



## SCIENTIFIC METHODS APPLIED TO THEATRE PRACTICE

August Comte (founder sociology and positivism) was one of the most determinant influences on Durkheim's (the philosopher of science) thought. Comte pursued the idea of extending and applying the scientific method found in the natural sciences to the social sciences. Led by this concept, the sociologist Emile Durkheim considered that an authentic social science should strive for empirical facts and use general scientific laws to understand and relate them.

Similarly, the aspect of the work and learning that I intend to develop as part of my personal practice in the future is the potential application of scientific laws to non-scientific practices like theatre, performance and even in the arts in general. Although this process is inevitably invisible to the audience's immediate perception, it internalizes logic and clarity of procedure that improves the dynamics of the resultant work.

Investigation clearly demonstrates that art and several fields of science (anatomy, astronomy, optics, anthropology, sociology and psychology, for example) have always had a straight connection to each and every period of art history. Within performance, Loïe Fuller is and her investigation in lighting techniques is a good example of scientific principles applied to performative arts. Even though this approach is therefore far from being avant-garde in the field, I believe there is a lot that remains to be done in considering the application of specific scientific premises to work development processes.

Perhaps this interest lies in a fascination with rationalizing and conveying art through methods alternative to the ones proposed by aesthetics. Even though for completely dissimilar reasons, different branches of science often discuss analogous matters. For instance physics and philosophy try to comprehend why does time run forwards. Due to independent methods and uses for the outcomes of this knowledge, these disciplines construct and attain completely different conclusions.

Considering the facts, it could be interesting for a field such as the performing arts to implement and experiment with scientific methods to answer simple questions through layers or sections of the working process. It certainly is a bit ridiculous to use the instructions to assemble a bridge in order to build a house. Although, I think that aside from the concerns of a high risk of practical failure, I would like to be part of the process that makes that work affective at least at a visual level.