attention to the imaginative potential within the tradition of ethnography, using the themes of “border crossings” (literal and metaphorical), song, and the participant observer, so as to employ a range of creative practices to promote imaginative disciplinary reflexivity.

The two main events will be the Song Archive (Yvonne Buchheim) and Borderland Postcards (Iain Biggs and Sarah Blowen) - see below for further details.

SONG ARCHIVE PROJECT

Yvonne Buchheim is an artist who examines contemporary song culture. Her Song Archive (www.song-archive.org) project began in 2003 as a response to Herder’s song collection and theory from 1773. He proposed that the cultural identity of a people is reflected through their song tradition. Buchheim has traveled around the world asking amateur singers to perform a song of their choice spontaneously in front of a video camera, without preparation. Recognising that it is not only what we remember about a song, but also what we forget that is important, her video editing process focuses on creating a framework to playfully examine the relationship between song and identity.

Throughout the Congress Buchheim will exhibit selected video work from the Song Archive project. She will also solicit new material from conference delegates as part of her ongoing research. In doing so, she would like to ‘turn the tables’ on the delegate-researchers, inviting them to see and understand themselves as research participants and subjects rather than directing research themselves. Hopefully, this will lead researchers into a wider debate about the boundaries of the discipline of ethnography.

Yvonne Buchheim was born in Weimar, Germany, in 1972 and is based in Bristol where she is a senior lecturer at the University of the West of England. Through the Song Archive she has been awarded artist residencies and commissions in Ireland, UK, France, Germany, USA and Iran. She has had solo exhibitions at the Cheekwood Museum of the Art, Nashville/ USA 2008, Butler Gallery/Ireland 2007, Oriel Davies Gallery/Wales 2007, Syndicat Potential, Strasbourg 2006 and Vakalo Art Gallery Athens (2002). In 2007 she was awarded the Good Ideas Award from SAFLE, Wales and the North + South commission at the Southampton City Art Gallery.

BORDERLAND POSTCARDS

Are you ready to liberate your ethnological imagination?

We invite you to join in our project and get your creative juices flowing!

“Borderland postcards” is a project that seeks to help delegates think about boundaries and methodologies of ethnographic research. Photographs and other visual images are commonly used in all our work, but how are they interpreted by our readers or viewers? What message do they really convey? Where we the researcher see a symbol, a significance, an illustration, what lies beneath the image for another pair of eyes? What borders and boundaries do we set?

We have sent you one of a collection of ten postcards, each representing an undisclosed European borderland which may be geographical, cultural, political, historical or environmental. What thoughts does it provoke? What links do you make? What questions does it raise? We have invited you to respond to this image in any way you desire! Words, drawing, poetry, collage….whatever creative response you want to make can be put on the blank side of the card. Cards may have been posted back to us before the conference, or you may bring your card with you to Derry and come and find us near the conference reception on the campus. We’re really looking forward to meeting you and swapping border tales!

DEME

Deme are a newly established, interdisciplinary, arts collective based at Foyle Arts, University of Ulster, specializing in collaborative work that exploits the use of technology and live performance to explore, cross and reconfigure the boundaries of Music, Dance, Drama and Design. Deme will be presenting installation and performance work in and around the University campus over the course of the conference.

MUSIC PROGRAMME

As part of the SIEF conference the University of Ulster is delighted to include a programme of events featuring the very best of traditional music, song and dance from the north-west region. Artists, representing the Irish and Ulster Scots traditions - including Andrew Carlisle (bagpipes), Joleen McLaughlin (Harp), Donegal fiddlers such as Martin McClinley, and many, many more - will perform at various events from June 16-19. Come along to the Students Union and enjoy the relaxed, informal environment of a traditional music session, or join in on a few ceili dances as part of the post-Conference dinner entertainment - CEOL.

• Monday 16 June from 19:00hrs, Guildhall:
  Opening reception featuring local traditional musicians

• Tuesday 17 June from 21:30hrs, Students Union, Magee Campus:
  Irish Traditional Music Session featuring local traditional musicians