



*Symposium poster, design Fredric Gunve*

## **Imaginative Futures: Arts-Based Research as Boundary Event**

**November 8-9, 2019, School of Art, Arizona State University**

<https://sites.google.com/view/imaginativefuturesasu/>

Imaginative Futures: Arts-Based Research as Boundary Event is a 2-day symposium engaging with arts-based practices and methodologies. The event will include a series of conversations, material provocations, and collective experimentation with an interdisciplinary group of artists, educators, and scholars.

### **Friday, November 8, 2019**

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

**Tyson Lewis** *Defining a 'Pataphysical Turn in Arts-Based Research as Boundary Event*

**SESSION 1:** *Methodologies Adrift*. Panel session exploring imaginative processes, disruptive potential, and structural boundaries in art and education research. [Cala Coats](#)

**SESSION 2:** *Crossbreed, Change, Betray*. Performative session using narrative and wild art-based methods blurring the borders between fiction and reality to create different futures. [Fredric Gunve](#)

### **Saturday, November 9, 2019**

#### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

**Carol Padberg** *Index of Dirt: Composing and Composting in Art and Education, circa 2020*

**SESSION 3:** *Vague Borders and Infinite Sensibilities of Land, Body, and Water*. This arts-based session takes the form of compost, a compost of embodied experiences, material experiments, and performance, all of which become a palimpsest of boundary events. [Kajsa G. Eriksson](#)



*Upside down image, part of slideshow for webpage, Fredric Gunve*

## Crossbreed, Change, Betray

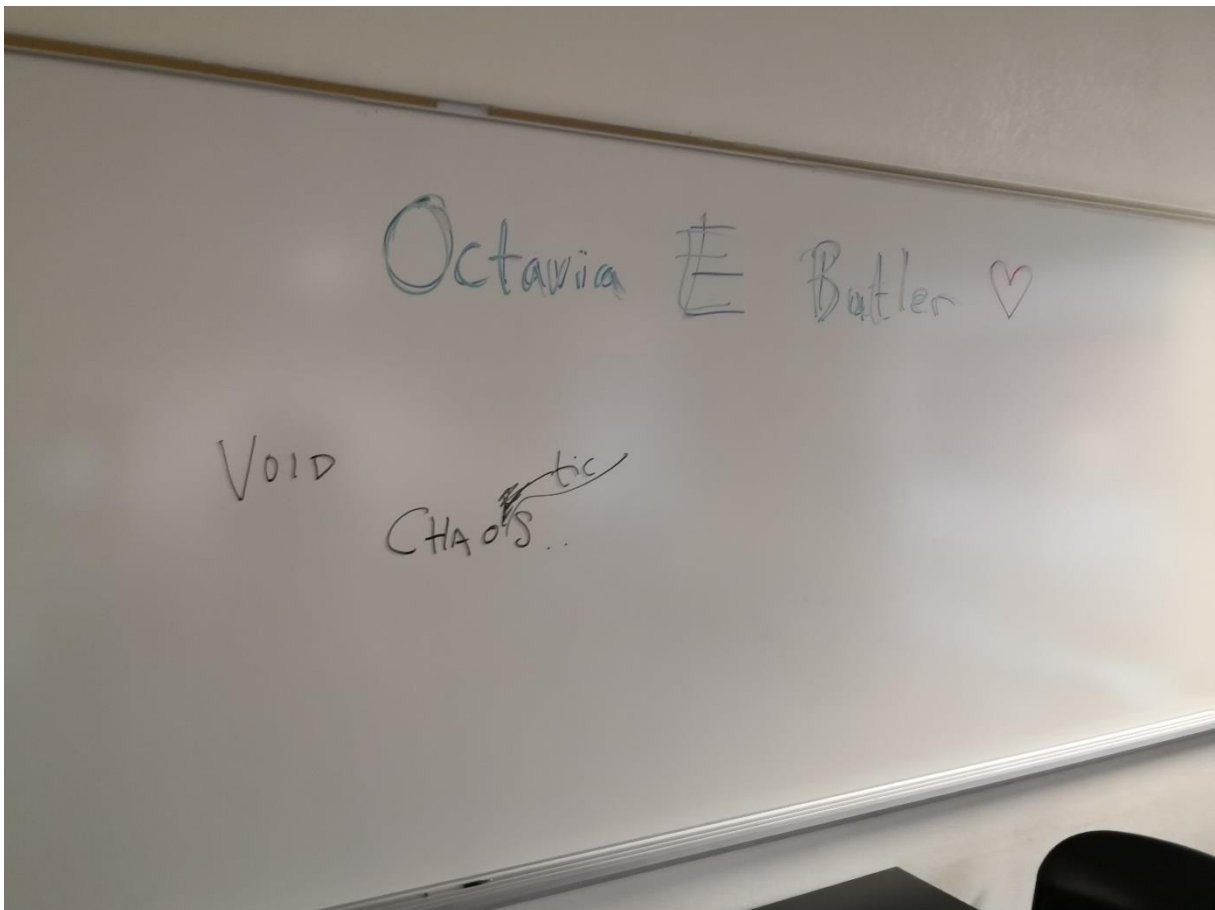
The future is an alien mess, a dystopian fantasy, performed in art, books, films, and in the constant online and television newsfeed. In a recurrent loop, the future materializes in the now, emerging through perpetual change, with the residue of the past and the potential of what might come.

In the book, *Lilith's Brood*, Octavia E. Butler tells a story where humanity's ability to survive requires change through a fusion with aliens. The inevitable change produces a paradox between betrayal and survival. Saving humanity requires betraying it, turning humans into more-than-humans: alien-humans. The transformation tarnishes the essence of purity and sameness; where change is losing and gaining simultaneously.

In this time of political, climate, cultural, and environmental change, art is taking new forms as research and education. Different ways of doing, understanding, and valuing art are emerging as a response to the changing world. Similar to Butler's notion of the more-than-human, a future of arts-based research is materializing through hybrid forms, methods, and perspectives. Changes are emerging as modes of creation and survival.

Art-based research and education have an active part in creating an ethical and sustainable future for all humans, non-humans and more-than-humans. This experimental panel will take

inspiration from the work of Octavia E. Butler to further engage with the symposium as Boundary Event. By becoming the traitor, the alien, new art-based research and educational methods can make new futures. Together, we will formulate and materialize speculative and wild art-based methods, blurring the borders between fiction, reality, disciplines, lived experiences, and imagined futures. By approaching the panel-as-process, we will create hybrid methods through unexpected alliances and alien thought.



**BACKGROUND:**

The future is an alien mess, a dystopian fantasy, performed in art, books, films, and in the constant online and television newsfeed. In a recurrent loop, the future materializes in the now, emerging through perpetual change, with the residue of the past and the potential of what might come.

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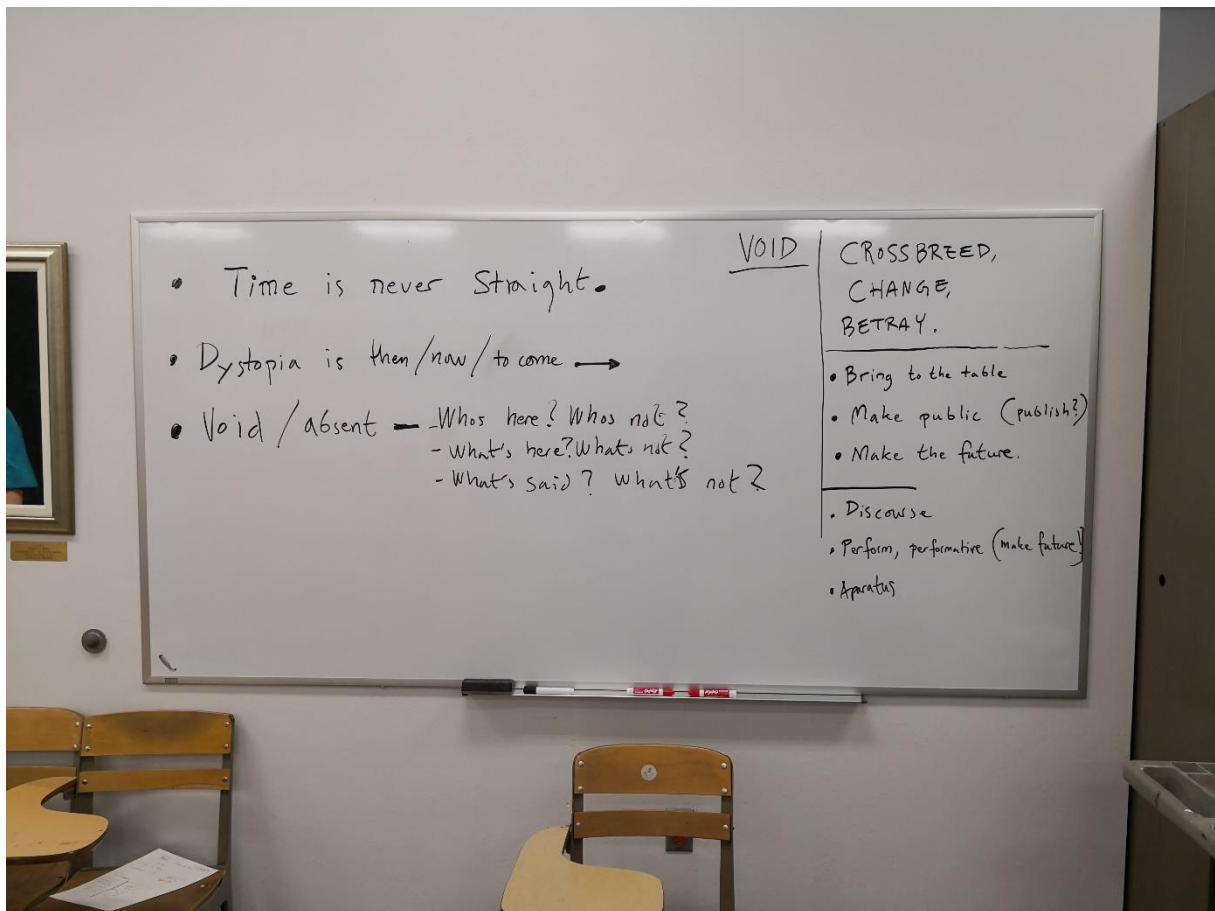
## WHY:

In this time of political, climate, cultural, and environmental change, art is taking new forms as research and education. Different ways of doing, understanding, and valuing art are emerging as a response to the changing world. Similar to Butler's notion of the more-than-human, a future of arts-based research is materializing through hybrid forms, methods, and perspectives. Changes are emerging as modes of creation and survival.

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## HOW:

This experimental panel will take inspiration from the work of Octavia E. Butler to further engage with the symposium as Boundary Event. By becoming the traitor, the alien, new art-based research and educational methods can make new futures. Together, we will formulate and materialize speculative and wild art-based methods, blurring the borders between fiction, reality, disciplines, lived experiences, and imagined futures. By approaching the panel-as-process, we will create hybrid methods through unexpected alliances and alien thought.



## EXECUTION:

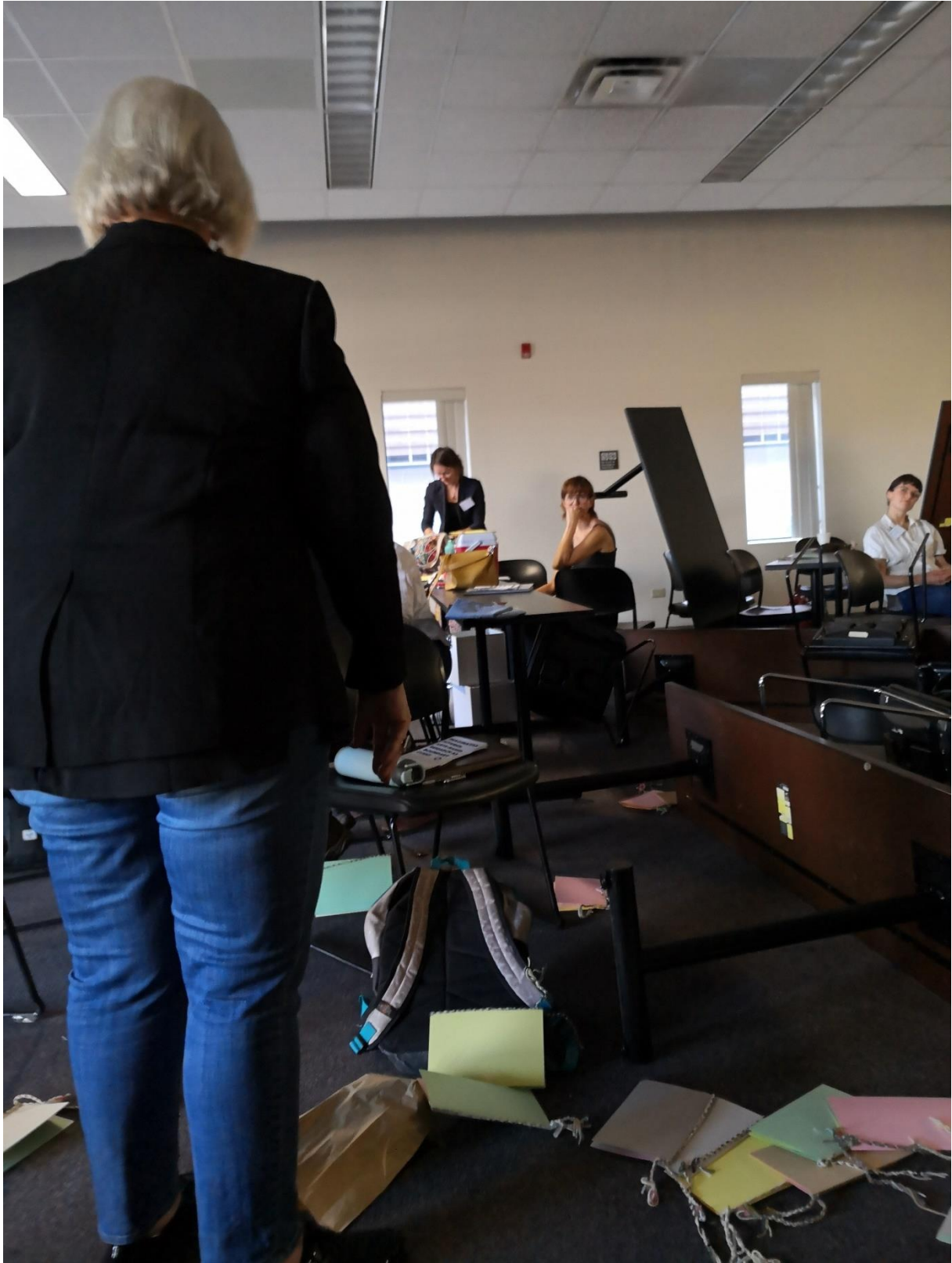
In preparation for the symposium and the session, a question was asked to a group of In preparation for the symposium and the session, a question was asked to a group of students at the school of arts at Arizona State University.

What answers do you want from the experts within the field of arts-based research and education when it comes to question concerning sustainable, ethical and just futures?

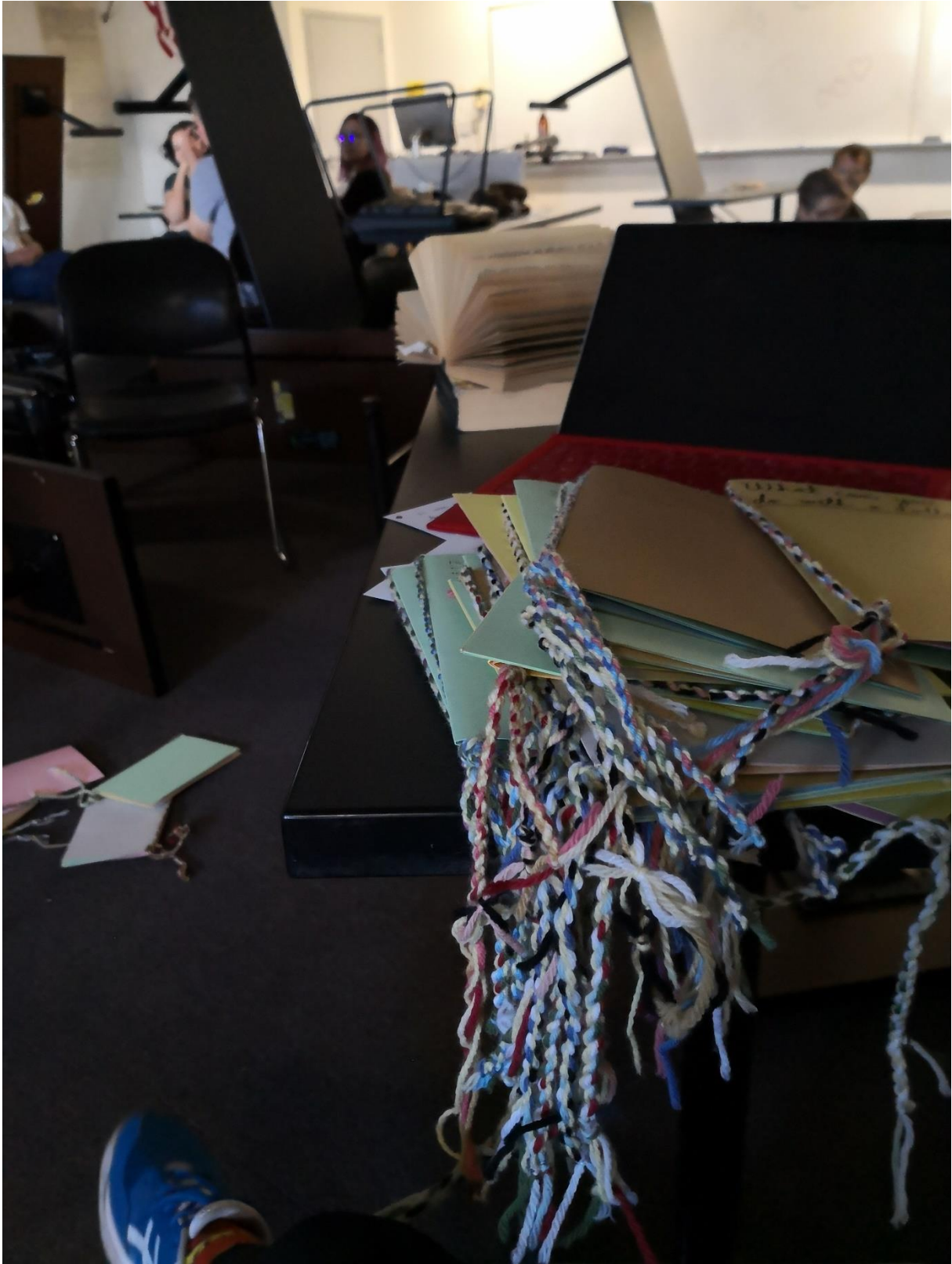
The students questions and comments, and the answers and discussions from the participants in the session were then communicated through handmade notebooks. The notebooks are now to be developed and communicated with and through other future participants. They are to be used as an arts-based dynamic and in process archive.

In the session, Fredric Gunve and Liz Warren (Storytelling Institute Director, South Mountain Community College, Phoenix, AZ, USA) used readings, storytelling and story making with, chaotic rearranging and de-furnishing the room to create different memories from futures to come.

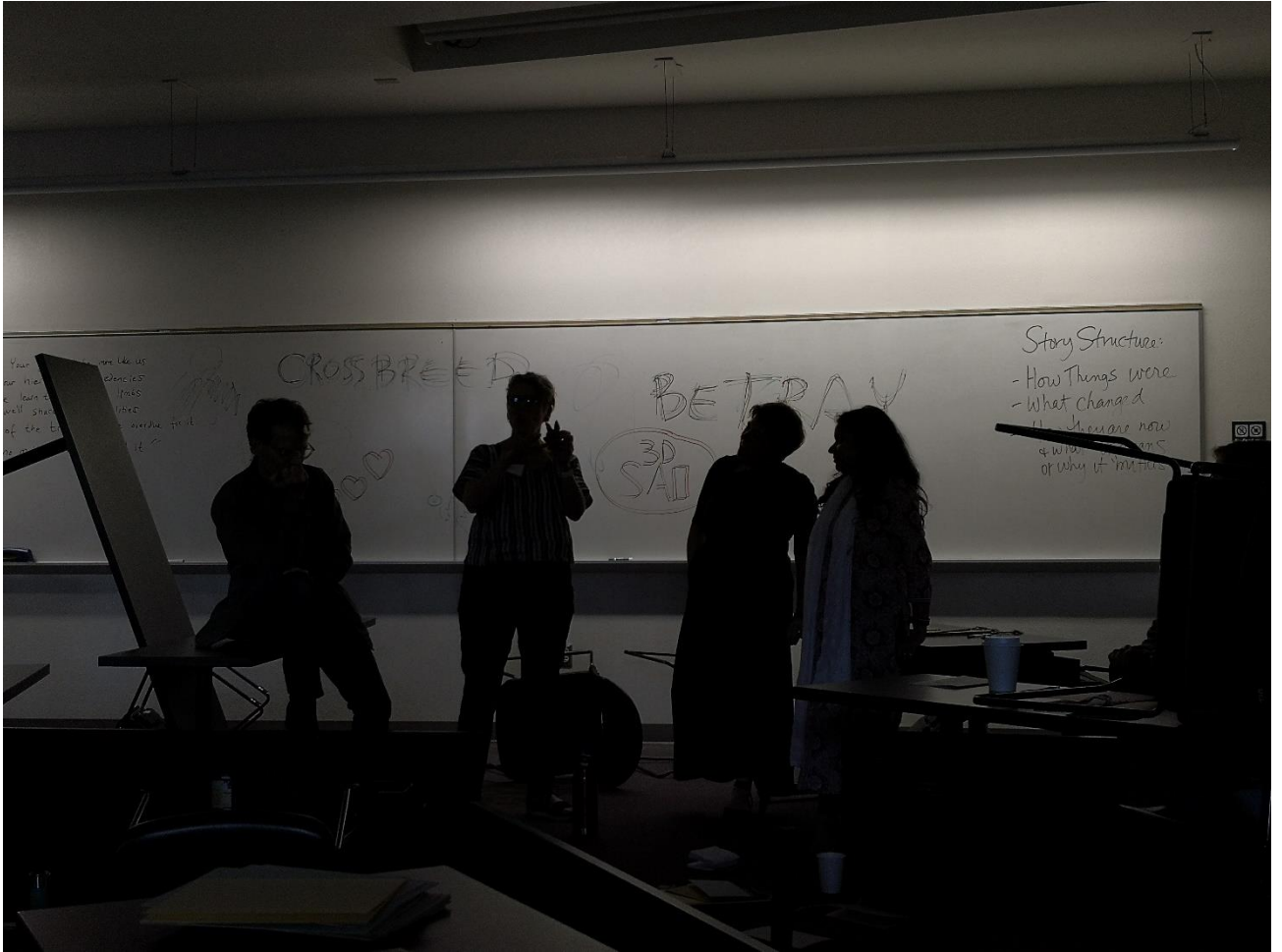




*Liz Warren, Storytelling Institute Director, South Mountain Community College, Phoenix, AZ, USA*



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## CONCLUSION:

This arts-based process of working diffractively with groups is a way of doing arts based educational research with the aim of finding and creating futures. The group that took part was introduced to how arts-based storytelling and material re-formulation, de-furnishing can be used as ways to open for other ways of working together and together create memories from a future to be acted upon already today.

## KEYWORDS:

Arts-based education, Arts-based research, Storytelling, Re-furnish, De-furnish, Chaos, Octavia E. Butler, Future