

# Jazz Research in Theory and Practice

## Five issues to consider:

1. Practice as research
2. Conservatoire status
3. Professional versus academic practice
4. The value of jazz/pop research
5. Conservatoire structures/curriculum design

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# 1. Practice (Performance/Composition) as Research

## Problems for Conservatoires?

- Comparison to Universities
- Dominance of the written word
- Performance as research problematic

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## 2. Conservatoires' status as research institutions

- Research agenda led by Universities
- Musicology dominates research culture
- Can performance research be defined objectively?
- Changing perceptions
- Development of Doctoral programmes

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## 3. Professional vs. academic practice

**“I’m a performer not an academic....”**

- Musicians’ perceptions of research
- Musicians as part-time employees
- Conflicting institutional interests
- Division between academic studies and performance/composition

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## 4. The value of jazz/popular music research

- Context for jazz/pop research
- Journalistic approaches
- High art/commercial divide
- Outputs (scores, books, venues)
- No formal networks for jazz/pop performance research

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## 5. Conservatoire structures and curriculum design

- Place of research in Conservatoires
- Supporting teaching and learning
- Academic studies departments – divisive?
- Course design – integrating theory and practice
- Doctoral programmes

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# Research at Leeds College of Music

- Annual **International Jazz Conference**
- Created the **Centre for Jazz Studies UK**
- Funded projects - ESRC **Investigating Musical Performance**, PALATINE research
- *Jazz Research Journal, Jazz Perspectives*
- **Jazz Research Network** (JISCmail)
- Jazz **PhDs** from September
- Promoting performance and composition as research (**PRSF commissions**)

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Jazz Research in Theory and Practice

Dr Tony Whyton

PJP, Copenhagen 2007

**For more information visit:**

<http://www.lcm.ac.uk>

<http://www.imp.imerc.org/>

<http://www.palatine.ac.uk/development-awards/299/>

<http://www.prsfoundation.co.uk/projects/centreforjazzstudiesukcreativeexchange.htm>

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