

## ***The Salford Samples:***

### **Exploring urban place-attachment through intermedial practices**

*The Salford Samples* is a Practice-as-Research project, using intermedial practices to explore affective connections to urban places, focusing on city of Salford. The project was led by the following research questions:

- How does intermedial practice relate to and activate place as a 'constellation of social relations, meeting and weaving together at a particular locus' (Massey 1994, 154)?
- What modes of affective engagement do intermedial combinations, arising from an urban place, create?
- What role does popular music and autobiographical material play in this affective engagement?

Initially, contextual research was conducted into the musical history of Salford, alongside documentation of its present manifestations, through video footage and images, found texts, field recordings and my autobiographical writing about the city. These materials were combined, through a process of studio-based mixing, to create two performance outcomes and an online 'video-text'. The research process was also published as an intermedial article in *the Journal of Artistic Research* (JAR).

Sitting in a lineage of 'place-making' practice, including Sally Mackey's place-based work with communities, creative walking practices such as those of Wrights and Sites and arts projects, engaging with urban environments, including the work of Richard Wentworth and Mark Dion, this project is distinct in its use of intermedial practices to explore and express urban place and its focus on the ways in which different modes of mixing activate affective relations with place.

The findings of the project were that these modes of intermedial practice have the capacity to activate a variety of perspectives of a given place, while mobilising a 'felt' response that connects not just to the materials and place, but also to the *form* and *feel* of the mixes. Popular music is a factor in this affective engagement, alongside the autobiographical materials, which offer an 'everyday' sense of place.