

Dr. Louise Emma Lepage
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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 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LePage, L., May 2017, (Unpublished).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.

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