

My very first time in the UK was when I arrived in Sunderland in September of 2003 to start a BA in Media Production. I was met here with an academic family of people who truly changed my life. Many of these people are in this room today. And one is sadly no longer here with us. I want to start by saying that I am so incredibly honoured to be amongst you all today and it is a true honour to be given the opportunity to speak in this tribute to Professor Guy Starkey.

When I was asked to talk about Guy and about my own work, I started thinking back to the path that got me where I am today. And I found that at every important juncture, every big moment, Guy was there; with active help, support, advice and always a gentle smile. I also searched my hard drives for pictures and I will be showing some during this talk. **SLIDE & SLIDE**

Between 2003-2006 I knew Guy as an incredible teacher. His feedback was thorough and motivational. One time I mentioned to him how I was feeling a little overwhelmed by things as a newly arrived international student. I still remember the empathy and true care he showed me as a tutor at that moment.

Then Guy was one of the people who generously wrote me a reference when I applied for an AHRC scholarship to do my MA at Goldsmiths College. Later, at the end of 2009 when I applied to come back to Sunderland to do my PhD, Guy was on my interview panel. And then in 2014 he was the internal examiner for my VIVA. There he gave me a proper run for my money and thankfully I managed! At the celebratory dinner after the viva, Guy said to me that he had been so thorough because he wanted me to feel that I had truly earned my PhD. He was a true teacher.

SLIDE The title of this talk, Never Static, is an obvious pun, but it is also something that Guy, radio and the field of radio studies share: A resilience and ability to adapt, move ahead, create new spaces for ideas to flourish, invent and to re-invent. (about 3 minutes up to here). So today, by linking up to some of my own research interests, I will be talking about radio as an interdisciplinary concept. I will not go into too much detail but merely sketch out some of the most recent ideas I have been studying.

SLIDE My doctoral work, (overseen by Martin Shingler, Andrew Crisell and Sean Moores) looked at radio as an intimate medium and it sought to understand a concept that is widely used in radio studies and yet, at the time, was sparsely analysed. One of the outcomes of that work was a typology of *intimacies* to do with the technological and the performative aspects of intimacy in radio. Some of the ideas related to radiophonic intimacy have to do with radio's locale. For example, a tension between materiality and immateriality when we consider the physical spaces within which radio is listened to and the imagined spaces, which radio creates. Think of these spaces as over-lapping architectural blueprints.

Space then emerged very quickly as a crucial concept in my work **SLIDE** For example, a co-authored chapter with Andrew Crisell and a chapter in *Radio the Resilient Medium*. **READ**

FROM THE SLIDE This led me to considering architecture and the building of physical and imagined spaces and the ways in which these spaces can be emotive. The common concept emerging here was that of *atmosphere*. **SLIDE READ FROM THE SLIDE**

In 2016, in an international collaboration with the Architectural school of Patras in Greece, myself and two architecture lecturers created a workshop for their first-year cohort. In the

workshop we used Andrew Sachs' 1978 binaural radio play *The Revenge* in order to help the students negotiate and understand the tensions between materiality and immateriality in architecture. *The Revenge* is an experimental radio play 'without words' recorded on location, and thus, *atmosphere* really is the main carrier of the story. **SLIDE EXPLAIN THE**

SLIDE The students were asked to listen to *The Revenge* and to create architectural drawings depicting the story and the story-world of the play based on their own interpretation of it. In doing this exercise the students were also, perhaps inadvertently, depicting radiophonic space and their understanding of it. The students had the freedom to use common architectural concepts such as width and height but also intangible notions such as object-space interactions and emotional space. **SLIDE**

The drawings that the students came up with revealed a number of ideas useful to both architectural education and radio studies. Without getting into too much detail: In the act of interpreting the story-world of this radio play, and without any preconceptions, the students provided us with some evidence that radio space can subvert and partly question traditional perceptions of abstraction. Some of the students seem to have moved from "materiality" to "immateriality" and others, from "immateriality" to "materiality"; while others may have done a combination of both. **SLIDE** Some students perceived radio space and the story happening within it as immaterial and so provided a more material representation of it on paper. **READ FROM THE SLIDE** Other students perceived radio space as material and went on to deconstruct it into more abstract designs. **SLIDE READ FROM THE SLIDE** (about 7-10minutes up to here).

Namely, some students used symbolism, others depicted rhythm, some even noted materials and elevation levels; each choosing to work to a different degree of abstraction.

A radio theorist might argue here that the students were evoking, in the form of drawing, what the radio listener does in her head: being a co-creator of the imagined worlds presented to her ears, adding as much or as little as she wants in order to complete an abstract yet highly constructed picture.

In a paper recently accepted by the Radio Journal I offer a more detailed analysis of some of those student drawings and reflect upon the exercise from my perspective as a radio scholar and practitioner. So, I will not bore you with any more of that today.

I first presented this work last July at Transnational Radio conference in Prato – Italy. In the conference, dozens of international colleagues were asking me about Guy and expressed to me how missed he was. One colleague collected wishes to send to Guy in a card. I do not know if the card eventually reached Guy as very soon after he was untimely gone. But I know that he was sorely missed and that his work shone through many of his colleagues' work.

At the conference, in her keynote speech, now published in the latest edition of The Radio Journal, Kate Lacey revisited the idea of radio studies as a field of research (2018:109-126). An idea that indeed took some time to establish itself but is now firmly rooted and excitingly flourishing. Kate Lacey re-iterated her position from ten years ago (2008:21-32), that radio studies is and should be a place of interdisciplinarity and that radio is not just one single thing. That an idea of a 'singular thing called radio' should not hinder the incredible advantage our field has due to its multiple intricacies. **SLIDE** Rather pertinently, Lacey

supports her argument by bringing ideas of materiality and immateriality into play and argues that the same ‘might go for the idea of “radio studies”’ (2018: 110).

It is, then, by relating to other things in the world *through* radio that the radio theorist and the radio practitioner can invent and re-invent. **SLIDE**

And this brings me back to Guy Starkey. Lacey’s new overview of the field of radio studies, lists Guy Starkey’s work as part of a rich, international field that has so much to offer. And Guy had so much to offer. He was a global academic and a global radio practitioner who tirelessly worked in order to promote radio’s uniqueness and resilience. **SLIDE** Most recently, when he came to work at Bournemouth University, his incredible ability to forge international collaborations and connections was recognised by his appointment, as Professor and Associate Dean of Global Engagement.

Guy Starkey was *never static*, always travelling, writing, teaching, organising events – such as the ECREA Radio conference in 2013, with the best food I have ever had in such an event! **SLIDE** We will always remember Guy for his incredible legacy to radio and radio studies but many of us will also remember him as someone who knew how to enjoy life.

NOTES:

PHD - INTIMACY

RESILIENT MEDIUM – INTERFERENCE

NOW – INTERDISCIPLINARY – GLOBAL PRACTICE – GUY GLOBAL

BOURNEMOUTH - GUY