Lazuk**,  
*(Parkinson en Mouvement), Concordia University*

10:30-10:45 Coffee break

10:45-11:30 “You have to sweat”: Creating Embodied Capacities in Freestyle Hip Hop Dance  
**Claire Lyke**, *McGill University*

11:30-12:15 Contact Improvisation as a Structure of Attention  
**John Faichney**, *University of Waterloo*

12:15-1:30 Lunch

1:30-2:30 Keynote: **Vijay Iyer**, *Harvard University*

2:30-3:15 Drift—from a Movement Perspective  
**Nilian Perera**, *Executive director, Circuit*; **Julie Lassonde**, *performance artist*; **Zoe Alexis-Abrams**, *performance artist*

3:15-3:30 Coffee break

3:30- 5:30 Exploring the Emergence of Meaning in Dance through Neuroimaging and Joint Improvisation Practice  
**Asaf Bachrach**, *University of Paris 8*

**Day 3, Sunday, May 29, 10:00 – 14:15**

- 10:00-10:45 Reflections on Collage Making by a Therapist: Hybrid Identity as an Endless Transitional Process  
**Jaswant Guzder**, *McGill University*
- 10:45-11:30 Don Cosmic: The Madness of a Maestro  
**Frederick Hickling**, *University of the West Indies*
- 11:30-11:45 Coffee break
- 11:45-12:30 The Moment-to-Moment ‘Therapist’: What Emerges from Following a Child with Autism?  
**Kevin Lee**, *McGill University*
- 12:30-1:15 Dreaming as Improvisation  
**Elizaveta Solomonva**, *Université de Montreal*
- 1:15-2:00 Improvisation and Rigidity: The Case of Schizophrenia  
**Lars Siersbæk Nilsson**, *University of Copenhagen*
- 2:00 – 2:15 Closing Remarks  
**Laurence Kirmayer**, *McGill University*