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The *Peter & nou* Handbook:
A Field Guide to an SF Practice (So Far)

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BA (Hons) Fine Art

(BSc Biochemistry, MSc Human Nutrition)

Thesis submitted to the University of Cumbria for the Degree of Doctor of
Philosophy

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I, Jane Topping, declare that this thesis is my own work and has not been
submitted in substantially the same form for the award of a higher degree
elsewhere.

Abstract

This text examines *The Peter & nou Project*, a developing body of work consisting of four entwined works - two videos, a publication and an online artwork. The project is one strand of an interdisciplinary art practice which is concerned with making, particularly making the moving image, in a post-digital context. The project offers a significant contribution to the recent trend in British contemporary art which David Burrows and Simon O'Sullivan have called 'fictioning', a term which refers to practices which blur the boundary between reality and fiction. Through its dense weave of methodological approaches – including use of the archive, science fiction tropes, the cut-up, altered states and intertextuality - *The Peter & nou Project* operates beyond the gallery space and demands a calling into question of truth on both a personal and cultural level. The project contributes to a range of discourses across discipline areas including fine art, filmmaking and literature, opening up new areas of discussion and offering fresh perspectives in each. Works from the project have been exhibited in galleries and screened in film festivals internationally and have been the focus of discussion at a number of conferences and symposia. In 2017, *Peter* (2014) won Best Philip K. Dick Short Film at *The Fifth Annual Philip K. Dick Science Fiction Film Festival*, New York.

Acknowledgements

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A Timeline of Practice

The following *Timeline of Practice* lays out the products of my practice from 2014 to 2018.

The four works of *The Peter & nou Project* are highlighted in a dark tone:



Artworks which are not part of *The Peter & nou Project* but which share themes or methodologies with the project are highlighted in a mid tone:



Other products of my practice - included to offer context to and evidence the range of my practice from 2014 to 2018 - are highlighted in a light tone:



A Timeline of Practice was created by Max Wilkins.

