

CRITICAL STUDIES IN IMPROVISATION

The MA and PhD programs in Critical Studies in Improvisation investigate the dynamic relationships between improvised creative practices and broader social relations in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. Coordinated by the International Institute for Critical Studies in Improvisation at the University of Guelph, the programs offer a collaborative intellectual environment where scholars in the field of improvisation studies activate new social and creative configurations of power, new strategies for facilitating social justice, and new tactics to interpret and address the ever-changing world around us. Crucially, this work is enacted through students' critical, practical, rigorous investigation of the processes and impacts of improvised creative practices.

The programs draw on faculty expertise at the University of Guelph, as we all five partner sites across Canada and the USA (UBC, Regina, McGill, Memorial, and University of California, Santa Barbara), and focuses on developing broad-level skills (e.g., collaboration across multiple institutions/organizations and disciplines; internships/community placements; partnership development opportunities; intercultural engagement) with an eye to forming and deploying the skills that lead to both academic and non-academic employment.

Administrative Staff

Chair

Andrew Bailey (0007 MacKinnon, Ext. 56637)
artsadr@uoguelph.ca

Graduate Program Coordinator

Daniel Fischlin (439 MacKinnon, Ext. 53267)
dfischli@uoguelph.ca

Graduate Program Assistant

imprgpa@uoguelph.ca

Graduate Faculty

This list may include Regular Graduate Faculty, Associated Graduate Faculty and/or Graduate Faculty from other universities.

Madhur Anand

B.Sc., PhD Western Ontario - Professor
Graduate Faculty

Frédérique Arroyas

BA, MA, PhD Western Ontario - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Paul Barrett

B.Sc. Toronto (Scarborough), MA McMaster, PhD Queen's - Assistant Professor
Graduate Faculty

William J. Bettger

B.Sc., PhD Missouri - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Diane Borsato

BFA York, MFA Concordia - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Rebecca Caines

BA, PhD New South Wales - Associate Professor, Media, Art, and Performance, University of Regina
Graduate Faculty Other University

Rumina Dhalla

MBA, PhD York - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Daniel Fischlin

BFA, MA Concordia, PhD York - Professor
Graduate Faculty

James Harley

B.Mus. Western Washington, D.Mus. McGill - Professor
Graduate Faculty

Ajay Heble

BA Toronto, MA Dalhousie, PhD Toronto - Professor
Graduate Faculty

Mervyn Horgan

BA, MA National (Ireland), PhD York - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Troy Hourie

BID Manitoba, MFA Massachusetts, MA Royal Central School of Speech and Drama - Assistant Professor
Graduate Faculty

Leah Levac

BA Acadia, MA, PhD New Brunswick - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Eric Lewis

Associate Professor, Philosophy, McGill University
Graduate Faculty Other University

Marta McCarthy

Mus.Bac. Toronto, M.Mus. Westminster Choir College (Princeton), B.Ed., PhD Toronto, ARCT (RCMT) - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Kimberley McLeod

BA Queen's, MA Alberta, PhD York - Assistant Professor
Graduate Faculty

Kevin McNeilly

BA, MA, Western Ontario, PhD Queen's - Associate Professor, English, University of British Columbia
Graduate Faculty Other University

Carla Rice

BA Harvard, M.Ed. Toronto, PhD York - Professor
Graduate Faculty

Howard Spring

BFA, MFA York, PhD Illinois - Associate Professor
Graduate Faculty

Ellen Waterman

B.Mus. Manitoba, MA, PhD California-San Diego - Professor, Music, Carleton University
Graduate Faculty Other University

Alyssa Woods

B.Mus., MA Ottawa, PhD Michigan - Assistant Professor

Graduate Faculty

MA Program

Admission Requirements

Note: Admission to the MA in Critical Studies in Improvisation has been suspended. For more information, please contact the College of Arts Dean's Office.

Applicants to the MA must hold a four-year Honours Bachelor's degree or equivalent with a minimum GPA of 75%, in a field related to their proposed study. Applicants must provide two letters of reference and will be required to submit a portfolio with a representative sampling of their best and most relevant creative, professional, and/or research practice, in relationship to the field of Critical Studies and Improvisation and to their proposed area of research. Applicants will submit a 2 page research proposal outlining their critical orientation and proposed research activity for the program of study.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the MA in Critical Studies in Improvisation will:

1. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the field of Critical Studies in Improvisation across boundaries of discipline and domain, including historical, cultural, and global perspectives.
2. Create, implement, and critically reflect on community-engaged artistic practices.
3. Develop an awareness of and engage with multiple interdisciplinary perspectives across academic fields and the community.
4. Expand their own creative practice by integrating various disciplinary approaches and developing their own disciplinary approach.
5. Grow as scholars and researchers using a reflective, research-based approach to creative practice and community engagement.
6. Express and develop facilitative leadership skills in themselves and others through facilitating and networking at the institutional, national, and international levels.
7. Communicate with diverse audiences and in diverse modes their knowledge of the field and results of their research, including oral, written, and artistic modes with visual and technological literacy.
8. Collaborate ethically and professionally with diverse community partners, groups, and stakeholders, with integrity and respect for as well as sensitivity to others' needs and interests.

Program Requirements

The interdisciplinary MA curriculum builds competencies in research and practice across the following areas: the critical historicisation of improvised art and practice; research methods and core concepts in Critical Studies in Improvisation; the development of ethical frameworks for collaborative, community-engaged initiatives; and the development and implementation of practice-based research projects.

Students must complete 3.5 credits.

Code	Title	Credits
IMPR*6010	Core Concepts in Critical Studies in Improvisation	1.00
IMPR*6020	Arts-Based Community Making	1.00
IMPR*6030	Foundational Research Methods in Critical Studies in Improvisation	0.50
Select one Elective		0.50

IMPR*6800	Major Research Project in Critical Studies in Improvisation	0.50
-----------	---	------

Code	Title	Credits
Year 1		
<i>Semester 1</i>		
IMPR*6010	Core Concepts in Critical Studies in Improvisation	1.00
IMPR*6030	Foundational Research Methods in Critical Studies in Improvisation	0.50
Optional Elective, Directed Reading or Internship		
<i>Semester 2</i>		
IMPR*6010	Core Concepts in Critical Studies in Improvisation	1.00
Optional Elective, Directed Reading or Internship		
<i>Semester 3</i>		
Optional Elective, Directed Reading or Internship		
Presentation at Graduate Colloquium		
Year 2		
<i>Semester 1</i>		
IMPR*6020	Arts-Based Community Making	1.00
Optional Elective, Directed Reading or Internship		
<i>Semester 2</i>		
IMPR*6020	Arts-Based Community Making	1.00
Optional Elective, Directed Reading or Internship		
Students may transfer to the PhD program or continue MA		
<i>Semester 3</i>		
IMPR*6800	Major Research Project in Critical Studies in Improvisation	0.50
Optional Elective, Directed Reading or Internship		
Presentation at Graduate Colloquium		

PhD Program

Admission Requirements

Applicants must have achieved a grade average of at least 75% (B) in the Master's degree program. Under exceptional circumstances admission directly to a PhD program with an appropriate Honours degree alone may be granted. Applicants must provide two letters of reference and will be required to submit a portfolio with a representative sampling of their best and most relevant creative, professional, and/or research practice, in relationship to the field of CSI and to their proposed area of research. Applicants will submit a 3 page research proposal outlining their critical orientation and proposed research activity for the program of study.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the PhD in Critical Studies in Improvisation will:

1. Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the field of Critical Studies in Improvisation across boundaries of discipline and domain, including historical, cultural, and global perspectives.
2. Create, implement, and critically reflect on community-engaged artistic practices.
3. Develop an awareness of, negotiate, and synthesize multiple complex interdisciplinary perspectives across academic fields and the community.

- Expand their own creative practice by integrating various disciplinary approaches and developing personal innovative approaches.
- Develop as independent scholars and researchers using a reflective, research-based approach to creative practice and community engagement.
- Express and develop facilitative leadership skills in themselves and others through teaching, facilitating, and networking at the institutional, national, and international levels.
- Communicate with diverse audiences and in diverse modes their knowledge of the field and results of their research, including oral, written, and artistic modes with visual and technological literacy.
- Collaborate ethically and professionally with diverse community partners, groups, and stakeholders, with integrity and respect for as well as sensitivity to others' needs and interests.

Program Requirements

The interdisciplinary PhD curriculum enhances competencies in research, practice, and teaching across the following areas: the critical historicisation of improvised art and practice; research methods and core concepts in Critical Studies in Improvisation; the development of ethical frameworks for collaborative, community-engaged initiatives; and the development and implementation of practice-based research projects. Students are required to successfully complete two qualifying examinations and a research proposal before producing and orally defending a dissertation reflecting original research on a topic that has been approved by the advisory committee.

Students must complete 3.0 credits and successfully defend their thesis project.

Code	Title	Credits
IMPR*6010	Core Concepts in Critical Studies in Improvisation	1.00
IMPR*6020	Arts-Based Community Making	1.00
IMPR*6030	Foundational Research Methods in Critical Studies in Improvisation	0.50
IMPR*6410	Pedagogy Lab: Critical Improvisation	0.50
Thesis Defence		

Code	Title	Credits
Year 1		
<i>Semester 1</i>		
IMPR*6010	Core Concepts in Critical Studies in Improvisation	1.00
IMPR*6030	Foundational Research Methods in Critical Studies in Improvisation	0.50
<i>Semester 2</i>		
IMPR*6010	Core Concepts in Critical Studies in Improvisation	1.00
IMPR*6410	Pedagogy Lab: Critical Improvisation	0.50
<i>Semester 3</i>		
Qualifying Exam Preparation: Secondary Area		
Year 2		
<i>Semester 1</i>		
IMPR*6020	Arts-Based Community Making	1.00
Qualifying Exam Preparation: Primary Area		
<i>Semester 2</i>		
IMPR*6020	Arts-Based Community Making	1.00

Qualifying Examination Presentation

Semester 3

Optional Practicum

Presentation at Graduate Colloquium

Year 3

Semester 1

Optional Elective, Directed Reading or Internship

Research/Writing

Semester 2

Optional Elective, Directed Reading or Internship

Research/Writing

Semester 3

Research/Writing

Year 4

Semester 1

Research/Writing

Semester 2

Research/Writing

Semester 3

Research/Writing

Thesis Defence

Collaborative Specializations

International Development Studies

The PhD in Critical Studies in Improvisation participates in the collaborative specialization in International Development Studies (IDS). Consult the International Development Studies (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/collaborative-specializations/international-development-studies/>) listing for a detailed description of the requirements of the collaborative specialization.

Courses

IMPR*6010 Core Concepts in Critical Studies in Improvisation Fall and Winter Reg Required [1.00]

This required two-term course is based on seminal works that introduce the field of critical studies in improvisation. It is designed to expose students to core concepts and key readings in critical studies in improvisation, with especial attention to the historical, theoretical, and critical literature in the field.

Offering(s): Annually

Department(s): Dean's Office, College of Arts

Location(s): Guelph

IMPR*6020 Arts-Based Community Making Fall and Winter Reg Required [1.00]

This required two-term course emphasizes the links between improvisation and social practices, and the connections between principles of improvised artistic practices and those of ethical community-engaged collaboration.

Offering(s): Annually

Department(s): Dean's Office, College of Arts

Location(s): Guelph

IMPR*6030 Foundational Research Methods in Critical Studies in Improvisation Fall Only [0.50]

This required course provides an overview of a range of research methodologies pertinent to the field of Critical Studies in Improvisation. These include: critical thinking and writing strategies; discursive and qualitative research practices; community literacy and outreach; research ethics; grant-writing and research funding practices and possibilities; practicum-based learning issues and contexts; and knowledge mobilization strategies.

Offering(s): Annually

Department(s): Dean's Office, College of Arts

Location(s): Guelph

IMPR*6040 Summer Institute in Critical Studies in Improvisation Summer Only [0.50]

This interdisciplinary course provides a summer institute forum for students to investigate the possibilities of improvised artistic practices to inform community-building models and to shape public debate and policy decisions regarding the role of the arts in society.

Offering(s): Annually

Equate(s): UNIV*6040

Department(s): Dean's Office, College of Arts

Location(s): Guelph

IMPR*6410 Pedagogy Lab: Critical Improvisation Winter Only [0.50]

This practicum experience, required for PhD students, is a closely mentored opportunity to develop the pedagogical skills and mindsets necessary to support learner-centered, improvisation-based, teaching and course design.

Offering(s): Annually

Department(s): Dean's Office, College of Arts

Location(s): Guelph

IMPR*6500 Reading Course I Summer, Fall, and Winter [0.50]

This is an independent study course, the nature and content of which is agreed upon between the individual student and the instructor offering the course, subject to the approval of the student's Advisory Committee and the IMPR Graduate Program Committee.

Restriction(s): Instructor consent required.

Department(s): Dean's Office, College of Arts

Location(s): Guelph

IMPR*6510 Reading Course II Summer, Fall, and Winter [0.50]

This is an independent study course, the nature and content of which is agreed upon between the individual student and the instructor offering the course, subject to the approval of the student's Advisory Committee and the Graduate Program Committee.

Prerequisite(s): IMPR*6500

Restriction(s): Instructor consent required.

Department(s): Dean's Office, College of Arts

Location(s): Guelph

IMPR*6800 Major Research Project in Critical Studies in Improvisation Fall and Winter [0.50]

An independent study course, the content of which is agreed upon between the individual MA student and their supervisor. The student will conduct an extended research project that provides them with training in research methodology, culminating in a major project or paper. Subject to the approval of the student's advisory committee and the Graduate Program Committee.

Offering(s): Annually

Prerequisite(s): IMPR*6010, IMPR*6020, IMPR*6030

Department(s): Dean's Office, College of Arts

Location(s): Guelph