

CALL FOR PAPERS  
**2009 Guelph Jazz Festival Colloquium**  
**University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada**  
**September 9-11, 2009**  
**Improvisation, the Arts, and Social Policy**

The Guelph Jazz Festival, in conjunction with the Macdonald Stewart Art Centre, the University of Guelph, and the SSHRC MCRI research project on “Improvisation, Community, and Social Practice,” invites proposals for papers to be presented at our annual three-day international interdisciplinary conference. This year's colloquium will take place September 9-11 as part of the 16th annual Guelph Jazz Festival (September 9-13) and invites participation around the theme *Improvisation, the Arts, and Social Policy*. The program will bring together a diverse range of scholars, creative practitioners, arts presenters, policy-makers, and members of the general public. Featuring workshops, panel discussions, keynote lectures, performances, and dialogues among researchers, artists, and audiences, the annual colloquium cuts across a range of social and institutional locations and promotes a dynamic international exchange of cultural forms.

Interdisciplinary research in the arts and humanities can and should actively participate in the development of public social policies. We therefore invite presentations that will help integrate an enriched understanding of improvisation into the decisions and matrices of policy-makers. What would it mean to place the civic function of improvised artistic practices firmly at the centre of both broad public debate and informed policy decisions about the role of arts in society? How might it effect government policies and programs in the arts, immigration, citizenship, indigenous affairs, tax, or social justice? How might such studies provide strategic advice to relevant stakeholders to build greater public understanding of improvisation's social role? Topics may include an analysis of government commissioned reports on arts funding; a consideration of how musical improvisation might help us approach policies of citizenship and participation; and case studies in which musical improvisation has been used in both Western and non-Western communities in order to facilitate reconciliation and forgiveness, or to bring about social change. We welcome and encourage the input of practicing improvising musicians.

We are particularly interested in interdisciplinary work that speaks to both an academic audience and a general public. We also invite presenters to submit completed versions of their papers to our peer-reviewed journal, *Critical Studies in Improvisation/Études critiques en improvisation* ([www.criticalimprov.com](http://www.criticalimprov.com)) for consideration.

Please send (500 word) proposals or completed papers (for 15 minute delivery) and a short bio by May 31, 2009 to

The 2009 Guelph Jazz Festival Colloquium,  
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