

Pilot-workshop on movement improvisation for university teachers

Dates:

Four full days: Part I: 31.1.2022 & 1.2.2022; Part II: 14.2.2022 & 15.2.2022

Location:

Part I : Théâtre du Passage, Pass. Maximilien-de-Meuron 4, 2000, Neuchâtel

Part II : La Manufacture, Haute école des arts de la scène, Rue du Grand-Pré 5, Lausanne

Workshop presentation:

Susanne Martin, choreographer and postdoctoral artistic researcher at EPFL and **Simon Henein**, EPFL professor in Microengineering, offer together an intensive workshop on movement improvisation dedicated to university teachers. This pilot workshop organised jointly by the University of Neuchâtel (Institute of Psychology and Education, Prof. L. Kloetzer) and EPFL (Institute of Mechanical Engineering, Prof. S. Henein) introduces the participants to the integration of performing art knowledge and improvisation techniques into academic teaching. It is a follow-up to activities undertaken within both institutes over the past years:

- [Improgineering](#) EPFL-SHS course;
- [Ascopet](#) UniNe-EPFL pedagogical research project;
- [1st Symposium on Higher Education Learning through Performance Practices](#);

Participant profile:

The participants should be regular teachers (professors, MERs, postdocs, etc.) active within EPFL or UniNe, with:

- a curiosity to practically explore movement and dance improvisation;
- interest to reflect on their own teaching practice and teaching development;
- willingness to support each other in making up and playfully trying out first concrete ideas on the integration of elements of this improvisation practice into their own teaching.

There is no need to have prior experience with improvised arts or body-centred practices.



Registration deadline:

10 December 2021, by email or phone to Lysiane Bourquin: lysiane.bourquin@epfl.ch, +41 21 695 43 43. The workshop is free of charge for the teachers of UniNe and EPFL.

The number of participants is limited to 12. Participation will be confirmed by email before 17 December 2021.

Teachers' biographies:

Dr Susanne Martin is a Berlin-based choreographer, performer, researcher and teacher in the field of contemporary dance and theatre. She is currently postdoctoral researcher at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL). Her artistic practice and research focus on dance improvisation, critical narrations of the age(ing) body, artistic research methods, and improvisation-based approaches to learning, knowledge production and knowledge dissemination. Within the interdisciplinary ACOPET research project (EPFL-UniNe) she explores how artistic research can contribute to understand and reveal the potential dance improvisation practice holds for a technical university.

Link: www.susannemartin.de

Contact: susanne.martin@epfl.ch; berlin.susanne@gmail.com

Prof. Simon Henein is Associate Professor at EPFL, Head of the Micromechanical and Horological Design Laboratory (INSTANT-LAB) within the Institute of Mechanical Engineering. Over the past academic year, he was Visiting Professor at the Centre for Theatre Studies (CET), Faculty of Arts, University of Lausanne. His scientific field of expertise covers the design of novel mechanisms, dedicated to mechanical watches, surgical instruments, and aerospace applications. His related undergraduate and graduate teaching focuses on micromechanical design, with an emphasis on the creative process. In parallel, he developed a strong interest in improvised arts, particularly in dance. He participated in numerous workshops led by internationally renowned improvisers, developed his own artistic practice and founded a dance company in 2013.

Links: <http://instantlab.epfl.ch>; <https://instantlab.epfl.ch/improengineering>

Contact: simon.henein@epfl.ch



Program

Part I: Monday 31.1.2022 & Tuesday 1.2.2022

Day 1

- 10.00 – 11.00 Setting the scene (check-in and introduction into topic and approach).
- 11.00 – 13.00 Led movement improvisation session Susanne Martin.
- 13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch.*
- 14.00 – 14.30 Calming the scene (led processing and resting session).
- 14.30 – 16.30 Led movement improvisation session Simon Henein.
- 16.30 – 17.00 Cleaning the scene (reflection round).

Day 2

- 10.00 – 12.00 led movement improvisation session Simon Henein.
 - 12.00 – 13.00 *Lunch.*
 - 13.00 – 13.30 Calming the scene (processing and resting session).
 - 13.30 – 15.30 Led movement improvisation session Susanne Martin.
 - 15.30 – 16.00 Dreaming up new teaching tools in HE (reflecting on personal applications & tasks for next block).
 - 16.00– 16.30 Cleaning the scene (reflection round).
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Part II: Monday 14.2.2022 & Tuesday 15.2.2022

Day 3

- 10.00 – 10.30 Setting the scene (check-in).
- 10.30 – 12.30 Led movement improvisation session Susanne Martin.
- 12.30 – 13.30 *Lunch.*
- 13.30 – 14.00 Processing and resting session.
- 14.00 – 15.30 New routes to improvisation-inspired teaching and learning -I- (peer-supported try-outs of instructing a new “exercise” inspired by the workshop, 2-3 volunteering participants).
- 15.30 – 16.00 Cleaning the scene (reflection round).

Day 4

- 10.00 – 12.00 led movement improvisation session Simon Henein.
 - 12.00 – 13.00 *Lunch.*
 - 13.00 – 13.30 Processing and resting session.
 - 13.30 – 15.00 New routes to improvisation-inspired teaching and learning -II- (peer-supported try-outs of instructing a new “exercise” inspired by the workshop, 2-3 volunteering participants).
 - 15.00 – 16.00 Cleaning the scene (final reflection round).
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