

## Experimental

### Smith in Belfast

A Radiophonic Ethnodrama

Words and Vocals: Paul Antick

Sounds: Jo Langton

Listen to the ethnodrama here: <https://www.extreme-anthropology.com/single-post/2018/06/22/Smith-in-Belfast-A-Radiophonic-Ethnodrama>

A new 25 minute radiophonic ethnodrama by Paul Antick and Jo Langton, *Smith in Belfast* is the account of one man's journey through a series of situations and conversations, the contents of which refer in sometimes roundabout ways to the linguistic, legal, architectural, social and sartorial aftermath(s) of 'the Troubles' in Northern Ireland. Composed of a series of relatively unsettling, often absurdly oblique vignettes - staged in pubs, 'chippers', parks and on street corners - *Smith in Belfast* culminates in the troubling impersonation - by its English protagonist Smith - of an ex-paramilitary tour guide careering through memories of old photographs and film footage of 'the Troubles' in front of a concerned group of visitors somewhere on the Falls Road. As Brexit negotiations stumble on, *Smith in Belfast* - an expurgated version of which originally aired on Resonance FM in 2017 - is a strange and timely reminder that although the war in Northern Ireland may be over, many of the contradictions that fuelled the conflict there, contradictions that ostensibly turned on the relationship between issues of national sovereignty and social identity, have never been entirely resolved. *Smith in Belfast* is a radiophonic alert to the possibility that the pain Brexit could conceivably inflict on the province (and beyond) might, in the face of political solipsism and creeping English nationalism, potentially involve more than a hike in the price of wine.

Note that although this production explicitly references some 'real life' historical figures and events, and also (apparently) draws on conversations and situations its author enjoyed on the 'Troubles tours' of Belfast he attended during the summer of 2014, it, like all of the characters in it, is almost emphatically fictional.



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**Paul Antick** is a multidisciplinary artist and writer and Senior Lecturer in Photography at University of Roehampton, London. His work has appeared in various publications, including *Journal of Visual Culture*, *Fashion Theory*, *Russia, Transcultural Montage*, *Informal Architectures*, *Memory and Securitization in Contemporary Europe*, and *Photographies*. His exhibition and performance work has been supported by outlets in Europe, North America and Asia, including Belfast Exposed Photography Gallery (UK), John Hansard Gallery (UK), Walter Philips Gallery (Canada), Galeria Ruzs (Poland) and Resonance FM. He is a co-founder of the Terror and the Tour international research network.

**Jo Langton** is concerned with either researching, recording or experimenting with sound. She trained as a musician then sound engineer and has always been interested in the point of convergence between music and technology in early electroacoustic music. She has worked as a recording engineer for BBC Radio and music since 2000. She is also a sound designer and composer of experimental music and sound art. Her work has been shown at the Museum of London, Tower Bridge Exhibition Centre, Tate Modern, and has appeared on BBC Radio 3, Channel 4, and Resonance FM. She is currently funded by TECHNE/AHRC in researching a PhD on the work of electroacoustic experimental composers Beatriz Ferreyra, Eliane Radigue, Delia Derbyshire and Teresa Rampazzi which focuses on their methods for creating new electronic sound material in the pre-digital analogue studios of the 1960s and early 1970s.