international colloquium
performing intimacy

Research Group in Performance Studies
Universidade do Minho, Portugal
4th and 5th October 2018

This colloquium aims to transform academic dialogue into an intimate experience and bring ideas about intimacy into the public sphere. Performers frequently explore intimacy as a way of promoting greater engagement. Its multiple forms range from encounters, solos and one-onone performances to immersive or community theatre. In these contexts, intimacy is invariably associated with notions of proximity, partnership, trust and accessibility. On the other hand, artistic research has explored intimacy through affect theory, relational aesthetics or practice as the basis for research. At the same time, it subverts the codes of academic language, making it closer to artistic experience and more creative in the construction of knowledge.

The colloquium aims to explore intimately, playfully and critically what we are talking about when we talk about intimacy. Why do performers experiment with intimacy and with what results? What is the role of secrets, lies and violence in the construction of intimacy? How do critical positionings on sex, gender, sexuality and race deconstruct ideologies of intimacy and create non-conventional intimacies? What are the specificities of digital and site-specific intimacy?

The colloquium invites creative research proposals which reflect on the theme of performing intimacy in formats that encourage intimacy. Proposals (250 words or digital contributions of 5 minutes) and a brief biography (150 words or a digital contribution of 3 minutes) should be sent to intimidade2018@gmail.com by 30th April 2018. In the weekend following the colloquium (6th and 7th October) a local event called Guimarães noc noc will be taking place where people open up homes and city spaces to anyone who wishes to visit. You may want to include your performances within the programme for this event. More information can be found at https://www.guimaraesnocnoc.com.