

Wilding the City: 300-word statement

This multi-component output comprises an intermedial article, digital postcard and audio walk. The research explores digital mixing practices in wild, green urban spaces and was conducted in two phases, with the first exploring wildness and ruin in an urban locality through digital mixing. The second addressed how the processes of digital devices meet those of a wild, green space and reconfigure relationships between the body, device and environment. These outputs are part of ongoing research into ideas of wildness as they intersect with urban spaces and digital processes, led by the following questions:

- How can a digital mixing practice generate states that reveal wildness in nature, the city and the digital?
- How can such a practice re-position the human in their engagements with urban and digital spaces?

Though there are no equivalent practices, this research exists in the context of the creative walking practices of Wrights and Sites, the embodied practices of Body Weather and the urban digital engagements of practitioners such as Rimini Protokoll and Blast Theory. Its conceptual context includes theories of wildness, as well as digital computation and postdigital theory.

Findings so far indicate that wildness connects natural growth, digital networks and urban landscapes through:

- Mixes of human and non-human agency
- Autonomous actions, growth and spread
- Continuous activities, sitting beneath our notice
- Overwhelming complexity
- Self-willed, independent or uncontrollable forces
- A continual coming into being - newness, fecundity, growth

The second phase has further revealed that encounters with an urban green spaces through digital devices are productive sites for *play* that can unseat and disrupt the practised positioning and functioning of each in relation to the other.

This research has been disseminated through the Research Catalogue, Theatre, Dance and Performance Training journal, and Festival of Research in Salford in 2019 and 2020, as well as through research presentations.