Research Statements for Non Traditional Research Outputs: a guide

All NTROs, with the exception of Research Reports for an External Body, will be included for consideration as a research output when a 250-word Research Statement following the template below has been completed, to the satisfaction of the staff member and their Director of Research, and/or APVCR and submitted to Symplectic. Research Reports for an External Body **do not** require a Research Statement.

Research Statement for ERA Peer Review of Non-Traditional Research Outputs* should contain these sections:

1. Research Background
   - Field
   - Context
   - Research Question

2. Research Contribution
   - Innovation
   - New Knowledge

3. Research Significance
   - Evidence of Excellence

Start with a descriptive sentence, (e.g 'The Black Death' is an exhibition of photographic images and video pieces that explores the way visual memory impacts on historical understanding.)

Then, Use the headings **'Research background'**, **'Research contribution'** and **'Research significance'**

Research background

[State the research area? (eg, 'This research is in the field of literary fiction', or '…interpretive dance', or '…experimental media')

Explain the current state of knowledge. Name at least three key practitioners OR researchers in the area, and their contributions. (eg, 'Georg Lukacs argued that Historical fiction involved not reconstructing history, but 'the poetic awakening of the people who figured in [historical] events').

What is your research question? (eg, 'Is it possible to represent drought in Australia in a film without utilising clichéd bush myths?') By the end of a project you should be able to articulate the research question which informed it.

Research contribution

[A clearly stated key finding or set of findings that is/are new: and which will be of interest to, and applicable by, other practitioners/researchers. (eg, 'When designing a theatre piece for 3-5 year olds, explicitly introducing each technical convention to them before the start of the work promotes their engagement with the piece' or 'There is a deep relationship between professional editorial photographers and the commercial, cultural, and institutional forces at play during all stages of production and publication of editorial photography').]

Research significance

[Evidence of peer review, External Evidence of Quality, at point of funding and/or distribution. (eg, 'This project was funded by an Australia Council grant', or 'This project was selected for the Adelaide Festival 2016 short pieces series').

Evidence of impact and/or esteem. (eg. 'The novel was reviewed in the *London Review of Books* and the reviewer described the work as 'life changing')

EXAMPLE 1:

'Progress and melancholy' is an 80 minute live play that explores contemporary social and economic problems.

Research Background:

Progress and Melancholy is an original physical theatre work inspired by Chekhov's The Cherry Orchard. Bagryana Popov was Concept Initiator, Producer and Director of this highly acclaimed production at fortyfivedownstairs in 2009. The work asks: how can we bring the original Chekhov text into the present, to speak about contemporary social and economic problems?

Research Contribution:

This work contributes significantly as research into presence, embodiment, and collaboration. It was created through a rigorous process of transposing the original Chekhov text into contemporary language and an embodied, physical vocabulary. The work integrated text with a gestural and dance vocabulary rich in metaphor. This embodied performance language engaged the actors as present, contemporaneous with the audience in a shared space. The embodied and personal process included improvisation and involved research into contemporary equivalents of themes in Chekhov's original play: current shifting social and economic structures and the performers' personal connections to these themes. The research into performance where performer, text and social reality intersect in the present moment draws on ideas of presence and representation of reality (Kantor 1993; Levi Strauss, D. 2003).

Research Significance

Progress and Melancholy had a two-week season at fortyfivedownstairs and received highly positive responses from peers and audiences. It was nominated for 6 Green Room Awards and won 3: Best Direction, Best Actor and Best Lighting Design in independent theatre. The work was created with a culturally diverse team of acclaimed performers and artistic collaborators.

'Utopia Girls: How Women Won the Vote' is one-hour television documentary that refigures the timeline of the Australian women's suffrage movement.

Research Background:

Current Australian and international research largely identifies the women's suffrage movement as a phenomenon of late 19th century political activism. For the first time, this research ties the Australian suffrage campaign back to the 1850s mass democratic political protests on the Victorian goldfields, including the iconic Eureka Stockade.

Research Contribution:

Apart from reconfiguring the timeline of the Australian women's suffrage movement, Utopia Girls demonstrates the little known fact of Australia's global innovation in becoming the first country in the world where women won full political equality with men. As a one-hour television documentary, it brings this narrative, and the five key female characters depicted, to a wide mainstream audience, thus including women as significant protagonists in the making of the 'Australian story', hitherto framed in an exclusively masculinist context.

Research Significance

The significance of this research, apart from its inherent intellectual innovation, is the medium of its dissemination: a television history documentary screened in prime time on a mainstream network (Australian Broadcasting Corporation ABC1). Since its first broadcast in June 2012, Utopia Girls has since been screened on three subsequent occasions. Accompanied by program notes created by a specialist educational provider, it is regularly used as a teaching device; in 2015 it will appear in the National History Curriculum. It was shortlisted for the NSW Premier's History Prize for Multimedia and has been screened at international film festivals.