

**Integrating artistic research in the undergraduate curriculum.  
Approaches from current practice at the Royal College of Music (London)**

This paper explores the role and demonstrates the potential that artistic research - or, as it is more commonly defined in the UK, and within our institution, practice-based research - can have in current undergraduate curricula. To what extent is it possible, achievable, or even desirable to integrate the practice of artistic research into a curriculum for incoming undergraduate students? What skills are required for the success of such a pathway, and what needs to be in place, institutionally speaking, for such an approach to be both rigorous, relevant, and measurable?

By drawing on some of the critical methods used recently by scholars (for example Carey et. al., 2017) discussing the potential of reflective tools like learning journals, this presentation seeks first to rationalise the role of artistic research in an undergraduate curriculum. Following this, the paper will conceptualise an accessible framework of artistic research for the budding practitioner. Enabling an undergraduate student cohort to understand artistic research as a critical practice requires (to some extent at least) that we acknowledge, along the lines of Deleuze, that power of art to create possible futures and to depict and engage with different ways of seeing the world.

To locate the theoretical and critical discussion within curricular practice and development, this presentation will share examples from the undergraduate practice-research curriculum at the Royal College of Music, exploring the pathway that students may take during their undergraduate studies at college. The broader framework of this undergraduate programmes enables practice-research from the outset. Nonetheless, overcoming students' perceived resistance or lack of understanding of such a concept remains a huge challenge in an undergraduate programme. Despite such initial difficulties however, the outcomes are, in our view, well worth the effort.



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