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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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, 21st 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 Dewy 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).

2. AHRC Leadership Fellow: *Radical Matter: Art, Philosophy & the Wild Sciences [after Einstein]* (to be submitted 2018) £247K.


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]


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.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).


Invited Artist-Philosopher: Lessons in Physics, mac Gallery, Birmingham, 18 November 2016

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.


*There are many other smaller and larger works, exhibitions, talks which could be added to show two decades of scholarship/research.
Like the theoretical / practical advances of the Enlightenment which brought us the liberal arts informed by a post-Newtonian • A post-Newtonian physics re-thinks the object as cohesion and encounter • A metaphysics stages the object as reflexive, speculative and ‘oriented’
RADICAL MATTER: achieved/anticipated impacts

Like the theoretical / practical advances of the Enlightenment which brought us the liberal arts informed by a post-Newtonian physics, we now re-think the object as cohesion and encounter:

- A post-Newtonian physics re-thinks the object as cohesion and encounter.
- A metaphysics stages the object as reflexive, speculative and ‘oriented’.
RADICAL MATTER: evidencing research impact

Like the theoretical / practical advances of the Enlightenment which brought us the liberal arts informed by a post-Newtonian physics, re-thinks the object as cohesion and encounter.

- A post-Newtonian physics re-thinks the object as cohesion and encounter.
- A metaphysics stages the object as reflexive, speculative and ‘oriented’.
Like the theoretical / practical advances of the Enlightenment which brought us the liberal arts informed by a post-Newtonian physics and metaphysics, we now have a new way of understanding the world. This new perspective re-thinks the object as cohesion and encounter, and stages the object as reflexive, speculative, and ‘oriented’.
Radical Matter: Art, Philosophy, Wild Science (the Courage of Sense)

[a post-Netownian untimely meditation]

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