Dance Research Matters Networks January 2025 Newsletter

Welcome to your January 2025 Dance Research Matters Network Newsletter

Cross-Network News

Save the date: Dance Research Matters Festival

10-11 July 2025: The Dance Research Matters Festival. More details to follow.

Network Updates

Critical Dance Pedagogy Network

On the 10th January the Critical Dance Pedagogy Network hosted its final symposium event, 'Leadership and Futures'. The event took place at Queen's University (QUB), Belfast, and online. The symposium began with a welcome to QUB from Professor Janice Carruthers, Dean of Research for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor Aoife McGrath, Critical Dance Pedagogy Network Partner, QUB. Next, Helen Weedon (Senior Investment Manager, AHRC) gave an overview of the AHRC Dance Research Matters funding programme. Professor Angela Pickard gave some background to how she developed the Critical Dance Pedagogy concept and how this is expanding thinking and making a diference to practice, and Kathryn Stamp gave an update on insights and impact from the network activities so far. Two panel presentations followed around the dancer's voice, and expanding ideas for inclusivity and access. Speakers were representing the Northern Ireland and Irish context, as well as the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance (ISTD) and Parents and Cares in Performing Arts (PiPA). Professor Eeva Anttila (UniArts, Helsinki, Finland) gave an keynote. The final part of the day was a knowledge exchange activity concluding with a performance from the Belfast Boys dance company. The next event for the network will be the final Artist Lab event in March/April (dates TBC).

Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network

On the 14th January the Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network hosted its third session in the Early Career Mentorship Programme. This session was led by Professor Melissa Blanco Borelli and provided expert advice on how to write a book proposal and navigate the publication process within a UK context. Key topics included how to develop a strong book proposal specific to dance and performance scholarship, how to identify suitable academic publishers, and how to create a robust argument for your book proposal. Participants were also introduced to strategies that might aid in

preparing manuscripts for submission as well as the editorial process. The event also provided participants with the opportunity to ask Professor Blanco Borelli questions specific to their own research.

Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN)

On the 14th January the FE:PDN hosted 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, 2023.

Upcoming Events

(events arranged chronologically)

Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network

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 residency 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.

4 February 2025, 5.30-7pm: 'Building Networks and Portability: Navigating Career Moves within and Beyond the UK' with Professor Melissa Blanco Borelli. Online.

Book: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/4-building-networks-and-portability-tickets-1139700778709

This event is part of the Network's Early Career Mentorship Programme for Black academics in dance, performance, and tech. This session by Professor Melissa Blanco Borelli will explore how to navigate academic careers within and beyond the UK, with a particular focus on developing professional networks and fostering connections. Topics will include:

- **Networking Strategies:** Identifying and engaging with key individuals and organizations in the field of dance/performance, both in the UK and internationally.

- **Building a Strong Online Presence:** Leveraging online platforms and social media to showcase your research and expertise.

- **Navigating Job Applications:** Crafting compelling applications for academic positions in the UK and internationally.

- **Understanding International Opportunities:** Exploring research and teaching opportunities in other countries for those considering career moves abroad.

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.

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=oddtdtcreator

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 here.

Critical Dance Pedagogy Network

27 February 2025, 4.30-6pm: an online introduction to Critical Dance Pedagogy (invite online)

This session will be run by the Critical Dance Pedagogy Network for initial teaching training students (PGCE/SKITT/Schools Direct) who are specialising in Dance.

Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN)

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

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

26 March 2025, 3-5pm: '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 followed by an evening of practice sharing. Venue: The Place, London. Booking details to follow.

Opportunities

PhD studentship: Digital Black Practice at the Intersection of Racial Inequity and Ecological Justice

Deadline for expressions of interest: 28 February 2025

Further details: https://www.cssd.ac.uk/research/pteq

The Centre for Performance, Technology, and Equity (PTEQ) at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in collaboration with the Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network are accepting applications for a fully-funded PhD studentship.

Building from the AHRC-funded research network Digital Black Dance Ecologies, this fully-funded PhD project offers the opportunity to conduct original research at the intersections of digital Black performance practices, racial inequity, and ecological injustice. Proposals should articulate the potential for transformative insights into how digital

technologies can challenge societal inequities and inspire meaningful engagement with urgent global issues, by exploring questions such as: How can specific technologies and techniques be employed to create immersive performance experiences with particular focus on issues of racial and ecological injustice? How might live data be utilised in performance to portray the ongoing impacts of climate-affected environments on Black communities for diverse audiences? In what ways can the development and design of immersive technologies for artistic purposes contest their colonial and extractive histories? We particularly welcome applications from artist-researchers who are already working in one or more of these areas, including through VR/AR/XR, real-time data in performance, and/or installation, and have a sense of the artistic, activist, and/or theoretical landscapes in which that practice takes place. This research may draw on critical frameworks including Digital Black Studies, African and Caribbean Diasporic Dance and/or Performance Studies, Environmental Humanities, and Decolonial Technological Praxis.

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/