

## **Paper 103 – Pecha Kucha**

### **Out of the Box: Using archives to enhance teaching and learning in the field of Creative Writing**

Niamh Downing  
Kym Martindale

University College Falmouth, niamh.downing@falmouth.ac.uk  
University College Falmouth, kym.martindale@falmouth.ac.uk

#### **Abstract**

This Pecha Kucha presentation provides a case study of a pedagogic research project which investigates the value of using archives to enhance the student learning experience in the field of Creative Writing. The six month project began in January 2011 and is funded by Learning Futures at University College Falmouth (UCF), UK. The value of using archives to inspire learning in primary, secondary and lifelong-learning sectors is well established, but there has been little research on the creative use of archives in Higher Education. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that archives can facilitate the acquisition of subject-specific knowledge, transferable skills, and generate creative practice. The project works with Screenwriting students on the BA (Hons) English with Creative Writing at UCF, in partnership with the University Archives and Special Collections Service and Cornwall Record Office, to investigate the enhanced use of archives in creative and pedagogically powerful modes. Research methods draw on a combination of 'object-based-learning' (Chatterjee, In Review) and 'situated learning' (Lave and Wenger, 1991), both of which assert the importance of collaborative hands-on learning in authentic contexts. The project theorises 'the archive' and 'the university' as two 'communities of practice' (Wenger et al., 2002) which through sharing expertise and knowledge have the potential to strengthen existing and influence new developments in pedagogy and practice in both sectors. The presentation includes a range of visual material drawn from the creative and critical responses of students and project staff to the archive collections.

#### **References**

Chatterjee, H. J. (In Review) 'Object-Based Learning In Higher Education: The Pedagogical Power of Museums,' *University Museums and Collections Journal*.

Lave, J. and Wenger, E. (1991) *Situated Learning: Legitimate Peripheral Participation*. Cambridge: CUP.

Wenger, E. et al. (2002) *Cultivating Communities of Practice: A Guide to Managing Knowledge*. Boston: Harvard Business Press.