

# Research Seminar

12:30 - ARSENIC (STUDIO 2)  
*FROM MOVEMENT TO GESTURE*  
DANCE IMPROVISATION WORKSHOP  
SIMON HENEIN & JOËLLE VALTERIO  
(IMPROENGINEERING + INSTANTLAB EPFL)

## *Dissonant Geometries*

15:00 - ARSENIC (MINILABO)  
*YOUR ANIMAL BODY:*  
*FIGURES FOR SOMATIC ARCHITECTURE*  
LECTURE  
MARIA AUXILIADORA GALVEZ PEREZ  
(PSAAP(L))

**16.11.22**  
**12:30-17:30**  
**Arsenic, Lausanne**

EPFL [ALICE]

# Dissonant geometries: from movement to gesture

A dance improvisation workshop led by Simon Henein  
in the frame of the *Dissonant Geometries* seminars of the ALICE lab ENAC EPFL

16 November 2022, from 13:00 till 15:00  
Lausanne, Centre d'Art Scénique Contemporain (ARSENIC), Studio 2

## Workshop presentation

This dance improvisation workshop explores the spectrum of body motion on stage, from movement to gesture. In dance, movement is generally seen as the displacement of the body segments through space; it is essentially a geometric and kinematic phenomenon. Gesture goes beyond: it is considered to be movement aiming at expressing (semiotic gestures), executing (ergotic gestures) or perceiving (epistemic gestures) something. Since both movement and gesture emanate from the body, the latter can be seen as the place where geometry meets meaning, emotion, action, etc. As Antonin Artaud puts it: "The important thing is to become aware of the localization of emotive thought. One means of recognition is effort or tension; and the same points which support physical effort are those which also support the emanation of emotive thought: they serve as a springboard for the emanation of a feeling."\*. Exploring these concepts through collective improvisation within performative settings reveals them to the eye and constitutes a step towards embodying them.

\* A. Artaud (1938), *Le théâtre et son double*. (The Theater and Its Double, Grove Press, 1958, p. 138)



## Biography

Simon Henein is Associate Professor in Microengineering at EPFL and Director of the Micromechanical and horological design laboratory (Instant-Lab) within the Institute of Mechanical Engineering. He is a recognized leader in the design of novel flexure-based mechanisms with sophisticated dynamic properties, dedicated to mechanical watches, surgical instruments, and aerospace applications. His related undergraduate and graduate project-based teachings focus on micromechanical design, with an emphasis on the creative process. In parallel, he developed a strong interest in improvised arts, particularly in dance instant composition. His experience in these two creative disciplines allowed him to identify a powerful synergy: improvisation as an efficient technique for developing collective work approaches, reflexivity, situated knowledge and embodied cognition. In 2017 he launched a course entitled "IMPROGINEERING - Collective creation : improvised arts and engineering" within EPFL's Social and Human Sciences Program. In 2020-2021 he was Visiting Professor at the Centre for Theatre Studies (CET), Faculty of Arts, University of Lausanne.

**Links:** <https://instantlab.epfl.ch/improgineering> ; <https://www.epfl.ch/labs/instantlab/ascopet>

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