



## Dance Research Matters Networks January 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to your January 2024 Dance Research Matters Network Newsletter

### Cross-Network News

#### DRM Networks x ResDance podcast partnership

The Dance Research Matters Network Mapping project has partnered with dance research podcast ResDance™: <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/resdance>. The podcast was created by Dr Gemma Harman as a way to engage students with emergent ideas and practices central to dance research. It is run by Gemma and is supported by Callum Anderson. It focuses on research in dance practice. It is intended for students, educators, choreographers, artist-makers, practitioners, performers, and interdisciplinary researchers curious to learn more about dance research in action. Podcast episodes with the Network leads and co-leads will be regularly released across 2024-2025.

#### The DRM Networks Mapping project welcomes Rachael Davies

A big welcome to [Rachael Davies](#) who will be providing the Dance Research Matters Networks Mapping project with communications support.

Rachael Davies is a curator and M4C PhD candidate at the Centre for Dance Research (C-DaRE), Coventry University, where she is conducting research on the formation and early history of Chisenhale Dance Space. In 2020, Davies curated the first exhibition on the work of the X6 Collective (1976-1980) at Cell Project Space, London; and in 2021 she curated an exhibition on the work of Cycles Dance Company at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum as part of Coventry Biennial. Rachael is a lecturer and assistant editor of Choreographic Practices Journal

Save the Date: 'Contouring dance research legibility: The Dance Research Matters Networks mid-point hybrid event' at The Belgrade in Coventry on Thursday 25th July 2024

Tentative thematic focus: Contouring dance research legibility for humans and non-humans in the Creative Industries and beyond

This hybrid event will:

1. Bring together the Dance Research Matters Networks, dance research community, users of research and wider groups and communities to exchange ideas, current projects, and points of entry into each other's spaces in-person and virtually
2. Create discursive spaces for dance communities and connected sectors to share and co-develop new ideas, approaches, and activities
3. Provide an update to the Networks, dance research community, dance sector, the AHRC, and the public on developments from the Networks and the mapping work
4. Highlight emergent and urgent issues in dance research for highlighting in public discourse
5. Disseminate information through knowledge exchange network, including media, third sector, and policy makers

More details to follow.

## Network Updates

Critical Dance Pedagogy Network (<https://www.criticaldancepedagogy.org> )

On 11/01/24, Professor Angela Pickard presented 'Critical Dance Pedagogy: What is it and why is it so important' at the [Northern School of Contemporary Dance \(NSCD, Leeds\) Conference 2024 \(Arts & Citizenship: Moving and Belonging\)](#).

The Critical Dance Pedagogy through Discourse and Practice Network held its two-day [Dance Educator's Critical Dance Pedagogy Artist Lab at NSCD](#). The lab was facilitated by Stuart Waters and supported by Angela Pickard. Bakani Pick-Up, Darren Carr and Sophie Alder led workshops on embodied experiences, teaching choices, and imagery, respectively. Participants from across the UK immersed themselves in practical and creative learning and reflection around equity, diversity, inclusion and student-centred pedagogy, and developed their teaching and artistic practice whilst connecting as human beings and forming a sustainable network through shared experience and movement.

Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (website under construction)

On 24th November the Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network held its first Open Forum, Opening the Space, in partnership with Yorkshire Dance. Facilitated by Chris Bannerman, Vida Midgelow and Stefanie Sachsenmaier it focused on an exchange with independent dance artists and introduced the concepts, processes and questions forming and informing this 18-month investigation. Looking at producing dance through an ecological lens served to focus discussion on the ways that we are invisibly linked in an ecosystem that is dynamic and sensitive, and where damage to one area affects the whole. The precarity of the independent dance artist today emphasised the need for an expanded concept of producing to reveal and extend participation, to enhance the symbiotic nature of creative and research practices and to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of dance.

## Upcoming Events

(events arranged chronologically)

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

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, **2-4pm (BST)**, SADE will have their Project Launch and session on ["South Asian Dance and Decentring India/Hinducentrism"](#). The webinar is hosted by Akademi.

Kindly [pre-register via the link](#) provided on [Akademi's website](#) prior to the launch at 2pm on **Friday 19 January**,

Dancing Otherwise Network: Exploring Pluriversal Practices (<https://dancingotherwise.com/>)

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, the [Dancing Otherwise Network](#) will be hosting the 'Mapping the Dance Pluriverse' online event

For more details and tickets, please visit: [Mapping the Dance Pluriverse Tickets, Wed 24 Jan 2024 at 15:30 | Eventbrite](#)

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2024, the 'Dancing the Pluriverse - Dancing Otherwise' event will be taking place at The Dance Space in Brighton.

This will be a day of workshops, talks and exchanges on choreographing of the dance pluriverse, co-creating with a multiplicity of bodies and voices.

For more details and tickets, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dancing-the-pluriverse-dancing-otherwise-tickets-777583863267>

### Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN)

#### FE:PDN EARLY CAREER GROUP

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 from 2-3.30pm, the first meeting of The Early Career Group of the Future Ecologies: Producing Dance Network (FE:PDN) will take place via Zoom (Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89298664271?pwd=YMQNtaiJEueWd82fT5KMCW5Ky3Y3U.1>). You are warmly invited to join the group.

The group's aim, at this time of unprecedented challenges, is to contribute to the future-proofing of dance as a profession and a discipline. Your queries, insights and activities will be of great value in setting a new horizon. Envisioning a future for the Dance sector will be approached as a form of collective action. The group is for all practitioners who self-identify as Early Career: this might be in all or any aspect of their work. We also welcome practitioners who are invested in supporting Early Career dance professionals or initiatives. Considering the layered and complex nature of dance as a profession as well as practice research, we are using an expanded notion of producing which goes beyond job roles or descriptions.

The group will be applying an ecological approach to jointly investigate a range of questions.

The four main questions are:

- What is the nature of the present eco-system(s) for producing dance?
- What kind of mechanisms will make resilient the eco-system(s) of dance?
- How might producing dance be conceptualised as a form of academic research?
- How might practice research both inform and be enhanced by expanded notions of producing?

The group will hold three to four main meetings over an 18-month period. Sub-groups might be organised to focus on specific issues. The group will run a blog and produce an end-of-project report. We look forward to meeting you.

The Early Career Group lead is Dr 'Funmi Adewole (De Montfort University, Leicester). She can be reached at [oluwafunmilayo.adewole@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:oluwafunmilayo.adewole@dmu.ac.uk)

### Critical Dance Pedagogy Network

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

- ❑ 1. 1st March 2024 at 10-5pm Intertextualities, identities and inequalities at Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) and online.
- ❑ 2. 11th July 2024 at 10-5pm Equality, diversity and inclusion Centre for Arts and Health, Canterbury Christ Church University), co-led by at Centre for Dance Research (C-DaRE), Coventry University and online.

- ❑ 3. 20th September 2024 10-5pm Pedagogy(ies) and practices at University of Edinburgh and online.
- ❑ 4. January 2025 (date will be confirmed soon) 10-5pm Leadership and futures at Queen's University Belfast and online.

## Links to Networks' main pages

(in alphabetical order)

Critical Dance Pedagogy Network:

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

Digital Black Dance Ecologies Network:

<https://www.cssd.ac.uk/Research/Research-Outputs-and-Projects/Current-Research-Projects/digital-black-dance-ecologies>

Dancing Otherwise Network

<https://dancingotherwise.com/https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553832879161>

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

Future Ecologies Network (FE:PDN)

(website under construction)

South Asian Dance Equity (SADE)

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