

Dr. Louise Emma Lepage  
Senior lecturer  
Theatre, Film, TV and Interactive Media  
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## Research interests

My research is concerned with the relationship of technology and humans as they appear in plays and performances. I am interested in such questions as: Are we posthuman (i.e. evolving into something new with technology)? If so, when did we become posthuman? How do plays and performances respond to changing notions about human being, including *post* human being? My interest primarily focuses on contemporary theatre but my research into posthumanism and humanism has also led me to the early modern period and to Naturalist Theatre.

More recently, my research has focused on robots and theatre. I am interested in robots' performative potential, in particular, the kinds of characters that sociable robots might play to encourage humans to believe in them, i.e. imaginatively and emotionally to invest in them. I have a website: [www.robottheatre.co.uk](http://www.robottheatre.co.uk) where some of the work I have conducted may be found.

I have a monograph forthcoming with Palgrave: *Theatre and the Posthuman: A Subject of Character*. My co-edited book (with Siân Adiseshiah), *Twenty-first Century Drama: What Happens Now* was published in July 2016.

I have also published on Simon Stephens, Sarah Kane, and Katie Mitchell.

## Employment

### Lecturer

Lecturer

Theatre, Film, TV and Interactive Media

University of York

Baird Lane, York

5 Sept 2016 → 30 Sept 2022

### Senior Lecturer

Senior lecturer

Theatre, Film, TV and Interactive Media

University of York

Baird Lane, York

1 Oct 2022 → present

### Working Group Co-ordinator

TaPRA

1 May 2015 → 1 Jun 2018

## Research output

**The Importance of Realism, Character, and Genre: How Theatre Can Support the Creation of Likeable Sociable Robots**  
LePage, L., 12 Dec 2020, (E-pub ahead of print) In: *International Journal of Social Robotics*. 15 p.

### Believing in Robots

LePage, L., May 2017, (Unpublished).

### Things That Always Tend to Happen in Simon Stephens' Plays

LePage, L., Sept 2016, In: *Contemporary Theatre Review*. Interventions 26, 3

### Introduction: What Happens Now

LePage, L. & Adiseshiah, S., Jul 2016, *Twenty-First Century Drama: What Happens Now*. Adiseshiah, S. & LePage, L. (eds.). Palgrave Macmillan, p. 1-13 13 p.

**'Thinking Something Makes It So': Performing robots, the workings of mimesis and the importance of character**  
LePage, L., Jul 2016, *Twenty-First Century Drama: What Happens Now*. Adiseshiah, S. & LePage, L. (eds.). Palgrave Macmillan, p. 279-301 23 p.

**www.robottheatre.co.uk**  
LePage, L., 1 Jun 2016

**Inside Robot Theatre: What Happens When Robots (and Children) Take to the Stage?**  
LePage, L., 20 Apr 2016, Louise LePage, [www.robottheatre.co.uk](http://www.robottheatre.co.uk).

**Machine-Hamlet: To be, or not to be**  
LePage, L., 20 Apr 2016

**Rethinking Sarah Kane's Characters: A Human(ist) Form and Politics**  
LePage, L., Jul 2014, In: *Modern Drama*. 57, 2, p. 252-272 21 p.

**Beyond Character: A Post/Humanist Approach to Modern Theatre**  
LePage, L. E., 2012

**Posthuman Perspectives and Postdramatic Theatre: The Theory and Practice of Hybrid Ontology in Katie Mitchell's *The Waves***  
Lepage, L., 2008, In: *Cultura, lenguaje y representación: revista de estudios culturales de la Universitat Jaume I*. 6, p. 137-149 13 p.

## Activities

**The Posthumanist Character of Naturalism**  
Lepage, L. E. (Invited speaker)  
27 Jun 2018

**Robot Performers: The End of Training?**  
LePage, L. (Speaker)  
22 May 2017

**Believing in Robots**  
LePage, L. (Invited speaker)  
3 May 2017

**Performing Robots: Some Reflections**  
LePage, L. (Invited speaker)  
2 Mar 2017

**External Examiner for a PhD**  
Lepage, L. E. (Examiner (external)), Luckhurst, R. (Examiner (internal)) & Roberts, A. (Supervisor (internal))  
1 Dec 2016 → 1 Oct 2017

**Baxter the robot performs Hamlet: To be, or not to be**  
LePage, L. (Speaker)  
6 Sept 2016

**Twenty-First Century Naturalism: What happens when robot characters take to the stage?**  
LePage, L. (Speaker)  
29 Jun 2016

**Dramatic Stagings of Robots and Humans in Living Rooms: A Study of Posthumanist Forms**

LePage, L. (Speaker)

4 Sept 2014

**TaPRA Annual Conference 2014**

LePage, L. (Organiser)

3 Sept 2014 → 6 Sept 2014

**The Robot 'Performer': Revealing the Workings of Dramatic Character (and Human Being) in the Twenty-First Century**

LePage, L. (Speaker)

16 Jul 2014

**Dramatic Stagings of Robots and Humans in Living Rooms: Exploring the Uncanny Valley**

LePage, L. (Speaker)

27 Apr 2014

**Consultancy for exams**

Lepage, L. E. (Advisor)

1 Nov 2013 → 1 Mar 2014

**What is Tim Crouch doing with his very human characters and how are we to talk about them?**

LePage, L. (Invited speaker)

13 Jul 2012

**Platform Journal of Theatre and Performing Arts (Journal)**

Lepage, L. E. (Reviewer)

1 Jul 2012

**Moving Beyond the Binary: Sarah Kane's Post/Human Characters**

LePage, L. (Speaker)

31 Mar 2012

**'What a Piece of Work is a Man': A Post/Humanist Approach to Modern Dramatic Characters**

LePage, L. (Invited speaker)

9 Feb 2012

**Who Do We Think We Are?**

LePage, L. (Organiser)

19 Mar 2011

**Posthumanism**

LePage, L. (Invited speaker)

31 Jan 2011

**Contemporary Characters: What it means to be a human subject in the twenty-first century**

LePage, L. (Speaker)

16 Oct 2010

**Contemporary Drama's Cyborg Characters: Being Posthuman in the Twenty-First Century**

LePage, L. (Speaker)

10 Jul 2010

**We've Always Been Posthuman: Posthuman character in drama**

LePage, L. (Speaker)

22 May 2010

**Platform Journal of Theatre and Performing Arts (Journal)**

Lepage, L. E. (Reviewer)

1 Apr 2010 → 1 Oct 2013

**Becoming Human-Animal: Reimagining the human on the contemporary British stage**

LePage, L. (Speaker)

7 Sept 2009

**Brutalising Subjectivity in the Work of Sarah Kane**

LePage, L. (Speaker)

6 Dec 2006

**Prizes**

**Outstanding Individual Award**

Lepage, L. E. (Recipient), 1 Jun 2014

**Teaching Award: Apple for the Teacher**

Lepage, L. E. (Recipient), 1 Jun 2014

**Working Group Co-Ordinator for TaPRA (Theatre and Performance Research Organisation)**

Lepage, L. E. (Recipient), 1 Apr 2015

**Projects**

**An investigation into the 'creative' capacity and status of robots in drama in order to interrogate their implications for an understanding of humans, performance, and dramaturgy.**

Lepage, L. E. (Principal investigator)

1/11/13 → 1/07/14

**Interactive Robot**

Lepage, L. E. (Principal investigator)

15/01/18 → 31/05/18

**PLAYON! New Storytelling with Immersive Technologies**

Ursu, M. (Principal investigator), Cantrell, T. (Co-investigator), Hook, J. D. (Co-investigator), Kirman, B. (Co-investigator),

Lepage, L. E. (Co-investigator) & Schofield, G. P. (Co-investigator)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

15/10/19 → 14/10/23

**What happens when robots (and children) take to the stage?**

Lepage, L. E. (Principal investigator)

2/11/15 → 27/05/16