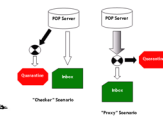


## *Alchemy/Schmalchemy* **Manifestation VI**

Summer Institute in Qualitative Research  
*Putting theory to work*  
Manchester Metropolitan University  
Tuesday 11 July 2017

*Onto-epistemological hoodoo:*  
*Putting a Barad text to work*



### ***Alchemy/Schmalchemy***

Conventionally, alchemy - the physical act of transforming lead to gold - acts as a metaphor for transforming our mundane level of consciousness to a form where serendipities and collisions occur spontaneously and frequently.

***Alchemy/Schmalchemy***, however, is a deliberately playful and provocative name. Adding the pre-fix 'schm' to alchemy, announces a form of reduplication, irony, scepticism or derision and thus conjures an intentionally disruptive and mischievous space of oscillation. Performances characteristically present a deliberately half-baked hotch-potch of erudition, quackery, buffoonery, avante-gardeist trappings, infantilism and mannered folly. The aim being to simultaneously repudiate and adhere to conventional ambitions of performance, purposively producing an uncomfortable, but potentially creative, tension.

While sonic manipulation usually contributes to our performance environment, the group has used scientific apparatus; has adorned spaces with a range of objects and materials (bottles, coloured liquids, microscopes, pipes, mirrors, pendulums etc); has sometimes worked with tattooed skin and, at others, with elaborate mechanisms calibrated to react to the melting point of ice. Acoustic musical instruments are often combined with ramshackle low-tech sound-producing equipment.

### ***Onto-epistemological hoodoo: Putting a Barad text to work in intra-active-improv!***

This *bespoke* alchemy/schmalchemy manifestation will put a section of text from Karen Barad's *Meeting the Universe Halfway, Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning* (Duke University Press, 2007, page 3) *to work*, as a visual score, mini cut-up libretto, and incantatory spell with which to initiate a sonic/visual/live art improv assemblage of regular Schmalchemists Geoff Bright, Gill Whiteley and Walt Shaw and volunteer SIQR confederates. The performance will work respectfully, chaotically and ineptly with some of the tools, practices, and apparatus of Hoodoo *Conjure* (and with some transformational paraphernalia of our own).

### **Contacts**

Geoff Bright, Walt Shaw and Gillian Whiteley have been working together as ***Alchemy/Schmalchemy*** since 2009.

**Geoff Bright** is Research Fellow at the Education and Social Research at MMU (email [G.Bright@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:G.Bright@mmu.ac.uk) )

**Walt Shaw** is a percussionist and visual and performance artist based in the Midlands (see [www.waltshaw.co.uk](http://www.waltshaw.co.uk))

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