

# Waikato's Group

## RODRIGO HILL

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Rodrigo is an established exhibiting artist both in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally specialised in gallery installations and publications. Rodrigo's creative interests are rooted at the intersection of lens-based and documentary approaches in which photography plays the role of representing layered 'place-imaginaries'. Rodrigo holds a PhD in practice-led research and is a lecturer at the University of Waikato School of Arts Screen and Media. Rodrigo's research explores the multiple possibilities that surround photographic practices and how photography is used as a way to perceive and make place.

## DECLAN PATRICK

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Declan Patrick is an academic and theatre practitioner working across performance, dance and video. His research takes the form of traditional academic publications and performance. As a theatre practitioner, Declan Patrick has worked as an actor, singer, dancer, playwright, director, choreographer and producer. He has worked as artistic director of a number of companies, and his performance company, Fighting Fit Productions, has made work and toured in New Zealand, the Philippines, China, the United Kingdom and Spain. He is currently a senior lecturer in Theatre Studies at the University of Waikato.

## KAREN BARBOUR

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Karen Barbour is Associate Professor and Head of Te Kura Toi School of Arts at The University of Waikato. Creativity and embodiment frame her academic research in dance, video/digital dance and creative practice in the arts. She has a particular interest in site dance, relationships to place and environmental change.

## ALBERTO ALVAREZ-JIMENEZ

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Dr. Alberto Alvarez-Jimenez, is a Colombian and Canadian citizen, based in Aotearoa New Zealand. He holds a PhD degree from the University of Ottawa, a Master of Laws from McGill University, and law degree from Universidad de la Sabana. Currently, he is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Law of the University of Waikato and his area of research and expertise is international law.

## XAVIER MEADE

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Xavier is a visual artist, born in Mexico, living more than half his life in Aotearoa (New Zealand). His practice is in the fields of painting, photography, graphic design, calligraphy, eco design and architecture. Retired tutor and researcher at Wintec in Kirikiriroa. His collaborative poster projects, paintings and photography have been exhibited in Aotearoa, Mexico, Cuba, Spain, Scotland, USA and Croatia. His work has been published in various national and international books and magazines.

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Video  
Presentation



# Solastalgia: conflict and the fabric of life. Transdisciplinary creative practice research approaches.

## Keywords

Dance, Embodied Research, International Humanitarian Law, Lens-Based, Transdisciplinary.

The focus of this keynote presentation is to explore the value of transdisciplinary and creative practice research approaches to address complex concepts and principles. One of the outputs of this research was Solastalgia: conflict and the fabric of life, a gallery installation exhibited at Ramp Gallery in August 2023. This collaboration began with conversations between researchers in law, and visual and performing arts, in relation to international humanitarian law, specifically the principles of distinction and proportionality. As the research progressed, the pivot point became the investigation of the concept of solastalgia – the civilian experience of pain and distress caused by destruction of home and home environments. In the broadest sense, all research involves the researchers' embodiment and especially so in arts-based and creative practice research. More specifically, using embodied research methods to gather and express complex nuanced understandings means paying attention to embodied experiences and their meanings in every moment of research. The work of movement/dance artists draws on heightened attention to sensory input, to proprioception

and kinesthetic awareness, the thoughts and emotions in lived experiences in relationship with others and environments around us. In parallel, painting and lens-based approaches engage as methodological and curatorial strategies to immersive and sensorial bodily interpretations. Here responsive painting, photography, video of live and place-based performances were combined to bring nuanced insights into the many layers of the concepts and principles addressed. Bringing un-alike disciplinary knowledges into dialogue through embodied research, art practice and multi-media gallery installation, led to a variety of research iterations, including written, performed and exhibited outcomes. In sharing this keynote, researchers Alberto, Rodrigo, Karen, Declan and Xavier offer insights generated from engaging in transdisciplinary through creative practice research approaches. The research team will unpack and discuss creative practice processes, decisions and iterations as part of a complex methodological system that culminated in the curation of Solastalgia: conflict and the fabric of life as a multimedia gallery installation.

# Solastalgia: conflito e o tecido da vida. Abordagens de pesquisa de práticas criativas transdisciplinares.

## Palavras Chave:

Dança, Pesquisa Incorporada, Direito Internacional Humanitário, Baseado em Lentes, Transdisciplinar.

O foco desta apresentação principal é explorar o valor das abordagens de pesquisa de práticas criativas e transdisciplinares para tratar de conceitos e princípios complexos. Um dos resultados dessa pesquisa foi Solastalgia: conflict and the fabric of life, uma instalação de galeria exibida na Ramp Gallery em agosto de 2023. Essa colaboração começou com conversas entre pesquisadores em direito e artes visuais e cênicas, em relação ao direito humanitário internacional, especificamente os princípios de distinção e proporcionalidade. À medida que a pesquisa avançava, o ponto central tornou-se a investigação do conceito de solastalgia - a experiência civil de dor e angústia causada pela destruição do lar e dos ambientes domésticos. No sentido mais amplo, toda pesquisa envolve a incorporação do pesquisador e, especialmente, a pesquisa baseada em artes e práticas criativas. Mais especificamente, usar métodos de pesquisa incorporados para reunir e expressar entendimentos complexos e matizados significa prestar atenção às experiências incorporadas e seus significados em cada momento da pesquisa. O trabalho dos artistas de movimento/dança se baseia em uma maior atenção à entrada sensorial, à propriocepção e à consciência

cinestésica, aos pensamentos e às emoções nas experiências vividas em relação aos outros e aos ambientes ao nosso redor. Paralelamente, a pintura e as abordagens baseadas em lentes se envolvem como estratégias metodológicas e curatoriais para interpretações corporais imersivas e sensoriais. Aqui, a pintura responsiva, a fotografia e o vídeo de performances ao vivo e baseadas no local foram combinados para trazer percepções diferenciadas sobre as muitas camadas dos conceitos e princípios abordados. O diálogo entre conhecimentos disciplinares não semelhantes por meio de pesquisa incorporada, prática artística e instalação de galeria multimídia levou a uma variedade de iterações de pesquisa, incluindo resultados escritos, executados e exibidos. Ao compartilhar esta palestra, os pesquisadores Alberto, Rodrigo, Karen, Declan e Xavier oferecem percepções geradas pelo envolvimento em abordagens de pesquisa transdisciplinares por meio de práticas criativas. A equipe de pesquisa irá desvendar e discutir processos, decisões e iterações de práticas criativas como parte de um sistema metodológico complexo que culminou na curadoria de Solastalgia: conflict and the fabric of life como uma instalação de galeria multimedia.

# Solastalgia: conflicto y tejido de la vida. Enfoques de investigación de la práctica creativa transdisciplinar.

## Palabras clave:

Danza, Derecho Internacional Humanitario, Investigación Corporalizada, Lens-Based, Transdisciplinar.

El objetivo de esta ponencia es explorar el valor de los enfoques transdisciplinarios y creativos de la investigación práctica para abordar conceptos y principios complejos. Uno de los resultados de esta investigación fue Solastalgia: el conflicto y el tejido de la vida, una instalación expuesta en la Galería Ramp en agosto de 2023. Esta colaboración comenzó con conversaciones entre investigadores en derecho y artes visuales y escénicas, en relación con el derecho internacional humanitario, concretamente los principios de distinción y proporcionalidad. A medida que la investigación avanzaba, el punto de inflexión pasó a ser la investigación del concepto de solastalgia: la experiencia civil del dolor y la angustia causados por la destrucción del hogar y de los entornos domésticos. En el sentido más amplio, toda investigación implica la corporeidad del investigador, y especialmente en la investigación basada en las artes y la práctica creativa. Más concretamente, utilizar métodos de investigación corporales para recoger y expresar complejas comprensiones matizadas significa prestar atención a las experiencias corporales y sus significados en cada momento de la investigación. El trabajo de los artistas del movimiento y la danza se basa en una mayor atención a la información sensorial,

la propiocepción y la conciencia cinestésica, los pensamientos y las emociones de las experiencias vividas en relación con los demás y el entorno que nos rodea. Paralelamente, la pintura y los enfoques basados en la lente participan como estrategias metodológicas y curatoriales en interpretaciones corporales inmersivas y sensoriales. En este caso se combinaron la pintura sensible, la fotografía y el vídeo de actuaciones en directo y en el lugar para aportar matices a las múltiples capas de los conceptos y principios abordados. La puesta en diálogo de conocimientos disciplinares distintos a través de la investigación corporal, la práctica artística y la instalación multimedia en galerías dio lugar a una serie de iteraciones de la investigación, que incluyeron resultados escritos, representados y expuestos. En esta ponencia, los investigadores Alberto, Rodrigo, Karen, Declan y Xavier expondrán las ideas generadas a partir de la participación en enfoques de investigación transdisciplinarios a través de la práctica creativa. El equipo de investigación expondrá y debatirá los procesos, decisiones e iteraciones de la práctica creativa como parte de un complejo sistema metodológico que culminó en la comisaría de Solastalgia: el conflicto y el tejido de la vida como instalación multimedia en una galería.