

Not (so) Human
Augmentation & Embodiment in Practice -led Research
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This presentation introduces *Not (so) Human* an electroacoustic music composition emerging from practice-led artistic research that blends indigenous African instruments with electroacoustic music. The sonic material derives from kalimba, kudu horn (acquired during archival visits in South Africa, 2023), and mamokhorong from Lesotho. The synthesis of acoustic and electronic elements involves ancestral knowledge and modern technology, with machine learning systems as part of the electroacoustic framework to explore augmentation as both technical method and conceptual framework. This approach creates hybrid soundscapes that bridge ancestral knowledge and modern technology, generating new sonic possibilities and connections between different knowledge systems and playing techniques.

One iteration involves collaboration with contemporary dance that focuses on embodiment, where sonic architectures create immersive experiences transcending traditional boundaries between choreography and musical composition. The electroacoustic work functions as mediating force between physical and virtual realms, generating conversations between organic human expression and artificial systems that reveal both harmonies and contradictions.

The presentation demonstrates how practice-led research synthesizes indigenous instruments, machine learning systems, and embodiment into a cohesive musical narrative that generates new understandings of augmentation beyond purely technological approaches. This resonates with Achille Mbembe's assertion that "we must take on the neuro-turn and accept that we are all cyborgs now, this also presents an opportunity to employ African knowledges to rethink the human" (Mbembe 2021), offering insights into how traditional knowledge systems can inform future human-machine creative collaborations.

Links

[Forcucci, L. 2019. B\(l\)e\(e\)\(n\)\(d\)ings: Dialogues Between Ancient and Novel Sonic Potentialities. In: Tanz der Dinge/Things that dance. Birringer, J.Fenger, J., eds. Bielefeld: Transcript.](#)

Luca Forcucci & Christine Bonansea Saulut, Performance, Berlin, July 2025
<https://www.uferstudios.com/en/dance/events/2af9d2a2-2afb-43d8-979f-c3c1fd606ab6/>

Interview in Italian, SBS Melbourne, Australia, 2025
<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/italian/it/podcast-episode/luca-forcucci-in-australia-sperimentazione-musicale-e-culturale/xmnpqe1kg>