



Dance Research Matters Networks December 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to your December 2024 Dance Research Matters Network Newsletter

Cross-Network News

Save the date: Dance Research Matters Festival

The Dance Research Matters Festival on the **10-11 July 2025**.

Save the date: Network final events

The DRM Networks' final events will be taking place in early 2025. Further details and booking links to follow (events listed chronologically).

10 January 2025, 9am-5pm: 'Leadership and Futures', Critical Dance Pedagogy final event. Venue: Queen's University Belfast and online.

Book: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=2rlgA90iq02MIW5kS6FPE26yqC3dJa1LobXhSm74dp1UNDIPQzINT0Yt1pEUFdBT1dIUzhYOEtYRy4u&route=shorturl>

12 February 2025, 12-7.30pm: 'Moving Otherwise: Making Change' at Kingston University. Free and open to the public.

Book: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/moving-otherwise-making-change-tickets-1089889953189?aff=oddtcreator>

This is the Dancing Otherwise network's final event. It will be an in-person gathering that asks: What next? What are the future directions for UK dance research? How might we contribute to the development of a radical model of dance ecology to ensure that equity and critical diversity are encapsulated in the field as it moves forwards? Workshops and discussions will be followed by a performance from choreographer and improviser Seke Chimutengwende. Full programme details to follow.

19 March 2025: Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network final event. Venue: The Place, London

28 March 2025: Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network final event. Venue: TBC

31 March-1 April, 2025: South Asian Dance Equity (SADE): The Arts that British South Asian Dance Ignores Network final event. Venue: The Place, London.

Network Updates

Dancing Otherwise Network: Exploring Pluriversal Practices

On the 15th November the Dancing Otherwise Network hosted an event as part of the [Being Human Festival](#) at the Bath Science and Literary Institute, Bath. This event was free and open to the public. The event provided an opportunity for a wider public audience to explore the notion of the 'pluriverse' through film and movement. Participants were invited to consider how some of the ideas and ways of working being explored by the network might inspire them to think and 'be otherwise' in their own lives and work.

Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network

On the 10th December the Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network hosted its second session in the Early Career Mentorship Programme. This session was led by Professor Kate Elswit who gave advice on how to build a strong and competitive research profile within the context of academia in the UK. The session overviewed strategies for securing research funding, highlighted the differences between grant writing and academic writing, and offered guidance on forming productive collaborations with colleagues and arts and cultural organisations. Additionally, participants were provided with valuable insights on developing and leading a successful research team.

The Early Career Mentorship Programme provides guidance on navigating academic systems and institutions for Black academics in dance, performance and tech. Details of future events are listed below.

Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN)

On the 19th November the FE:PDN had a network meeting at Newcastle Dance City. During the working session the network discussed the Sector Survey and the responses from network members in light of emerging policy and support developments. The Sector Survey was disseminated in early December and responses are currently being evaluated by the Network.

The FE:PDN's Early Career Group held its final meeting of the year on 26th November. This session considered what a practice research approach to producing dance might offer. The meeting was facilitated by Dr 'Funmi Adewole Elliott and Dr Stefanie Sachsenmaier.

South Asian Dance Equity (SADE): The Arts that British South Asian Dance Ignores Network

On the 26th November SADE organised the webinar 'South Asian Dance and Ableism'. The event was hosted by Balbir Singh Dance Company (BSDC) and included presentations from Ranjana Dave, Dr Shani Dhanda, Rey Dosaj, Maulikraj Shrimali and Dr Akhila Vimal C. The webinar event was followed by an in-person stakeholder meeting on ableism, ageism and British South Asian Dance in Leeds on 27th November, hosted by BSDC and Yorkshire Dance.

Upcoming Events

(events arranged chronologically)

Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network

14 January 2025, 5.30-7pm: 'Your First Book Proposal and the Publication Process' with Professor Melissa Blanco Borelli. Online.

Book: <https://www.digitalblkdance.org/get-involved/#calendar-c56d5e3e-cb68-4a53-9e4e-d425997f3e53-event-m4k4a5ya>

This event is part of the Network's Early Career Mentorship Programme for Black academics in dance, performance, and tech.

31 January – 1 February 2025: 'Digital Horizons: Black Dance Artists' Residency'. Venue: Birmingham Open Media. More details: <https://www.digitalblkdance.org/get-involved/#calendar-b4dcb6c1-a23e-489a-8128-91bdd81773c8-event-m488kscm>

Digital Black Dance Ecologies is offering a funded professional development for 10 UK-based Black dance artists who want to explore the possibilities of engaging digital and immersive technologies in their practice. This 3-day programme will provide opportunities to explore Motion Capture, VR, XR and Sound Technologies. Additionally, there will be opportunities to network with peers and hear from established practitioners in this area.

February 2025: 'Building Networks and Portability: Navigating Career Moves within and Beyond the UK' with Professor Melissa Blanco Borelli. Online. Booking details to follow. This event is part of the Network's Early Career Mentorship Programme for Black academics in dance, performance, and tech.

March 2025: 'Feast & Fellowship: Black Dance, Performance, and Tech ECR Gathering' with Dr Tia-Monique Uzor. Location: TBC. Booking details to follow. This event is part of the Network's Early Career Mentorship Programme for Black academics in dance, performance, and tech.

Critical Dance Pedagogy Network

The Network has announced [four hybrid symposium events](#) which will be hosted across the UK and Northern Ireland.

10 January 2025, 9am-5pm: 'Leadership and Futures' at the Drama and Film Centre, Queen's University Belfast and online.

Book:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=2rlgA90iq02MIW5kS6FPE26yqC3dJa1LobXhSm74dp1UNDIPQzINT0YyT1pEUfDBT1dIUzhYOEtYRy4u&route=shorturl>

Join the Critical Dance Pedagogy Network for its forth and final symposium day. This event continues with the network's aim to foster networking, collaboration, knowledge exchange, and exploration of some transformative practices in Critical Dance Pedagogy. Engage in discussions and workshops around addressing social assumptions, structural power relations, and inequities within dance and dance education.

Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN)

14 January 2025, 2.00-5.30pm: An event at University of the Arts London (UAL) with speakers Alison Green (UAL): art curation and social practice; Helen Brooks (UAL): producing sited theatre with community engagement; Freddie Opoku-Addaie (DU): dance producing and festivals; Steffi Sachsenmaier (Mdx) - context setting re -written discourses on dance producing; Prof. Nicole Haitzinger (with Sigrid Gareis) (Co-chair of the postgraduate program Curating the Performing Arts, University of Salzburg) and editors of 'on curating' special issue: Gareis, Sigrid; Haitzinger, Nicole; Pather, Jay (Eds.): Curating Dance: Decolonizing Dance – Issue 55. Zurich: [OnCurating.org](https://oncurating.org), 2023.

15 January 2025: A Roundtable event hosted by NCACE (National Centre for Academic and Cultural Exchange) that will focus on key themes emerging from the sector survey can be accessed via [Eventbrite](#). Numbers are limited as this is a workshop session focused on productive outcomes.

19 March 2025: Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network final event. Venue: The Place, London

[Dancing Otherwise Network: Exploring Pluriversal Practices](#)

12 February 2025, 12-7.30pm: 'Moving Otherwise: Making Change' at Kingston University. Free and open to the public.

Book: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/moving-otherwise-making-change-tickets-1089889953189?aff=oddtcreator>

This is the Dancing Otherwise network's final event. It will be an in-person gathering that asks: What next? What are the future directions for UK dance research? How might we contribute to the development of a radical model of dance ecology to ensure that equity and critical diversity are encapsulated in the field as it moves forwards? Workshops and discussions will be followed by an improvised performance from choreographer and improviser Seke Chimutengwende. Full programme details to follow.

[South Asian Dance Equity \(SADE\): The Arts that British South Asian Dance Ignores Network](#)

26 March 2025: 'South Asian Dance and Adivasi/Folk Identities' (webinar). This online gathering and final SADE webinar will host a panel of artists and academics speaking on dance, indigenous knowledges and activism, and Adivasi/folk forms of worldmaking. Booking details to follow.

27 March 2025: South Asian Dance Equity (SADE) Stakeholder Meeting (invitation only): Hosted by Nupur Arts, Leicester. This in-person gathering will bring together regional stakeholders to discuss indigeneity in British South Asian dance research and practice.

31 March-1 April 2025: South Asian Dance Equity (SADE): The Arts that British South Asian Dance Ignores Network final 2-day symposium. Venue: The Place, London. Booking details to follow.

[Links to Networks' main pages](#)

(in alphabetical order)

Critical Dance Pedagogy Network:

<https://www.criticaldancepedagogy.org/home>

Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network

<https://www.digitalblkdance.org>

<https://twitter.com/DBDEproject>

<https://www.instagram.com/dbdeproject>

Dancing Otherwise Network

<https://dancingotherwise.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/dancingotherwise/>

Future Ecologies Network (FE:PDN)

<https://rescen.net/FEPDN/>

FE:PDN Early Career Group's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ecgfepdn/>

South Asian Dance Equity (SADE)

<https://www.akademi.co.uk/sade-project-launch/>

<https://www.sampad.org.uk/projects/south-asian-dance-equity-sade/>

<https://www.instagram.com/southasiandanceequity/>