

World Stage Design 2025

Beginning and building your creative research journey: a professional development workshop

Oct 25th 12-2pm

Studio Theatre, SPAA

This Professional Development Workshop welcomes everyone interested in research – whether you are considering how research may compliment your design or teaching practice, or starting your own research career. With insight from professional international researchers, this workshop explores beginning a research journey, leveraging your creative practice as research, and designing collaborative research with communities & practitioners.

Note: This session is intended for participants aged 18 and above. Arabic Interpretation for this session will be available upon request. Please speak to our onsite staff.

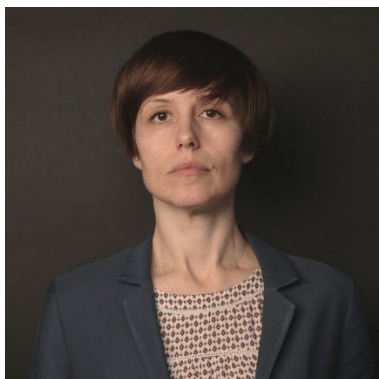
Meet the Workshop Facilitators and guest Expert Panellists



Workshop Facilitator - Tessa Rixon – tessa.rixon@qut.edu.au or research@oistat.org

Chair of the OISTAT Research Commission. Senior Lecturer in Scenography
Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Tessa Rixon is a practitioner-researcher in digital scenography & Australian performance design. Tessa's work promotes new modes of integrating established and emergent technologies into live performance; exploring the potentiality of authenticity within digital scenography; and showcasing Australian performance design practice and histories. Her research into digital scenographies, ecoscenographic practice and pedagogy, and Australian performance design has been published in leading publications including the *International Journal of Performance Arts and Digital Media*, and *Theatre and Performance Design* and featured in numerous international conferences. She has been invited to deliver keynote presentations on digital performance and scenography in both Taiwan (2024) and Austria (2025). Tessa serves as the inaugural Chair of ScenoLab Australia (Australia's National OISTAT Centre), and Chair of the Research Commission for the International Organisation of Theatre Designers, Architects and Technicians. She has served as the National Secretary for the Australasian Association for Theatre, Drama and Performance Studies, and in 2023 curated the Australian Hub for the International Theatre Engineering and Architecture Conference. In 2021, Tessa guest-edited the first special edition in over a decade to highlight Australian scenography (*Scene Journal* (Intellect)). Tessa works as Senior Lecturer in Scenography at Queensland University of Technology, Australia.



Workshop Facilitator - Slađana Milićević

Vice-Chair of the OISTAT Research Commission. Assistant Professor & Head of the Chair of Arts, University of Novi Sad, Serbia

Dr Slađana Milićević is an Assistant Professor and Head of the Chair of Arts at the Sub-Department of Art and Design at the Faculty of Technical Sciences, University of Novi Sad. She graduated in architecture at the Faculty of Technical Sciences in 2008. She received her PhD in architecture from the same faculty with a thesis "Dissociative Space of Modernity: Discourse of Emptiness in Architecture and Visual Arts of the 20th and Early 21st Century". In 2018 she received an outstanding doctoral thesis award "Milorad Macura" from the Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning of Serbia for the work in the field of architecture and urbanism. Her field of professional interest is focused on an interdisciplinary area of architecture, theatre, and visual arts, but with a focus on space theory, architecture theory, theory of scene architecture, and phenomenology of scene design. As an architect, she worked in two architectural studios in Novi Sad, participated in international architectural competitions, and exhibited her artwork at several group national and international exhibitions. As a team member, she was involved in the design-build of a scene architectural design project with interior design for the Youth Cultural District, a project implemented within the 'Novi Sad European Capital of Culture 2022' project. As a member of a program committee, she participated in planning and organization of the symposium "Scene Design Practices: Towards a New Biennale" in 2020, followed by the "Biennale of Scene Design" in 2022 and 2024. She was a member of the organization committee of an international conference "Radical Space in Between Disciplines" (2015) and "Life is Serious; Art Serene: Architectural-Scenic Research" (2024), which took place in Novi Sad. She was a moderator and exhibitor at scientific conferences, a reviewer of scientific papers, and numerous exhibitions in the field of architecture and scene design.



Expert Panellist - Dr Sofia Pantouvaki

Dr Sofia Pantouvaki is Professor of Costume Design at Aalto University, Finland. She is an award-winning set and costume designer with approx. 100 credits in theatre, opera, film and dance. She has curated/co-curated many international projects, including the Finnish Student exhibits at PQ2015 (Gold Medal) and PQ2023 (awarded 'Most Imaginative and Inventive Design'). She holds a PhD in Scenography from University of the Arts London and has specialised in design for opera and ballet at La Scala, Milan. She is the Chair of Critical Costume, a founding editor of *Studies in Costume and Performance*, and OISTAT Executive Committee member. Sofia led the research project 'Costume Methodologies' (Academy of Finland, 2014-2018) and is lead editor of *Performance Costume: New Perspectives and Methods* (Bloomsbury, 2021). Her research currently focuses on performance costume and clothing in World War Two concentration camps. She actively designs, lectures, and publishes internationally.



Expert Panellist - Ian Garrett

Ian Garrett is a designer, producer, educator, and researcher in the field of sustainability in arts and culture. He is Professor of Ecological Design for Performance at York University (Toronto); the director of the Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts; producer for Toasterlab, a mixed reality performance collective and media production company; and Venue Manager and Producer for Venue 13 in Edinburgh. He maintains a professional and research practice focused on ecology and accessible mixed reality technologies in performance. He is a founding member of IATSE ADC 659 and sits on the boards of the Associate Designers of Canada's national service organization, and Pentacle (DanceWorks, Inc.) in the US.