

# RADICAL MATTER

a practice-led impact case study for REF 2021

# RADICAL MATTER

a method

a materiality

an immersive thinking

enabling present and future generations to inhabit the  
spirit and complexity of our times

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 InsightsforImpact

⇒the petrol-technosphere⇒ augmented reality ⇒derivatives ⇒erotic  
praxis ⇒ deep listening ⇒ attunement ⇒ logic of the senses⇒ zero  
zones of time ⇒ data loam ⇒ trembling ⇒ camouflage⇒ data loam  
flow⇒ pattern ⇒hungers ⇒ curiosities ⇒ violence ⇒ smell ⇒ libidinal  
skin ⇒ exquisite methods ⇒ trans-materialities ⇒ queer borders ⇒salt  
water ⇒ drone consciousness ⇒ swells ⇒ blood poetics ⇒ energy  
⇒ parrhesia ⇒ alchemy ⇒ groundless grounds ⇒ poetics ⇒ curved  
time ⇒ atmosphere ⇒ super-positionality ⇒ zeroes and ones segment  
and planes] ⇒ body without organs⇒ body with organs ⇒ bio-ethics⇒  
consciousness ⇒found object ⇒ intensities ⇒ duration ⇒ the listening-  
encounter ⇒ air ⇒ dimensionalities ⇒ segment ⇒ morphogenesis ⇒  
genitalia ⇒ magic ⇒ planes of immanence ⇒transubstantiation of the  
senses ⇒anger ⇒ distributed intelligence ⇒neural networks ⇒ making  
intelligence ⇒ dirty ⇒ improv ⇒ submission ⇒ belonging ⇒ bots ⇒ diff  
erence ⇒ libidinal ⇒ Cephalopoda ⇒ spells⇒ sex, drugs, rock n' roll  
⇒ cosmo-politics ⇒ gut feeling ⇒quantum physics⇒ the Greek debt  
⇒ anthropocene⇒ non-monogamy⇒ derivatives ⇒ blockchain⇒  
⇒ simultaneity ⇒ friendship ⇒ boxing ⇒stuttering ⇒ lovers ⇒ ontologi  
cal nothingness ⇒ non-locality ⇒ boredom ⇒ superpositionality⇒

# RADICAL MATTER: Research Context

- Moving away from instrumental reason with its silo depictions of disciplines (a kind of ‘identity politics’ of knowledge systems – as in ‘Science’, ‘Technology’, ‘Engineering’, ‘Art’, ‘Math’ – which can only be ‘thought together’ via ‘trans-’ or ‘cross-’ field links, and which tend to pose **dead-end questions** such as “can artists work with scientists?” [Spoiler Alert: yes]. This entrenched pedagogical approach tends also to view theory as a ‘model’ (to be applied to an object, to an observation, to an invention, discovery, design, ethics, politics, social agency, orientation, even gender). This is not to say that the silos are unimportant or necessarily incorrect.
- But if we take as a given the impact of a post-Newtonian shift (and as profound, the Bohr-Einstein-Mandelbrot developments, alongside the leaps in imaging, neural networks, robotics, distributed intelligences, and new materialisms), an entirely **different pedagogical approach** is required, one that expresses (and indeed is led by) a post-Newtonian matrix – re-thinking the object et al as sticky cohesion, vital entanglement, non-representational encounter. This has always been the preserve of modern and contemporary art, which knowingly or otherwise rifts off of ‘science-knowledge’ paradigms from alchemy to quantum physics to fractal philosophy.
- I call this new paradigmatic / pedagogical approach: **Radical Matter**. It is something I have been engaged with for at least two decades.

# RADICAL MATTER: topics & findings

## 1. Topics:

- How **Radical Matter** provides a new and impactful pedagogy, one that positions the achievements of a post-Newtonian world in a way that puts ‘making’, ‘curiosity’, ‘experiment’ and ‘risk’ as foundational to an enhanced, 21<sup>st</sup> century vision of ‘the liberal arts’.
- How **Radical Matter** offers wider uses for the society outside of academia – this includes re-dressing archival retrieval systems, away from Dewey decimal and other library information retrieval systems. It also has impact on establishing a different kind of search engine, where the algorithm(s) generated require a proliferation of data information rather than a minimizing of data. In this sense it holds out the capacity to redress the usual strategies of search engines such as Google, Bing, etc which operate off of older paradigmatic systems, rather than via complexity feedback loops.

## 2. Findings:

- Method: further development of ‘groundless ground’ research methods including but not limited to feminist-queer theory (Stengers, Haraway), complexity (Prigogine), uncertainty (Heisenberg), fractal geometry (Mandelbrot) and undecidability (Godel)
- Data Loam: a new data information search engine (in process with Vienna School of Applied Arts).

# RADICAL MATTER: research outputs & grants

1. Single Authored Book: J. Golding, *Radical Matter* (2021 – hopefully in time for the REF!). Peer Reviewed. ISBN/D.O.I tbc
2. AHRC Leadership Fellow: *Radical Matter: Art, Philosophy & the Wild Sciences [after Einstein]* (to be submitted 2018) £247K.
3. Co-Authored Book: J. Golding, M. Reinhart, M. Paganelli, V. Widrich (Author-Eds). *Data Loam: Sometimes Hard, Usually Soft*. De Gruyter Press: 2020 - forthcoming. Peer Reviewed. ISBN/D.O.I tbc
4. Peek Grant – co-I. €300K (Austria). *Data Loam*. 1 Mar 2017 – 28 Feb 2019. [Many activities, exhibitions, seminars emerged from this which I can list]
5. Chapter in Book. Peer Reviewed. “*Friendship,*” in L. Turner, U. Sellbach, R. Broglio, *The Edinburgh Companion to Animal Studies*, EUP: 2018, pp. 262-278. Peer reviewed. ISBN 978-1474418416.
6. Journal Article. Peer Reviewed. “*In the Shadow of Akimbo Corporatism: Arched Athleticism and the ‘Becoming-Human’ of a People,*” *Journal of Deleuze Studies*, Volume 10 Issue 2, 263-279, ISSN 1750-2241  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3366/dls.2016.0224>).
7. Chapter in Book. Peer Reviewed. “*Drone Consciousness in the Zero Zones of Time,*” in D. Rubinstein, *Fragmentation of the Image*, Routledge, 2019.

# RADICAL MATTER: research outputs & grants

Invited Artist-Scholar. “Radical Empathy, Story-telling and the strange materiality of sense.” Spike Island, Bristol. 15 March 2018. The fourth of four events organized exploring the relationships between art, aesthetics and contemporary materialism.

<http://www.spikeisland.org.uk/events/talks/discussion-art-and-its-materials-march-2018/>

Invited Panelist. “What is Practice-Led Research. Panel organizer: Alan Bolden, LEAF – MIT at CAA in Los Angeles, 22 Feb- 26 Feb 2018 .

<http://www.collegeart.org/programs/conference/>

Invited Speaker. “From Drone-Truth to Radical Empathy: Consciousness in the Zero Zones of Time.” At *Sliced-up ghettos of thought’? Science, art and society -- 20 years from now.* A lecture series sponsored by the LAHP. 31 Jan 2018. Accepted for publication (see above).

Keynote. “1948 Technosphere,” House of World Culture, Berlin. 30 Nov – 2 Dec 2017.

[http://www.hkw.de/en/programm/projekte/2017/1948/1948\\_start.php](http://www.hkw.de/en/programm/projekte/2017/1948/1948_start.php)

Keynote. “Tuning Speculation.” Organised by David Cecchetto, Marc Couroux, Ted Heibert, Eldritch Priest, and Rebekah Sheldon / The Occulture. Array Space Gallery and York University. Toronto. 17-19 November 2017. <http://www.theocculture.net/tspecv/>

Invited Speaker. "Diffraction, Entanglement and the Sensuous Unnatural Act called Art" as part of the Liberal Arts and Natural Sciences Distinguished Lecture Series, University of Birmingham, 20 Oct 2017. <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/liberal-arts-and-sciences/events/2017/golding-johnny.aspx>

Invited Speaker/Art-Philosophy Workshops. “Radical Matter: Two Thirds Wild Imagination, Three Fifths Logic of Sense and Nineteen Twentieths The Courage of Erotic Praxis.” 12-13 October 2017. MFA Programme, The Glasgow School of Art.

Invited Artist. “Friendship.” Philosophy-poetics installation at the Swiss Artists Research Pavillion, Venice Biennale. Aug 10-15, 2017.

<http://www.sarn.ch/activities-2/2017/to-say-i-prefer-not-to-and-continue-working/>

Invited Artist-Philosopher: *Lessons in Physics*, **mac Gallery**, Birmingham, 18 November 2016 <https://macbirmingham.co.uk/event/lessons-in-physics-conference>

Residency/Keynote: *Radical Matter in Art, Philosophy and The Wild Sciences – a one week international residency on Prof Golding’s research, culminating as Keynote for **Uncertainty***, Programa de Artes Plásticas Universidad El Bosque y Universidad los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia. 17-24 October 2016.

Keynote. “Sensuous Entanglement: Fine Art After Metaphysics,” at *Matter Matters – A Land2Land Event Regarding the work of Karen Barad.* School of Design, Faculty of Performance, Visual Arts and Communications, Leeds University, 12-13 Nov 2015.

Invited Speaker. “Ana-materialism: Radical Alchemy and the Transubstiation of the Senses.” Given at *Psycho-Materialism: A Symposium at Devil’s Moor*, with performance installation, Bremen/ Worpsswede, 17-19 October 2014.

\*There are many other smaller and larger works, exhibitions, talks which could be added to show two decades of scholarship/research.

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- A post-Newtonian physics re-thinks the object as cohesion and encounter
- A metaphysics stages the object as reflexive, speculative and 'oriented'

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