



Dance Research Matters Advisory Group

Meeting Name/Purpose	Dance Research Matters Advisory Group
Date	28/07/2022
Venue/Zoom	Zoom - https://ukri.zoom.us/j/94159888057
Time	3:30pm – 5pm
Chair	Sarah Whatley – Coventry University

Notes

1.	Present	<p>Freya Boulton Chris Bannerman Ann David Victoria Hunter Kate Marsh Clare Parfitt Efrosini Protopapa Kathryn Stamp Helen Weedon Sarah Whatley Cecile Fayter Kate Elswit Funmi Adewole Tia-Monique Uzor</p>	<p>AHRC Note Taker Middlesex University University of Roehampton University of Chichester C-DaRE University of Chichester University of Roehampton C-DaRE AHRC C-DaRE AHRC The Central School of Speech and Drama De Montfort University The Central School of Speech and Drama</p>
	Apologies	<p>Sarah Houston Lesley Main Emma Redding Rachel Krische-Duenas Lily Hayward-Smith Vida Midgelow Angela Pickard Bethany Whiteside Kat Hawkins</p>	<p>University of Roehampton Middlesex University Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance Leeds Beckett University C-DaRE Middlesex University Canterbury Christ Church University The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland C-DaRE</p>

1. Welcome, minutes and actions arising from the last meeting:

- 1.1. Sarah welcomed everyone to the meeting
- 1.2. Minutes of previous meeting agreed

1.3. Matters Arising:

1.3.1.

Kathryn confirmed that CDaRE had not received any biogs or weblinks.

ACTION

All to send to Kathryn ad6869@coventry.ac.uk

1.3.2. Freya is still researching options for Dance Research Matters social media.

2. Values:

- 2.1. Added a value for inclusivity as it is important that everyone feels like they can sign up.
- 2.2. A discussion on the relationship between honesty/transparency. Perhaps the word 'transparency' should be used instead of honesty as this could be a problematic word and the context of transparency fits better. Something could be added about creating a space with trust and respect. We need a safe and open space for people to share opinions.
- 2.3. All members come from different places and contexts and therefore have different information. We should be honest with the knowledge we have at the time and relay information in the most honest way we can.
- 2.4. The values are linked to the Civil Service code. It was discussed that it may be missing some aspects that reflect academic life. This should be considered and amended to better reflect this. Entering into open discourse / able to look at things from all sides.
- 2.5. Everyone in the group is encouraged to send in more points so we can re-visit the values after receiving some feedback. The idea of a live document is put forward.

Action

AHRC to set up a Team site and upload all documents for discussion and comment.

3. EIA Guidance:

- 3.1. Slightly more complicated as we have to use the UKRI template.
- 3.2. Members of the Advisory Group were encouraged to spend more time after the meeting looking through and email any comments.
- 3.3. Serving needs in the dance community reference document is helpful for checking against it.
- 3.4. It will be considered a live document and we can amend as we go on. The more concrete parts can be looked at further down the line.
- 3.5. Members of the Advisory Group are invited to give feedback after the meeting.

Action

AHRC to set up a Team site and upload all documents for discussion and comment.

4. Logic Model: (AHRC Template)

Using the draft Logic Model previously circulated as a starting point there was a full and engaging discussion on how this can be developed further:

- 4.1. Is there a timeframe? Will be picked back up in September but will be shared with the group to comment on before then. The £500,000 funding is allocated for 23/24
- 4.2. Challenging question of whether we have funding/capacity to do both research call/network call? More complications with practised-based research now. Shape specifically around dance. We need to know how we want to break it up.
- 4.3. An advantage of the network model is we can get more research done. And it wouldn't all need to be practised based. Running a series of network calls spread more widely means we would get results quicker.
- 4.4. We could run some bigger calls that require more funding.
- 4.5. Running a network call means we could build infrastructures where we need the support. It seems well placed to make quick, incisive responses to these problems across the sector. Good place to build bridges between academics and non-university settings.
- 4.6. Flexibility in the network call means we could use more money in specific calls and choose where funding goes. There is already a structure/understanding in place.
- 4.7. A question of if different partnerships could join up and work together was raised. Network call with an opportunity (or a requirement) to build into intersect with the other networks? Great way to demonstrate the ecosystem and also to build in mentoring for others.
- 4.8. Question raised of 'Where does the Professional dance eco-system sit with any others?'
- 4.9. Network/consortium. Find a way to strategize and fund leverage. Partnership is the way forward as it broadens out/provides more opportunities for more people.
- 4.10. Network plus model – looks like the best model as it will help get vision off the ground. It helps to build knowledge of an ecosystem that needs support and growth.
 - 4.10.1. No research call – just go with network plus call. Town hall style events beforehand. Cross-section of career stages. Difficult because of academic ages. Want to hear from younger voices (undergrads specific call). We show the good work that would come out of network call. Better way of ensuring coverage or community and co-elision.
- 4.11. A practical point of view is shaping the calls/infrastructure to acknowledge large bubble/hub and amount of work that one institution needs to take to cascade down to others.
- 4.12. Would the language of scoping be useful? Maybe a bit of an infrastructure challenge focus
- 4.13. Scoping gives us the notion of further development which is good
- 4.14. A question of 'Do we need to do some contextualisation for dance?' We need to prove the value of dance and show the areas that are under the radar and these should be mapped out prior. Engaging 'what type of questions are they asking'.
- 4.15. Mapping/Scoping on what these questions may be (town hall events/commission it). Collect knowledge within the group to acknowledge what these

areas are and encourage them to think about getting involved. The Advisory Group are well placed to fill any gaps that AHRC doesn't have the knowledge for.

- 4.16. Things have fundamentally changed within the dance community; this could be due to different circumstances/context due to covid/Brexit. There is an opportunity now to build an infrastructure for a new reality.
- 4.17. Younger generation of dancers approach being a dancer differently. Intergenerational strand running through. Engage with technology differently. Idea that commercial dance is different and there isn't much in this area. Might be something to bring out – this project might start to pave out this new way/new narrative/how professions need to be generated.
 - 4.17.1. 'Building an infrastructure for a new reality' and intergenerational dance knowledge / experience exchange feels important.
- 4.18. Idea of early commissioning/round table event (Advisory Group could help).
- 4.19. Hard to know what is/isn't being funded. Huge number of good ideas that get abandoned. Wish we had a better sense of the labour that goes into these. Useful to see why these things aren't getting seen.
- 4.20. Could we do a funding bonfire to discuss and reimagine projects? Could this be a specific Town Hall style activity?
- 4.21. Knowledge society and economy. Anti-government agenda/pushing back and closure of so many arts departments. Find a way of framing in a policy way and understand benefits. Re-addressing the balance that's gone.
 - 4.21.1. Question of 'What is the impact that dance research has?' Impact is across more than just dance. It is influencing and changing in other areas.
- 4.22. Dance has all sorts of knowledge and ways of thinking about bodies (not just practice led). It would be good to have a second point under knowledge.
- 4.23. Reimagining dance infrastructures post covid/Brexit/BLM contexts. Try to push these projects in a way to be responsive to these contexts and more inclusive. Missing in society section that could be specific to what time were in. Maybe overlaps with wellbeing.
- 4.24. Children struggling to engage. How to include a phone in a dance workshop? Dance and embodiment with technology. Lack of empathy with young people. Society could include technology and dance/keeping social skills with technology/new disciplines and emerging. Ideas of dance leadership=highbred scientific terms, dance has a lot to contribute. Encourage these fusions. Push on transdisciplinary. Would be nice to see dance taking the lead. The idea of network, emphasising dance leadership role
- 4.25. Articulating the thoughts about policy in impacts section. Influence and change policy, difference can happen in the local level.
- 4.26. Practices of collaboration, shared endeavour lying at the heart of many dance making practices - taking cues from others and working towards collective goals speak to social cohesion agendas etc.

4.27. Under activities we could have dance fields conference 2017 held at the University of Roehampton, in conjunction with Coventry University 'Dance Fields: Staking a Claim for Dance Studies in the 21st Century' Useful to show the journey.

5. Next steps and actions:

- 5.1. AHRC to upload the draft documents shared and discussed in the meeting to a shared Teams site to enable all members of the AG to comment. 6 weeks to comment)
- 5.2. AHRC to take the outputs from this work to shape the internal Justification document for AHRC, adding timelines and liaising internally to ensure deliverability.
- 5.3. AHRC set a series of dates in the autumn for the Advisory Group via Doodle to coincide with the needs of AHRC approvals process
- 5.4. Aim to deliver a series of Town Halls from mid-October