

**Peter Eckersall:**

***Telematic objects: towards a dramaturgy of performing screens and machines***

Projection screens and robotic machines have become increasingly important in live performance, functioning as something more than objects, props, or décor. There is need to think about these objects/forms in terms of being dramaturgical agents or, following Latour, “actors.” With reference to recent performances by Kris Verdonck and Hirata Oriza, this paper will discuss how they utilize telematic objects in their work to create “nearness” while also offering contrasting perspectives on the experience of this for audiences.

*Peter Eckersall is Professor of Asian Theatre at the Graduate Centre, City University of New York. Peter works on contemporary performance practices in Australasia and Europe, with particular interests in Japanese performance and on dramaturgy. Recent publications include We're People Who Do Shows, Back to Back Theatre: Performance, Politics, Visibility (co-edited with Helena Grehan, Performance Research Books, 2013), Theatre and Performance in the Asia-Pacific: Regional Modernities in the Global Era (co-authored with Denise Varney, Barbara Hatley and Chris Hudson, Palgrave 2013) and Performativity and Event in 1960s Japan: City, Body, Memory (Palgrave 2013). He is currently writing a book on new media dramaturgy with Helena Grehan and Edward Scheer.*

Keynote resenatation in the session Telematic Encounters, Thursday June 18, 14:00-18:00