

**Pedagogy, Language, Arts and Culture in Education (PLACE)
SEMINAR SERIES 2007-2008
In conjunction with BERA Creativity-in-Education SIG &
National Association of Music Education (NAME) Regional Events**

**Wednesday 23 January 2008
4:30 – 6:00pm
Room GS5, Faculty of Education,
184 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 8PQ**

**Trading posts and frontiers: border crossings, territorial
skirmishes and uneasy truces in
THE TERRAIN OF TEACHER-ARTIST PARTNERSHIPS**

**Graham Jeffery
University of East London**

Abstract

To characterise creative partnership between artists and teachers as beset by latent conflict may appear to be unfair, but recent research undertaken within two professional development programmes, [TAPP](#) (Teacher Artist Partnership) and [Eastfeast](#) illuminates just how complicated the dialogue between arts educators attempting to collaborate can become. In this seminar I will share some emergent findings and thoughts from this study, funded by Creative Partnerships, and entitled *Mediated Conversations at a Cultural Trading Post*. Surface narratives of collaboration, risk-taking and creativity might appear to be driven by consensual and convergent sets of values. However, behind the public face of partnership there is often a private process of conflict resolution and diplomacy. Putting partnership into practice often involves pragmatic compromises, misunderstandings, and the need for (self)critical reflection. Within the broad field of ‘creative partnership’, there are sharp differences and distinctions between different traditions and pedagogies. And when such partnerships attempt to intervene within the heavily regulated working environments of schools and colleges, some of these divisions and difficulties can become even more pronounced. Exploring how arts educators negotiate, combine, and account for their own trajectories and territories helps to illuminate some of the more shadowy and controversial corners of this very crowded arena of educational policy and practice.

Biography

Graham Jeffery is Senior Research Fellow in the School of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies at the University of East London, and an independent researcher and consultant who works with a wide range of organisations, including London International Festival of Theatre, the Scottish Arts Council, NESTA, CapeUK, Creative Partnerships, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and DCSF. His book *The Creative College: building a successful learning culture in the arts* was published by Trentham Books in 2005.

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Please contact Pam Burnard, (BERA SIG co-convenor) if planning to attend
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