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
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